

Politics

Exam Board: AQA



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Course Summary

Politics is a fast moving subject, as Harold Wilson said 'A week is a long time in politics'. In A Level Politics, you study three broad areas: the politics of the UK, the politics of the USA and political ideologies.

In Year 12, you will look at our political system, including Parliament, law courts, the EU and the constitution, and consider the interrelationships and complexities of the system. You will learn the significance of key historical documents to the development of rights in the UK. You will explore policymaking and evaluate the scrutiny of the executive and how effective this is in practice. We will study the roles, powers and responsibilities of the different devolved bodies in the UK and discuss debate around devolution in England. You will cover the nature and characteristics of democracy and look at how people can participate in politics.

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.

You will identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics and develop an awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between ideas, institutions and processes. You will learn to construct and communicate political arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence.

Entry Requirements

GCSE History is not a requirement but where students have studied this subject, a Grade 5 is required

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.

Where might it lead?

A Level Politics develops 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, it is also valued in journalism, nursing and medicine as well as the more obvious history, politics and social sciences. It could also lead to a real interest in politics and a desire to get involved in national and local party politics.



Many 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

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