

Politics

Awarding Body: AQA

Level: A-Level

Introduction

There has never been a better or more important time to study Politics. This highly topical and relevant subject will attract those with enquiring minds who want to understand the organisations and processes which produce democratic government in the UK and USA. The strengths and weaknesses of both systems will be analysed through detailed study and analysis of relevant case studies from each country. In addition, you will analyse and evaluate the beliefs and values of liberalism, conservatism, socialism and feminism.

Year one content

In Year 12, you will study the government and politics of the UK. The key modules studied are:

- Government of the UK:
 - The British constitution
 - Parliament
 - The Prime Minister and Cabinet
 - The Judiciary
 - The EU
- Politics of the UK:
 - Democracy and Participation
 - Elections and referendums
 - Political parties

There is 1 written exam in the July PPEs.

This paper will be examined formally in the summer of Year 13 and equals 33% of the course.

Year two content

In Year 13, you will study the government and politics of the USA and political ideas.

- Government of the USA:
 - The American constitution
 - Congress
 - The President
 - The Judiciary
 - Pressure groups and civil rights
- Politics of the USA:
 - The electoral process and direct democracy
 - Political parties
- Comparison of UK/US systems and procedures
- Political ideas:
 - Liberalism
 - Conservatism
 - Socialism
 - Feminism

These papers will be examined formally in the Summer of Year 13 and is equal to 66% of the course.

Each exam paper is the same structure and is a combination of medium and long essay questions (each paper has 5 questions in total over 2 hours).

What you need

At least a grade 5 in GCSE English Literature. A grade 5 in GCSE History or Geography is strongly recommended.

A desire to read and write in detail.

Career and further study

Politics students go on to study a wide range of humanities, social science or business-related subjects at university, or enter into a wide range of careers in administration, management, local government or the civil service. Many politicians including former Prime Minister David Cameron studied Politics at university.

Trips and other costs

- Annual trip to Parliament (Y12)
- Annual Politics Conference hearing from MPs (Y12 and Y13)

You are expected to purchase your own textbooks.