



COURSE SUMMARY

Politics is a fast moving subject with institutions and ideas changing daily, as Harold Wilson said 'A week is a long time in politics'.

In Year 12 we look at how our political system works including Parliament, law courts, the EU and the constitution. We also look at how people can participate in politics and what the different ideas are that we can vote for. In Year 13 we look at how the political system and people participation works in America as well as ideologies that influence political thinking including conservatism and socialism.

"When I leave school I hope to attend university at Grinnell College, Iowa (USA), a liberal arts college. I have studied Politics, Maths and History." Josh

WHY STUDY POLITICS?

"Politics is a really interesting subject and opens up academic writing in an accessible way whilst also educating students on issues that will directly affect you throughout your adult life. As well as being an exciting and interesting subject, it is extremely complementary to study alongside subjects such as History and English." *Joshua*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"The format of lessons can vary with some lessons being heavily structured based around a PowerPoint presentation and looking at the theory of how different political institutions and ideas are meant to work. Many other lessons involve students discussing contemporary events and ideas and assessing how successful our political institutions are. Essay writing is essential and the focus of assessment." *Eleanor*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Politics is seen as an academic subject which can help develop your understanding of the world and helps strengthen your analytical skills. It would be considered a particularly useful subject when considering a degree in Humanities, Law and English. However, its skills are valued in such university courses as journalism, law, nursing or medicine as well as the more obvious history, politics and social sciences. It is similarly

attractive to employers from the worlds of finance to management and science. It could also lead to a real interest in politics and a desire to get involved in national and local party politics.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

An interest in the political world that we live in is essential.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [BBC Democracy Live](#)
- [BBC News – Politics](#)
- [Huffpost Politics](#)
- [Reuters \(US\)](#)
- [The Guardian](#)
- [The Huffington Post](#)
- [The Times](#)
- [Total Politics](#)
- [The Week](#)
- [www.parliament.uk](#) – glossary
- [Politico](#)
- [The Washington Post](#)

