

AS/A2 GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Entry requirements:

Grade C or above in English

Examination board:

AQA

Teachers:

Ms C Jepson
Mr A McAuley

Timetable organisation

You will be taught by two highly experienced teachers who will cover the specification between them in five lessons per week.

Main Syllabus area

This is a highly relevant course which deals with issues which affect everyone.

At **AS** Level students will gain an insight into the ways in which the British political system works and how politics affects all aspects of our daily lives.

Areas of study include:

- Parliament – is it just a lot of shouting?
- Prime Minister and Cabinet – who runs the country?
- Elections – do they really change anything?
- Constitutional Reform – does the system need changing?
- Europe – do we need it?
- Political parties – what do they believe in?
- Democracy – is it important?
- The United Kingdom – how united is it?

The **A2** course concentrates largely upon politics in the USA. Areas of study include:

- Congress – what's the difference between the House and the Senate?
- The President – how powerful is he?
- The Supreme Court – will it abolish the death penalty?
- Elections – how and why did Bush win?
- Federalism – what powers do the States have?
- Pressure Groups – enhancing or destroying democracy?
- Political Parties – do they mean anything in the USA?

Method of assessment

You will sit a one and a half hour examination in each unit:

Unit 1: People, Politics and Participation.

Unit 2: Governing Modern Britain.

There are 4 questions on each paper and you will have to answer 2 of them. Each question is broken down into 3 sub questions and each question will include some stimulus material.

Unit 3: The Politics of the USA.

Unit 4: The Government of the USA.

There are 4 questions on each paper and you will have to answer 2 of them. Each question is broken down into 3 sub questions.

Qualities required

Students do not need to have studied politics before but an interest in current affairs is essential. Students also need to be willing to join in discussion and to use newspapers and the internet for up to date research.

Links with other subjects

Politics complements and combines well with History, English, Sociology, Economics, Geography and Psychology but many students also choose it to provide a contrast to A Levels in Mathematics and Science.

Career prospects

Politics develops the skills of enquiry and analysis as well as the ability to debate an issue and construct a balanced argument. These skills provide an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers, for example law, journalism, the media, administration and management.

Extension and enrichment opportunities

There will be a residential trip to London when students will attend a debate in the House of Commons & have a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster. A2 students will also attend a US Politics Conference in London.

In the past, students have also participated in 'political speed dating' with local councillors and have had the opportunity to question MPs and MEPs who have visited the school.

Students have also organised mock elections and taken part in the Youth Parliament Competition and the National Youth Parliament.