

The Course

In the first year of this Edexcel course, you will study how democracy works in the UK – is it really democratic to have a government which won less than 50% of the votes? How could democracy work better – should the voting age be lowered? Should we be able to vote by text? What do the different political parties stand for? How does government work? How well are your rights protected?

In the second year you will study the American political system – what is the constitution? Why is it impossible to ban ownership of guns? How is the President elected? Why did Donald Trump refuse to accept the election result? Do Black lives matter?

Why study Politics?

- If you want to know why the world is like it is, then you should study Politics. Why don't 16 year olds have the vote? Why will you have to pay £9,000 tuition fees at university? Why will you have to work until you are 67 to get your pension?
- Much of the Politics course involves simply knowing a bit about the world – it is the only subject where homework could legitimately consist of 'watch the news'!
- In today's competitive market for university places and jobs, the candidate who stands out is one who does not just know about the subjects they have studied but who has a wider knowledge of the world. Politics can help develop this.
- The course is enlivened by talks from local MPs, a visit to watch Prime Minister's Questions in the Houses of Parliament, the opportunity to participate in European Youth Parliament competition, and international travel.

In addition there are a variety of co-curricular activities, such as Book Club, Film Club and the opportunity to contribute to the Politics' Department publication, 'Marginal Gains'.

What can I do with a qualification in this subject?

- The study of Politics combines naturally with subjects like History and Economics, and should appeal to students interested in activities such as Debating or the European Youth Parliament.
- It develops skills which are useful in the workplace – someone with Politics A Level is literate, informed about the world, able to analyse information and argue a case based upon the evidence.
- It develops knowledge and understanding of how the world works – someone with a Politics A Level will have opinions on the important issues of the day – qualities which will impress interviewers.
- These skills and knowledge provide a useful foundation for courses like PPE at university and for careers such as journalism, media, the civil service, government, law and business.

What do I need to study Politics?

A minimum Grade 6 in GCSE English is required and a Grade 7 is strongly recommended.

A Level subject choice video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLK5CE3Fcx8>

