

Politics

A-Level Edexcel

General Course Information

What is happening with Brexit? Why is British politics in such a mess?

Politics used to be something that people were disinterested in. Today, everyone has an opinion about politics. So, how can you become better informed about these critical issues, and what can you do to take control of your life, rather than leaving it up to the politicians?

The answer is, of course: study Government and Politics.

You will develop an in-depth understanding of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political systems of the United Kingdom and the United States. You will acquire knowledge and informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the individual, and encourage an interest in, and engagement with contemporary politics.

Component 1: People and Politics

- Political Participation: Democracy, Political Parties and Pressure Groups, Elections and Voting Behaviour, and Media Influence.
- Core Political Ideas: Conservatism, Liberalism, and Socialism.

Component 2: UK Government

- UK Government: the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and The Supreme Court.
- Non-core political ideas: Nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics

- US Politics: the Constitution, Congress, Supreme Court, the President, Political Parties, and Elections.

How is the course assessed?

All components units are assessed via external examinations and each represents 33.3% of the overall mark awarded. The exams are essay based and require a good level of English language skills, so there is a requirement for Grade 6 in at least one GCSE English qualification.

Who's it for?

Government & Politics combines well with the following A levels:

- Sociology
- Economics
- History
- English Language & Literature
- Philosophy

However, the course works just as well in combination with any other subjects.

Progression

Political scientists often pursue careers in law, journalism, media, business, social work, teaching ... and even politics! Related degree courses include Politics, International Relations, Peace Studies, Business Studies, Law, Sociology, and other Social Science and Humanities based subjects.

