Integrity
Curiosity
Respect

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A LEVEL

Politics

WHAT IS POLITICS?

How democratic is the UK? What is freedom? What will be the long-term consequences of the President Trump's second election? Will Nigel Farage become next Prime Minister? If you take an interest in these sorts of questions, this course will certainly be of interest to you. Politics involves the study of power, who gets to make the important decisions and why. It is an ever-changing field of study which explores the 'here and now' of decision making in the UK and beyond.

WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE THIS COURSE

There has never been a better time, or a more pressing need, for students to understand how our political system works. Topical questions tackled by our students include:

- Why do we have an unelected House of Lords making laws on our behalf?
- What sort of PM is Keir Starmer?
- How successfully are rights protected in the USA?
- Are our elections fair?

Most importantly this subject empowers students to be active and engaged citizens, it decodes the language used by politicians so that young people can hold their leaders to account.

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

- Y Varoufakis, Talking to My Daughter About the Economy: A Brief History of Capitalism
- A Marr, History of Modern Britain
- J O'Brien, How to be Right
- I Hardman, Why do we get the wrong politicians?

What the course covers

Content overview - UNIT 1

Political Participation:

- Democracy and participation;
- Political parties;
- Electoral systems; and
- Voting behaviour and the media.

Core Political Ideas:

- Socialism and communism;
- Conservatism; and
- Liberalism.

Content overview - UNIT 2

UK Government:

- The UK's Constitution;
- Parliament;
- Prime Minister and executive; and
- Relationships between the branches

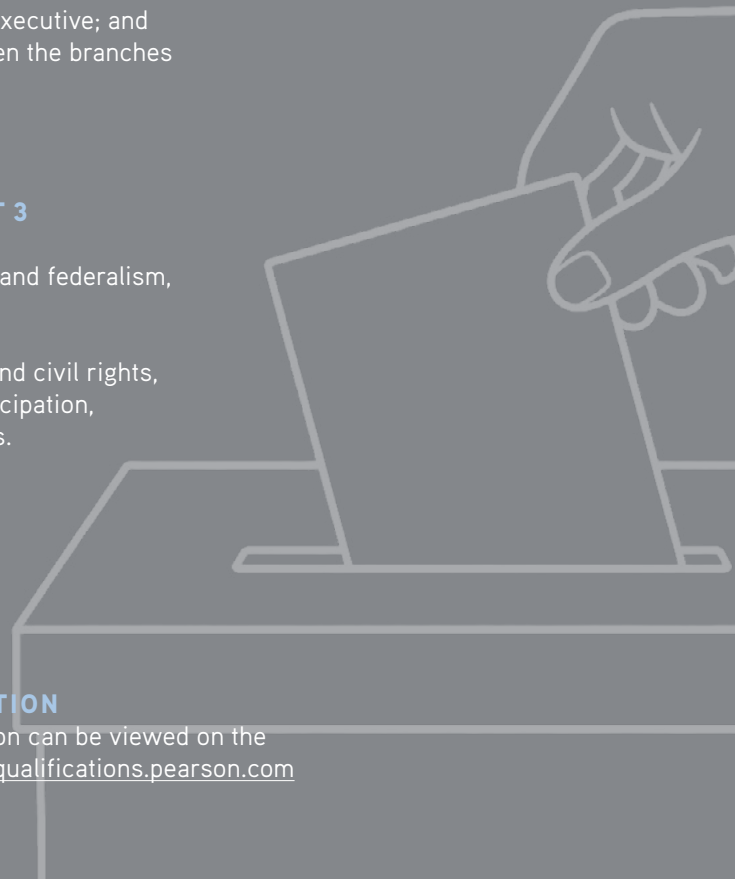
Other Political Ideas:

- Feminism

Content overview - UNIT 3

USA Politics:

- The US Constitution and federalism,
- US Congress,
- US presidency,
- US Supreme Court and civil rights,
- Democracy and participation,
- Comparative theories.



FURTHER INFORMATION

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