

Politics A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel

Subject Specific Criteria:

- **Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and/or GCSE English Literature**

Politics is the study of how countries are governed, why they are governed in this way, and, most crucially, where power truly lies.

Unless we understand these issues, we will always be on the receiving end of other people's agenda, rather than taking an active part in changing the world in our own image.

If you are interested in why Brexit happened, or why Donald Trump won in 2016 (and then lost in 2020), then A-Level politics is the course for you!

Politics A-Level complements studies in History, Theology, Sociology, and English.

Assessment (all exam-based in Summer 2026, 2 hours long, 1/3 of qualification each):

- Paper 1: UK Politics, and core political ideas
- Paper 2: UK Government, and non-core political ideas
- Paper 3: Comparative Politics - USA

Skills Required:

- Independent learning
- A high standard of written English, especially essay-writing
- A genuine interest in current affairs and history
- Analytical/critical thinking skills

Course Information:

You will study the theories and practice of politics, with a particular focus on the politics and government of Britain and the USA.

In the first year, you will look at UK politics and government, including political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour, the media, the British Constitution, and the relationship between the Prime Minister, Parliament, and legal system. You will also look at the political ideas of liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, and socialism.

In the second year, you will look at US politics and government, including the Presidency, the Congress, and the Supreme Court, as well as political parties and voting behaviour. You will then use this knowledge to compare American politics and government to what you have already learnt from the UK context.

Future Opportunities:

The Russell Group universities consider Politics A-Level to be one of most prestigious A-Level courses.

It is a traditional academic subject and a top grade in Politics provides evidence that you are able to produce detailed written arguments and reasoned judgements, which are crucial for further study. It is considered especially useful for the study of any humanities or social science course at undergraduate level, including history, philosophy, and law.

A-Level Politics is also highly valued from employers in all sectors, including the civil service, law, education, media, and finance.

Subject Enrichment:

- Westminster Trip, including a tour of the Houses of Parliament (3rd May 2024)
- Talks from prominent politicians, including Jess Phillips MP, and West Midlands Mayor Andy Street