

Politics A Level – An Overview

What will I study ?

The study of Politics has never been more exciting. The decisions of politicians and the Government have a profound effect on all our lives. We have seen the UK vote for Brexit, elect Boris Johnson as PM and experienced the profound effects of the Covid pandemic and the level of control that our Government has over our daily lives.

Politics is the study of these and other issues and the institutions that deal with them. The course is divided into three modules.

The first, 'UK Politics', looks at political parties, voting behavior and the media, elections and electoral systems, democracy and participation and core political ideologies of Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism.

The second module, 'UK Government', looks at the role of Parliament, the Cabinet, the Prime Minister, the constitution. There is also an optional political ideology which will need to be studied from Anarchism Nationalism, Ecologism, Feminism or Multiculturalism.

The third module deals with the politics of the USA and includes the US Constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation, and civil rights.

We study the Edexcel specification for A Level Politics. The link is below –

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf>

How will I study?

Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic being studied and will involve class discussion, videos, making notes, supported self-study and detailed examination preparation. Home learning will reflect the wide range of learning opportunities set on a regular basis and is used, in addition to tests, to monitor your progress. You will be expected to make full use of your noncontact time. Politics is a highly fluid subject and you will be expected to show a full and up to date understanding of current political developments. You will need to read journal articles and keep abreast of developments through websites such as Politico.

Home Learning

You will be expected to take extensive notes from the wider reading you undertake. You will also be set regular examination style questions throughout the course.

How is Politics assessed?

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There will be three examinations that you will sit in the summer of 2024. Each of these will last for two hours and each is worth one third of your overall A Level grade.

Politics : Transition Home Learning Task

- Research all of the electoral systems currently in use in the UK – First Past the Post, AMS and STV
- You need to write an explanation of how these systems work.
- You must include three strengths and three weaknesses of each system.
- Each strength and each weakness MUST be supported by evidence Write 2 sides on whether or not we should continue to keep First Past the Post for use in General Elections. It is important that you write a balanced analysis and include evidence from the 2024 General Election.

Election campaigns matter to the outcome of the election. Using the 2024 General Election can you provide 4 pieces of evidence to support this statement and 4 pieces of evidence that do not support this statement.

This must be your own work