



Politics

Why study Politics?

There are few subjects you can study at A Level and truly say you can change the world. Politics, however, is all about changing the world. In Politics we aim to make sense of the world around us; in the UK, Europe and the USA we look at ideas which have shaped the world. Politics is also a stimulating, challenging and rewarding subject because it is part of our everyday lives and expectations and because of its close relationship with contemporary issues, events and problems. The study of Politics equips you with the communicative skills and knowledge of contemporary issues which are highly valued by leading universities and employers alike. Quite simply study Politics because it affects everything you do!

What skills will I gain from studying Politics?

The study of Politics will allow you to develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes; what the structures of power are within the political systems of the UK and USA; what the rights and responsibilities of individuals are within society; how to develop a critical awareness of political events and issues and an understanding of different political viewpoints; how to develop the communication skills required to argue a case with relevance and coherence. This course will appeal to you if you: enjoy debating current affairs; like doing a subject that affects your daily life and is ever-changing; like to make up your own mind; want to improve your analytical skills.

Having studied Politics what opportunities will be open to me?

Politics provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular careers including journalism, the media, business and law. It also provides a useful contrast for those students taking Maths or Science based subjects who want to study a broader range of subjects at A level and a subject that will give them a greater knowledge of current affairs, it is of course a pathway to studying PPE (Politics, Philosophy & Economics) at university.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in History, English Language or English Literature

Exam Board – Edexcel

Specification code/no. - 9PLO

Topics covered in Year 12 and Year 13

UK Politics- includes the ideas of democracy and participation, political parties and ideas such as conservatism, liberalism & socialism, elections, voting behaviour and the impact of the media, particularly social media.

UK Government- includes an analysis of Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Judiciary including issues such as power, freedom, rights and justice and a study of one set of political ideas from a choice of anarchism, feminism, multiculturalism or nationalism.

The Politics of the USA- includes an analysis of the President, Congress, Constitution and the Supreme Court as well as an exploration of key political issues surrounding racial tensions, immigration and civil rights.