



A Level Politics

Why study Politics?

Few subjects are more central to your everyday life than 'government and politics'. Politics dominates domestic and foreign news. Political decisions determine how you are educated, housed, cared for in hospital, kept secure from crime and, regardless of your hopes and aspirations for the future, it will shape the society you inherit as adults. In short Politics is arguably THE definitive study of the human condition; self-interested, but social creatures, we seek security and order through complex systems of governance and government.

Politics is the study of the state, government and nation. It deals extensively with the practice and theory of political systems and political behaviour. Academically codified in the 19th Century, the study of politics originated 2,500 years ago with Plato and Aristotle, thus making Politics one of the oldest subjects ever studied.

Ultimately it studies how we organise, cooperate, and seek to settle conflict. This is a discursive subject that requires you to develop an interest in current affairs. In Politics you'll study the real world and develop skills to make sense of that world in a mature co-educational environment that will support your preparation for undergraduate study and beyond.

Entry requirements

There are no specific GCSE requirements to study Politics, however ideally students should have gained a Level 6/7 in a comparable humanities subject, like History, Geography or Religious Studies. Politics is a discursive and prose-based subject and students are expected to have some interest in current affairs to support their learning.

What does the course involve?

Year 12 focus is essentially on UK government and politics, including:

1. Democracy & participation
2. The constitution
3. Political parties
4. Pressure groups
5. Parliament
6. Electoral systems
7. Prime Minister & executive
8. Voting behaviour & the media
9. Relations between the branches
10. Core political ideas: Liberalism, Conservatism & Socialism, Feminism & Nationalism

Year 13 focus is essentially on US government and politics, including:

1. US Constitution and federalism
2. US Congress
3. US Presidency
4. US Supreme Court and civil rights
5. US democracy and participation
6. Comparative theories

Exam Board

Edexcel



How is the course assessed?

3 X 2 hour exams (one for each unit)

What can an A Level in Politics lead to?

Politics is utterly compatible with whatever other subjects you opt to study, however History, Economics, English, Classics, RS, Modern Languages, Geography are common combinations. Politics will also prepare you for many forms of employment, given you will gain analytical and practical skills that are invaluable in a contemporary competitive employment market. Occupations that view Politics students as being a real asset include: researchers, broadcasters, journalists, local government officers, civil servants, pollsters, lobbyists, teachers, lawyers, financiers & bankers, the health service, public relations, the police and military, management training, advertising and a wide range of business opportunities.

What skills will be developed in the Politics A Level course?

Analysis & Critical Awareness Politics is about analysis of complex and often contradictory data and being able to construct and defend arguments derived from such data. You will be able to articulate and defend your arguments in the face of criticism. **Communication** You will be able to communicate effectively in writing and verbally as a result of studying Politics. You will be required to write essays and reports independently, in addition to giving presentations and contribute to academic discussions. You will become more confident in your ability to communicate by studying Politics.

Politics is taught at Loughborough Grammar School.

