



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Exam Board: Edexcel

Studying Politics will enable you to understand how the political system works in the UK and USA. It is of particular importance that you have an enquiring mind, a desire to learn about how the political system works and its impact on you, the citizen.

You will be encouraged to develop your skills in critical and analytical thinking, note making, research, debating, and written communication, transferrable skills which will be essential to you whether you decide to go into Higher Education or into a career after A Levels. Politics is often combined with both Arts and Science subjects.

In Year 12, you will visit the Houses of Parliament, where you will have a guided tour and take part in a workshop to give you an experience of the work of Select Committees. You will also have the chance to attend a conference day where representatives of political parties will debate issues of the day. There is also a trip to Paris to participate in the 'Your Future in Europe' conference.

What are the entry requirements?

You should have at least a Grade C in English. History is also a preferable subject. The course involves a great deal of reading, note taking and essay writing. An enquiring mind and a determination to work hard will also be useful. It is essential that you have a good grasp of current affairs in order to appreciate the wider impact of politics.

What will I study?

Component 1: **UK Politics** (33% of the A Level). You will study democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour, the media and 3 core political ideologies.

Component 2: **UK Government** (33% of the A Level). You will study the UK constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, the relationships between the branches and an optional political ideology.

Component 3: **Comparative politics** (33% of the A Level) You will study the US Constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation, civil rights.

Assessment:

Each component is assessed by a **2 hour exam** at the end of Year 13 which is a combination of 12, 24 and 30 mark questions.

