

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Post 16 Subject Overview

Name of Subject - Politics

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

AQA

Why should I study this course?

As part of this course students will develop in depth knowledge of UK and US government and politics with comparisons then being made between these two systems. Students will be required to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics. This will ensure that students develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, political institutions and political processes. The political ideas to be studied have relevance to both of the systems of government and politics.

The study of the four ideologies will enhance the students' knowledge and understanding of politics, political debate and political issues in both the UK and the USA.

This course allows students to actively engage with the world around them.

Who is suitable to study this course?

Students who wish to study this course should have an active interest in the news and in politics. They should have an awareness of the main political parties and developments in the UK and the USA as well as some knowledge of the different ideologies that exist. Students would benefit from study of History at GCSE however this is not a requirement. Students who wish to pursue a career in politics, law, education or economics would benefit from the content delivered in this course. However any student who wishes to go on to higher education should consider Politics as it develops skills of explanation, analysis and debate and will increase their knowledge of the world.

What GCSE Qualifications Support the Study of this Course?

GCSE History and GCSE English.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course?

Grade 5 in GCSE History, if not studied then Grade 6 in GCSE English.

How is the Course Delivered? -

Unit 1: 2 hours a week across Y12 and 13

Unit 2: 2 hours a week across Y12 and 13

Unit 3: 1 hour a week across Y12 and Y13.

Students will be expected to complete additional research and reading beyond lesson time and keep abreast with the news. Students will produce regular presentations to their peers on world developments and should be confident to contribute and discuss these issues.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Unit 1: The Government and Politics of the UK	Unit 1: The Government and Politics of the UK
Autumn 2	Unit 1: The Government and Politics of the UK	Unit 3: Political ideas.
Spring 1	Unit 2: The Government and Politics of the USA	Unit 2: The Government and Politics of the USA
Spring 2	Unit 2: The Government and Politics of the USA	Revision
Summer 1	Unit 3: Political ideas.	Revision
Summer 2	Unit 3: Political ideas.	

How is the Course Assessed?

Paper 1: Written exam, 2 hours, 33.3% of A Level.

Paper 2: Written exam, 2 hours, 33.3% of A Level.

Paper 3: Written exam, 2 hours, 33.4% of A Level.

Students will complete formal assessments at regular intervals across all units. Students will complete three exam questions each half term for each unit. Exams in politics include three broad question types.

9 mark questions require students to explain and analyse different political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues prescribed in the specification. Students are required to develop and substantiate at least three points in a structured, analytical answer, making use of appropriate political vocabulary and examples to substantiate their answer.

25 mark extract based questions require students to comprehend and interpret the argument contained in political information, using their knowledge and understanding of the issue to analyse and evaluate the argument put forward. The answer should be balanced, maintain a sustained line of reasoning and lead to a reasoned conclusion, communicated with relevance, clarity and coherence.

25 mark essay questions require students to analyse and evaluate a given statement using their knowledge and understanding of the issue under discussion. The question may draw from different sections of the specification, requiring students to identify and substantiate parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics studied. The answer should take the form of a structured and balanced argument, maintaining a sustained line of reasoning, communicated with relevance, clarity and coherence and leading to a reasoned conclusion. The 25 mark essay questions for comparative politics, will require students to make explicit comparisons between UK and US government and politics.

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.
- AO2: Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.
- AO3: Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.

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

Paper 1:

- Lynch P, Fairclough P, Cooper T, UK Government and Politics for AS/A-level (2017)
- Kingdom J, Government and Politics in Britain (4th revised edition) (Polity Press 2014)
- Heywood A, Essentials of UK Politics (2nd edition) (Palgrave Macmillan)
- Cocker P, Jones A, Essential Topics in British Politics and Government (Liverpool Academic Press, 2005)
- Wilson C, Understanding AS Government and Politics (Manchester University Press, 2003)

Paper 2:

- Bennett A, US Government and Politics 5th Edition (2017)
- Bennett A, A2 US Government and Politics
- McKay D, (2017: 9th Edition) American Politics and Society

Paper 3:

- Kelly R. and McNaughton N, Political Ideas for A-level (2017)
- A Heywood, Political Ideologies (Palgrave, 2012)
- Freedon M, The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies (Oxford University Press)
- D Woodley, A2 Political Ideologies: Exam Revision Notes (2nd edition) (Philip Allan, 2009)
- Grant M. and Magee E, A2 Political Ideologies (Topic Cue Cards) (Philip Allan, 2007)
- Bloor K, The Definitive Guide to Political Ideologies (Author House, 2010)

