

POLITICS



EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL COURSE DURATION: 2 YEARS

Politics is the study of how power is distributed within modern societies. It seeks to understand why conflicts and disputes arise within our society, how they are resolved and why some ideas and groups are more successful than others. Politics is thus central to our understanding of what happens to us in all areas of modern life.

The course studies the way in which people become engaged in political issues and the developments occurring within UK and global politics. It is thus a constantly changing, fascinating and unpredictable subject which springs constant surprises.

The course enables students to understand how both the people and the government are involved in the process and activity of political decision making. Students taking the course will be encouraged to become familiar with contemporary political ideas and to contribute their views to discussions and debates on a wide range of topical political issues. Students will be able to develop a wide range of study skills. No prior knowledge of the subject is needed.

UK POLITICS democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media

UK GOVERNMENT constitution, parliament, PM and executive, relationship between the branches

CORE POLITICAL IDEAS Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism

OPTIONAL POLITICAL IDEAS Anarchism or Feminism or Ecologism

GLOBAL POLITICS theories of global politics, sovereignty and globalisation, global governance, power and developments, regionalism and European Union

There is plenty of scope for debate, discussion and active political involvement if desired. Each year we visit the UK Parliament and have also visited the United Nations in New York, the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Auschwitz Birkenau in Poland and the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh in the past.

ASSESSMENT

Three two-hour exams consisting of mainly essay-based questions at the end of the course. Students will also be given the opportunity to engage in a variety of local political events, activities and debates.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

Politics is an essay-based social science and this combines best with subjects such as Sociology, History, Classics, Law, Economics and Philosophy.

CAREERS

A qualification in Politics can be useful in many areas of life. Careers in voluntary associations, media, civil service, central and local government, the legal profession and teaching are all examples of employment that will be better informed by a knowledge and understanding of Politics.