

HISTORY & POLITICS DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: Mr R McDonald

Why choose the subject? You are keen, mature, aware, inquisitive, with an interest in current affairs and are ambitious to enter Law, Management (Public Relations), Journalism, the Civil Service, Industry, Nursing, the Public Services, University or Parliament! We have just the course for you.

Have you ever wondered about the answers to the following questions?

- We say we are a democracy – but is it really true?
- Are our liberties properly protected?
- Why did Labour lose the last election?
- Why have Greenpeace been a successful pressure group?
- Should people and animals have the same rights?

The answer to these and many questions will be revealed!

Who is eligible?

As Politics is a social science, it can be studied equally well by girls who are taking Arts or Science based A levels. It is certainly not necessary to have studied GCSE History in order to handle the course.

Although Politics is not studied lower down the school, it is as equally acceptable to universities and colleges as any other A level you might consider taking. Whether your motivation is academic, career-orientated or pure curiosity, the main requirement is to have an interest in the subject. You do not need a great deal of knowledge of political affairs in order to start the course but you do need to have some interest in current affairs, debates, or controversies, so candidates will be expected to acquaint themselves with quality newspapers, periodicals, journals and current affairs programmes on both T.V. and radio.

A LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Examination Board: EdExcel	UNIT 1	UK Politics
	Assessment Overview	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political Participation - students will study democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. 2. Core Political Ideas - students will study conservatism, liberalism and socialism. <p>Section A: Political Participation One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question is based on a quote) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.</p> <p>All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3</p> <p>Section B: Core Political Ideas One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.</p>
	Written examination	<p>2 hours</p> <p>33⅓% of the qualification</p> <p>84 marks</p>

Examination Board: EdExcel	<p>Unit 2</p> <p>UK Government</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Students will study the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches. Optional Political Ideas, students will study one idea from the following: anarchism, ecology, feminism, multiculturalism or nationalism. <p>Assessment Overview</p> <p>Section A: UK Government One 30 mark questions from a choice of two (each question is based on a quote) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.</p> <p>All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.</p> <p>Section B: Optional Political Ideas One 24-mark question from a choice of two which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.</p> <p>Written examination</p> <p>2 hours</p> <p>33⅓% of the qualification</p> <p>84 marks</p>
	<p>UNIT 3</p> <p>Comparative Politics - Global</p> <p>For Global (3B) students will study theories of Global Politics, sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union.</p> <p>Assessment Overview</p> <p>Section A One 12-mark question from a choice of two which assesses AO1 and AO2</p> <p>Section B One compulsory 12-mark question based on a source, which assesses AO1 and AO2</p> <p>Section C Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.</p> <p>Written examination</p> <p>2 hours</p> <p>33⅓% of the qualification</p> <p>84 marks</p>

AS LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Examination Board: EdExcel

UNIT 1

UK Politics

Students will study:-

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

Assessment Overview

Section A

One 10-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses A01.

Section B

Two 10-mark questions based on a source. One question assesses A01 and A02 and the other question assess A02 and A03.

Written examination

1 hour and 30 minutes

50% of the qualification

60 marks

Unit 2

UK Government

Students will study:-

- The constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and executive
- Relationships between the branches

Assessment Overview

Section A

One 10-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses A01.

Section B

Two 10-mark questions based on a source. One question assesses A01 and A02 and the other question assesses A02 and A03.

Section C

One mark question from a choice of two, which assesses A01, A02 and A03.

Written examination

1 hour and 30 minutes

50% of the qualification

60 marks

STUDENT VIEW

Politics



Studying politics has been an extremely intriguing experience for me as it's allowed me to develop a greater understanding about how our country is governed, how laws are created and enforced as well as reflecting on current events in world politics. With the constantly changing politics of the UK, A level politics opens the possibility of seeing current events in the UK and the world around us in a different light, and through developing your understanding, encourages to make links between the course and current affairs. The teachers are both knowledgeable and passionate about the subject and challenge you to do your best. Lessons are interactive with the chance for lots of debate and discussion. I would highly recommend this course to anyone thinking about taking it as it has been an insight into developing a greater understanding about how the government and politics of this country works on a day-to-day basis.

PF-P