

Aims of the Course

- Develop an interest in and engagement with contemporary politics.
- Develop their critical thinking skills and the ability to interpret, evaluate and comment.
- Develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes.
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political system of the United Kingdom, and how these may differ from those of other political systems.
- Acquire knowledge and informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the individual.
- Understand and be able to explain how shifts in world politics will impact on Britain.

Types of Learning Experiences:

Students will study two units in Year 12 and one further unit on American politics in Year 13. Students will take part in lectures, seminars, classroom debates, online discussions and blogs. They will also make use of newspapers, magazines and TV documentaries to further their understanding of the studied topics. There will also be opportunities to meet with local politicians and academics – and to work/campaign with local political parties.

Link Subjects:

Politics successfully combines with any other subject, but has a natural affinity with History, Economics and Sociology.

Progression to Higher Education:

Politics is a subject that provides good mental discipline and teaches a rigorous and analytical approach to problems, issues and current affairs. It is relevant to almost everything you do and is highly respected by universities. It combines well with History, Economics and Sociology as a basis for entry to a wide variety of related degrees and qualifications.

Careers:

Politics is highly respected in the top professions, particularly the civil service, public services, media, business and marketing, consultancy and of course the world of politics itself.

Students will follow the following units in Year 1:

Unit 1: UK Politics

- Democracy and Participation
- Electoral Systems
- Political Parties
- Voting behaviour and the media
- Core political ideologies (Liberalism / Conservatism / Socialism)

Assessment: 2 hour written examination.

Unit 2 : UK Government

- UK Constitution
- Parliament
- Role of Prime Minister and the executive
- Relationships between the branches of government
- Non-core political ideology (in the past we have chosen either Nationalism or Feminism)

Assessment: 2 hour written examination.

Students will follow the following unit in Year 2:

Unit 3 – The Politics of the USA

The US Constitution and Federalism
US Congress
US Presidency
US Supreme Court
US Democracy and participation
US Civil Rights

Assessment: 2 hour written examination

Entry requirements:

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. GCSE English at a grade 5 or above is preferred.

