

Politics

The intent of A Level Politics is to help students understand the evolving political environment in the UK and USA. Students studying it will gain core knowledge and understanding of politics both in practice and in theory. In lessons they will examine the workings of democracy and government as well as political philosophy which has shaped the country and continues to do so. During their time they will be expected to keep up to date with current affairs and political issues and have the opportunity to voice their opinions. They will be expected to organise and run a “mock election” for the entire Sixth Form and there will be an opportunity to visit Parliament.

Politics A Level does not have course work but students will be assessed throughout the course, ready for their final exams in year 13. They will learn how to write effectively and concisely, using their own knowledge and a range of landmark and contemporary examples to form substantiated judgements. They will learn to analyse political commentary and opinion, passing judgement on the big issues of the day. They will also be coached in improving their oracy, making sure that they are also effective and eloquent speakers as well as mature writers.

We aim to equip our young people with the tools to be fully participating members of the country’s political system, at a time where participation is low. We want to ensure they are able to make their own informed and educated decisions when it comes to the ballot box, as well as challenge the narrative and rhetoric that they are exposed to by the media and government. We intend to build a range of skills in politics that will help students achieve their full potential in any career they choose, as we cannot escape politics in any walk of life.

		Autumn		Spring		Summer	
		Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 12 UK Politics and Political Ideas	Knowledge	Democracy and participation, Pressure group, individual rights, Voting systems, elections	Political Parties, Voting Behaviour and Media	The UK Constitution, Devolution, Executive	Parliament, UK Supreme Court, Location of sovereignty	Liberalism and Conservatism - key ideas, tensions and thinkers	Socialism and Nationalism - key ideas, tensions and thinkers
	Skills	Students must comprehend and interpret political information in relation to areas of UK politics and political ideas. They must fully understand, and critically analyse and evaluate areas of UK politics and political ideas. They must identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between content studied, providing a basis for comparing the UK with the USA and appreciating the UK's position in global politics. Students must construct and communicate arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence, and draw reasoned conclusions about UK politics and core political ideas. Students must develop knowledge and understanding of key political concepts. Students must use appropriate vocabulary. Students must be able to analyse appropriate sources of political commentary and opinion.					
	Why?	The topics covered focus on how our country works and the influences that have shaped its political institutions. It is vital to understand this in order to help students see why the country is the way it is and for them to develop thoughts on the pros and cons of UK politics and its workings. The ideologies studied help to show students much more detail of the influences affecting the country and the alternative perspectives that dominate UK political discourse, such as socialism and liberalism. All of these things will ultimately make them stronger as politically aware and active citizens in our community.					
	Assessment	Assessments will develop students' skills in critical thinking and analysis, using a variety of question types, sources and materials.	Assessments will develop students' skills in critical thinking and analysis, using a variety of question types, sources and materials.	Assessments will develop students' skills in critical thinking and analysis, using a variety of question types, sources and materials.	Assessments will develop students' skills in critical thinking and analysis, using a variety of question types, sources and materials.	Assessments will develop students' skills in critical thinking and analysis, using a variety of question types, sources and materials.	Mock exams

