

What is Politics?

How has Covid reshaped our lives and society? Why can't 16 year olds have the vote? Why do Londoners get more money spent on them than Northerners? What is Brexit?! How did Trump become US President? Why did Trump supporters storm Congress when he lost an election?

Politics is the study of how power works in the UK and the USA. This course combines a close look at the governmental systems of both countries, with a broad and far reaching analysis of all aspects of political life. We explore the roles of Prime Minister, Parliament and the US President. We examine the strengths and weaknesses of UK and USA democracy. We discover the range of political views held by those on the right, left and the centre.

Why students choose this course

There has never been a better time, or more pressing need, for students to understand how our Political system works. Politics explains exactly what is happening on the news that day, all the big issues are covered from Brexit to Biden.

Most importantly this subject empowers students to be active and engaged citizens, it decodes the language used by politicians to confuse ordinary people so that young people can hold their leaders to account. It is not a subject for the faint hearted, as debate and discussion is at the heart of what we do.

What the course covers

A Level Politics has four key topics:

UK Politics

Democracy, voting systems, elections, political parties, voting behaviour and the media.

UK Government

The constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and their government, the supreme court and the EU.

Political Ideas

3 core ideologies: liberalism, socialism and conservatism.

1 non-core ideology from: feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism, ecologism or anarchism.

Comparative politics

Government and politics of the USA. The US constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US supreme court and civil rights, democracy and participation, and comparative theories.

The complete specification can be viewed on the Edexcel website <https://qualifications.pearson.com>

What students can do with this course

Politics is an excellent course for developing your ability to analyse the way the world works, improving communication skills and developing your ability to create detailed and substantiated arguments.

Politics goes particularly well with History and Economics, but complements the other social sciences and humanities. It also adds breadth to a Science application. Politics is recommended for anybody hoping to progress into politics, public service, the armed services or law.

How this course is assessed

100% Examination

Paper 1 - UK Politics and Core Ideology

Paper 2 - UK Government and Non-Core Ideology

Paper 3 - Comparative Government and Politics - USA

Entry requirements

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.

Further Reading

A Marr, History of Modern Britain

J O'Brien, How to be Right

I Hardman, Why do we get the wrong politicians?

Student Profile:



Before Sixth Form, Sana was a student at Feversham Academy. At Dixons Sixth Form, she studies Politics, Economics and History.

“ Now more than ever, it has become clear that politics is integral in our understanding of how the world works. Studying A Level Politics has taught me answers to some complex questions including ‘How some leaders, despite a surge of unpopularity, are able to stay in power?’ and ‘Just how democratic is the UK?’ ”