

Department Title: Politics

Exam Boards: Edexcel

Department Vision:

A level Politics aims to develop an informed understanding of the political structures in the UK and USA and showing how they are rooted in political philosophy. Studying this will enable students to develop a critical awareness of changes in politics and the links between ideas, institutions and processes. Furthermore students will become aware of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups. The assessment is based on examination at the end of the two years. There is no course work and an engagement with current affairs is essential to the success of the A level. Politics can lead to a variety of careers from journalism and law to politics and teaching as well as the charity sector and public administration

<i>Year 12: Term 1</i> <i>Component 1:</i> <i>Democracy and Participation</i> <i>Political Parties</i> <i>Electoral Systems</i> <i>Component 2:</i> <i>The constitution</i> <i>Parliament</i> <i>Parliament</i>	<i>Year 12: Term 2</i> <i>Component 1:</i> <i>Voting Behaviour and the Media</i> <i>Liberalism</i> <i>Component 2</i> <i>Prime Minister and the Executive</i> <i>Relationships between the branches</i>	<i>Year 12: Term 3</i> <i>Component 1:</i> <i>Conservatism</i> <i>Socialism</i> <i>Component 2:</i> <i>Nationalism or Anarchism (tbc)</i>
<i>Year 13: Term 1</i> <i>Component 3:</i> <i>The US Constitution and Federalism</i> <i>US Congress</i> <i>US Democracy and participation</i>	<i>Year 13: Term 2</i> <i>Component 3:</i> <i>US Democracy and Participation (end)</i> <i>US Presidency</i> <i>US Supreme Court and Civil Rights</i> <i>Comparative theories</i>	<i>Year 13: Term 3</i> <i>Comparative theories (end)</i> <i>Revision</i>

Assessment:

At end of each topic in each unit students are assessed using Edexcel examination style questions and past papers. There are mock examination at the end of the first year to determine the progress they have made and predictions are based for their final A level grades as well as mock examinations in year 13. At the end of two years there are three external examination papers two hours long each.

Reading list/Useful websites:

Politics is a living and dynamic subject and there are many resources available from newspapers (especially websites), TV, Film, books.

News outlets: BBC, Sky, CNN, Guardian, Independent, Channel 4 news, Slate, The Atlantic

Radio / Podcasts / Internet: In Our Time, Today, Week in Politics, Talking Politics, FutureLearn (MOOCs), Harvard—Justice

TV: Yes Minister, The Thick of It, VEEP, The West Wing, John Adams, All the Presidents Men

Books: British Politics: A very short Introduction; American Politics: A Very Short Introduction ; Michael Sandel: Justice

Related Careers:

A degree in Politics and/or International Relations can lead to a variety of career choices . These range from: accountancy and banking organisations, charities, commercial businesses - particularly within marketing departments, councils, law firms, local and national government, retail companies, media organisations, educational institutions, NGOs.

There are many Work Experience opportunities in this field including: charities, the Citizens Advice Bureau, global development bodies, such as Water Aid and Oxfam, human and civil rights organisations such as Amnesty International, local, national and international environmental and conservation organisations, political campaigns and political parties.