

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - Politics

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? AQA

Why should I study this course? -

The course is designed to enable you to understand the world that we live in. It will help you develop an understanding of who holds power in society, what they do with that power and how they are held to account. Students will develop an understanding of local, national and international politics as well as key ideologies and key thinkers. You will become an informed citizen, appreciating political institutions, parties, processes and how politics is presented.

Politics students are invited to attend a three day residential trip (cost approx £300) that includes travel, accommodation, food and visits to Parliament, The Supreme Court, Theatre and tickets for an A level students conference where past speakers have included Jacob Rees- Mogg, Nigel Farage, Emily Thornbury, Keir Starmer and John Bercow.

Who is suitable to study this course? -

A level Politics is open to any student who enjoys debating, is keen to develop their essay writing skills as well as developing critical thinking skills. Students must have an interest in the world around them and they must be prepared to work hard. Good writing skills are essential.

The skills and knowledge developed provide students with a solid foundation to go on to study Politics, International Relations, Journalism, Law, Business and a career in the Armed Services or the Public Sector.

Students can progress from this qualification to:

- university courses that relate directly to government and politics
- university courses that will benefit from the skills acquired from this GCE, for example law, economics, philosophy, history, sociology.
- employment where analytical skills are essential, for example management, finance, government, industry and business environments.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course? English Language, History and Sociology.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? Ideally a level six in English Language.

How is the Course Delivered? -

Students will study 5 hours per week in class and they are expected to study 5 hours per week independently. Politics uses Google Classroom to support learning and subscribes to a range of resources to enable students to extend their comprehension. There will be plenty of opportunities to engage with the subject outside of the classroom looking in the news.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Core Political Ideologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Liberalism & Socialism	Government and Politics of the USA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Constitution- Congress
Autumn 2	Core Political Ideologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Socialism & Conservatism	Government and Politics of the USA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Presidency & Executive Powers- Electoral process and direct democracy
Spring 1	Core Political Ideologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Feminism or another key ideology.	Government and Politics of the USA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Political parties- Civil Rights
Spring 2	Government & Politics of the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Democracy & Participation- Elections and referenda	Government and Politics of the USA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Comparative politics of the US and UK

Summer 1	Government & Politics of the UK - Political parties - Pressure Groups	Revision & Review ahead of examinations
Summer 2	Government & Politics of the UK - The European Union	

How is the Course Assessed?

The qualification is awarded based on the successful completion of 3 x two hour papers sat at the end of year 2.

Paper 1 - Government and Politics of the UK

Students will answer a series of short explain questions on different aspects of the government and politics of the United Kingdom. Following this there will be some extracts which student should answer with an essay. There will then be a final essay assessing content from the entire course. (77 marks in total, 2 hour exam)

Paper 2 - Government and Politics of the USA & Comparative Politics

Students will answer a series of short explain questions on different aspects of the government and politics of the United States. Following this there will be some extracts which student should answer with an essay. There will then be a final essay assessing content from the entire course. (77 marks in total, 2 hour exam)

Paper 3 - Political Ideas

Students will answer a series of short explain questions on core political ideologies including socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. Following this there will be some extracts which student should answer with an essay. There will also be an essay question on other non core ideologies which could include nationalism, feminism, multiculturalism, anarchism, and ecologism. (77 marks in total, 2 hour exam)

Essays assess three assessment objectives.

AO1 - Knowledge and Understanding

AO2 - Analysis

AO3 - Evaluation.

Essay writing skills are developed through step by step instructions and use of the praising stars cycle to measure progress, provide feedback and intervene when appropriate.

Students are also encouraged to attend enrichment sessions after school on nights to be confirmed each year.

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study? -

Students will be loaned the AQA textbook A Level Politics

Other useful resources include -

Any good quality broadsheet newspaper for keeping up to date with current affairs.

Any good quality News website.

Youtube - Crash course - US Politics

Podcast - Talking Politics, The Rest is Politics, Westminster Insider.

Google classroom (access enabled upon recruitment)

