

POLITICS

GCE A LEVEL

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/government-and-politics/as-and-a-level/new-as-a-politics>

Teaching hours 6 hours per week

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Course Features

Students will study the following:

- UK politics: democracy and participation, elections and referendums, political parties, pressure groups, the role of Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, the British constitution and the judiciary.
- Ideologies: an examination of the core ideas and theories of the most significant political ideologies, including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, and feminism.
- US politics: the US Constitution, Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, elections, political parties, and pressure groups and a comparison of US and UK politics.

Typical learning activities

A-level Politics is an exciting new subject for students, which will challenge them to engage actively with current affairs and the news. Unlike almost all other academic subjects, Politics is constantly changing, meaning that students need to keep abreast of all new developments by reading newspapers, listening to political debates on Radio 4 and other programmes, and following political debates online.

A-level Politics provides plenty of opportunities to engage in debate and discussion, and to research topics independently. Many students will come to Politics with little or no previous knowledge of the subject; this is not a problem, provided that they are willing to immerse themselves in the political world for the duration of their course. Others start the course with considerable background knowledge, and are often passionate about their political beliefs. Their challenge is to learn to write academic and analytical political essays, rather than partisan manifestos!

Essential Equipment

Students will need to provide their own textbooks, folders, paper, stationery, and memory stick if applicable. £60-£75 will be needed to buy three textbooks. Any trips will be charged for as required.

'Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.'

Barack Obama

Careers & progression

A level Politics is very highly regarded for its intellectual breadth and depth. Students may go on to read Politics, PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics), or International Relations at university, or combine Politics with another subject such as History in a joint honours degree. Graduates may go on to work in political think tanks, the civil service, journalism, business, finance, local government, or for a political party. A great number of current and former politicians are PPE graduates, including Liz Truss, David Cameron, Rachel Reeves, Ed and David Miliband, Yvette Cooper and Damian Hinds, as are numerous political journalists including Nick Robinson, Robert Peston, and Stephanie Flanders.



Entry requirements

Grade 6 in History at GCSE level, if History has not been taken at GCSE then a minimum of a '6' is required in GCSE English Literature.

