



# Government & Politics



## STUDY LEVEL

**A level**

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Politics has an impact on the way we all live and you will learn about how decisions are made that affect all our lives. Politics will be a new subject to the majority of students and therefore it is an opportunity to do something fresh and new. Studying Politics will enable you to understand how the political system works at local, national and European levels.

### What will I study?

Topics covered in the study of Politics include electoral systems, parties, pressure groups and the American political system.

It is particularly important that you have an enquiring mind, a desire to learn about how the political system works and its impact on you, the citizen. You will be encouraged to develop your skills in critical and analytical thinking, note making, research, oral and presentation skills, all of which will be essential to you whether you decide to go into Higher Education or into a career after A levels.

### Co-curricular activities?

We aim to offer a visit to Parliament at the end of Year 12, where you will have a tour of the Palace of Westminster and attend the Commons and/or Lords for Question Time. We have recently been to Washington DC and will be looking to organise this again this year.

The department also supports opportunities such as the Debating Society, the 'Youth Speaks' competition and university essay competitions.

### Where might it lead?

Politics is particularly useful if you are considering a career in law, business/retail management, the media or Civil Service. However the knowledge and skills which the study of Politics will give you will be welcomed by any employer.

## Course Breakdown

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### Course Summary

- Exam board is Edexcel

Paper	Content	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Political Participation Core Political Ideas	84	2 hours	33.3%
Paper 2	UK Government Non-Core Political Ideas	84	2 hours	33.3%
Paper 3	Government & Politics of the USA	84	2 hours	33.3%

### Summary of Content

#### Political Participation

Democracy and Participation; Political Parties; Electoral Systems; Voting behaviour and the Media.

#### Core Political Ideas

Conservatism; Liberalism; Socialism.

#### UK Government

The Constitution; Parliament; Prime Minister and Executive; Relations between the branches.

#### Non-Core Political Ideas

Nationalism.

#### Government and Politics of the USA

The Constitution and Federalism; US Congress; The Presidency; The Supreme Court and Civil Rights; Democracy and Participation; Comparative Theories.

### Suggested Preparation for September

In order to prepare for entry, you need to have an understanding of current affairs.

- Read a quality newspaper, watch the news, and if possible watch the recent documentary 'Inside the Commons'.
- Ensure you are familiar with the results of the 2015 and 2017 General Elections.
- An awareness of the key policies of the main parties would be an advantage.