

Sixth Form Subject Information

Politics



Qualification	A-Level
Exam Board	AQA
Course Leader	Miss K Ridge
Course summary	<p>Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose.</p> <p>Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps grow your confidence.</p> <p>It's ideal if you're considering studying politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.</p> <p>The specification requires in depth study of UK and US government and politics. Comparisons across the two political systems are required in the topic entitled Comparative politics, where students will identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics. Students will also study key political ideologies, including liberalism, conservatism and socialism.</p>
What will students learn?	<p><u>Paper 1 – Government and politics of the UK</u></p> <p>This unit will look at how the UK is governed, including the nature and sources of the British Constitution, the structure and role of Parliament, the role of the Prime Minister and cabinet and the judiciary. This unit will also look at UK politics, including the development of the suffrage (voting) in the UK, how elections work, with case studied from elections including the 1997 election, and how political parties work.</p> <p><u>Paper 2 – Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics</u></p> <p>This unit will look at how the USA is governed, including the constitutional framework, the different legislative branches, the electoral system and political parties. This unit will also compare the government and politics of the USA with that of the UK, including comparing the constitutions, the executives and the judiciaries.</p> <p><u>Paper 3 – Political ideas</u></p> <p>This unit will look at three core ideologies (liberalism, conservatism and socialism) and one other ideology (nationalism) and consider what each ideology has to say about human nature, the state, society and economy. This</p>

	<p>unit will also consider different strands of thought within each ideology, and the role played by key thinkers such as John Locke (liberalism), Ayn Rand (conservatism) and Karl Marx (socialism).</p> <p>Students are encouraged to build up an awareness of what is happening in the world, by listening to the news and podcasts, and reading articles and watching videos showing both current events and different analysis of these events.</p>
How will students be assessed?	<p>The A Level consists of three exams – all 2 hours long. The exams have a mix of medium and high mark questions, and an extract to analyse. and long</p> <p>Each exam is worth 1/3 of the final grade</p>
Differentiation	<p>Journal articles Revision resources shared on Teams Past exam questions Model answers</p>
Resources	<p>Core textbooks: Hodder: Politics Hodder: Political ideas for A-level</p>