

6

FORM

Advanced Level

POLITICS



Course Aims:

Politics is about compromise; it's about power; it's about government. Politics develops your critical awareness, independent thinking and understanding of complex structures and political systems.

This course is designed to encourage you to obtain a balanced education in politics, to allow you to examine key themes in political analysis and to provide you with the opportunity to specialise in both UK and USA politics.

Subject Information Sheet



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Course Content and Assessment:

There are three broad areas of study in this specification:

The government and politics of the UK - Government and Politics of the UK is divided into ten sections. Each has a particular focus but their interrelationships must be understood to appreciate the complexities of the system.

The government and politics of the USA, and comparative politics - Understanding the nature of US democracy, and the debates surrounding it, is crucial given the considerable impact that the USA has on UK, European and global politics. You will explore the US Constitution and the arguments surrounding this guiding document of US democracy. In learning about the key institutions of government in the USA and analysing the manner in which they achieve this power and exercise it over their citizens, you will judge ultimately whether 'liberty and justice for all' has been achieved in the USA.

Political ideas - As part of political participation, students will study democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. As part of core political ideas, students will study conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

As part of UK Government, you will study the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, and relationships between the branches. In addition, students will study one idea from the following: anarchism, ecology, feminism, multiculturalism, and nationalism.

Assessment

You will be assessed by three 2 hour external exams.

Paper 1 - Government and Politics of the UK

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

Paper 3 - Political Ideas

Learning Methods:

You will learn through a variety of methods such as lectures, activities, multimedia, discussion and debate, reading texts which develop political vocabulary, participating in group projects and writing essays in response to stimulus material. Classroom debate is perhaps the most appealing part of this course; a level of sophistication of informed and independently minded students make this one of the most interesting subjects available.

Career Opportunities:

Having A Level Politics presents you as a person who can rationally debate a passionate subject, who understands the needs of the UK, who understands how the country is run and what affects it, who can look at arguments with an empathetic but level-headed view and who has great social knowledge. You will be a strong candidate for jobs in politics, international organisations, the media, government and political parties or civil service.

Entry Requirements:

- Grade 5 or above in English.
- Grade 4 or above in Maths.
- You should have a strong GCSE profile overall.

Staff Contacts

Mrs McCarthy - Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 5

Mrs Boyton - Student Development Champion Key Stage 5

Mrs McCarthy or Miss Akinloye - KS5 teachers



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