

POLITICS

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

Why study Politics?

Qualification aims and objectives:

To enable students to:

- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups
- develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements
- develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics

“Politics is an interesting subject which gives participants useful information on the UK’s political system. Other than that, the atmosphere is positive, the teachers are unique (in a good way) and the subject is incredibly useful.” Jamie

Subject Specification Outline:

Component 1: UK Politics

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks

Content overview

1. Political Participation, students will study:
 - democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
2. Core Political Ideas, students will study:
 - conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks

Content overview

1. UK Government, students will study:
 - the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.
2. Non-core political ideas, students will study:
 - one idea from the following: anarchism, ecology, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks

Students study either units on USA or Global

Content overview For USA, students will study:

- the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

Content overview for or Global, students will study:

- sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

Progression Pathways:

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

