

POLITICS A-LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The study of Politics will change your understanding of the UK forever. You will learn about the strengths of UK democracy but also become aware of the inherent flaws that penetrate the heart of government. You will keep up to date with the news and find out about policy issues that affect everyday life. You will become entrenched in the daily battle of political individuals at Westminster, Stormont, Cardiff and Edinburgh and also learn about controversial political figures of the past such as Thatcher, Wilson, Heath and Cameron. You will evaluate the impact of pressure groups, such as Extinction Rebellion, upon the strength of democracy. You will also study how political ideology has evolved, for example, evaluating the role of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau in shaping modern attitudes towards state intervention, civil liberties and human rights. Most importantly, you will learn how to construct informed, considered and evaluative judgements, a valuable skill required for any future career.

COURSE CONTENT:

There are three externally-assessed exam units:

- **UK Politics (Studied in Year 12)**

Section A: Political Participation

- Democracy and participation
- Political parties
- Electoral systems
- Voting behaviour and the role of the media.

Section B: Core Political Ideas

- Conservatism
- Liberalism
- Socialism

- **UK Government (Studied in Year 12)**

Section A: UK Government

- The constitution
- Parliament
- The Prime Minister and executive
- The relationships between the government branches

Section B: Core Political Ideas (We will study ONE of the following)

- Anarchism
 - Ecologism
 - Feminism
 - Multiculturalism
 - Nationalism
- **Comparative Politics: USA Politics (Studied in Year 13)**
 - The US Constitution and federalism
 - US Congress
 - US presidency
 - US Supreme Court and US civil rights
 - US democracy and participation
 - Comparative theories

ASSESSMENT:

Three written exam papers, two hours each.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

The skills and knowledge developed in Politics are highly prized by universities and employers as a qualification for a wide range of courses in History, Economics, PPE, English, Languages, Art History, Law, Journalism, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Theology and many more, including Science and Medicine, and, of course, Politics and International Relations.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Students must have a 5 in English Language and Grade 5 in History or a humanities subject. They must also be committed to putting serious time into following the news each week.