

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - Politics

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course? Pearson/ Edexcel

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
- 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? -

The course is delivered by Jim Wright who has many years experience in teaching politics and as an A level examiner. Jim is the Head of Social Sciences at Post 16 and part of the Senior Leadership Team.

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.

Subject Overview		
Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	Component 1 - UK Politics Democracy and Participation Political Parties	Component 2 - Non Core Ideologies Feminism
Autumn 2	Component 1 - UK Politics Electoral Systems Voting behaviour and the Media	Component 3 - US Politics US Constitution US Democracy: Elections, Parties and Pressure Groups
Spring 1	Component 2 - UK Government UK Constitution Parliament	Component 3 - US Politics US President US Congress
Spring 2	Component 2 - UK Government PM and Cabinet Judiciary and the EU	Component 3 - US Politics US Supreme Court US Federalism UK/US Comparison
Summer 1	Component 1 - Core Ideologies Liberalism	Component 3 - US/ UK Politics

	Conservatism	Revision
Summer 2	Component 1 - Core Ideologies Socialism	

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 - Component 1 content plus the core ideologies.

Students answer two x 30 mark essay questions from a choice of 2 source and 2 non- source based questions. They also answer a 24 mark question from a choice of 2 relating to core ideologies. (84 marks)

Paper 2 - Component 2 content plus non core ideologies.

Students answer two x 30 mark essay questions from a choice of 2 source and 2 non- source based questions. They also answer a 24 mark question from a choice of 2 relating to non- core ideologies. (84 marks)

Paper 3 - Component 3 - US Politics plus US/UK comparison.

Students answer two x 30 mark essay questions from a choice of 3 non- source based questions. They also answer 2 x 12 mark questions comparing US and UK politics. (84 marks)

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 held on a Thursday and Friday at 2.30.

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

Students will be loaned the Edexcel 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

Prechewed politics.com (password required)

Podcast - Talking Politics

Google classroom (access enabled upon recruitment)

