

Politics

A - Level Edexcel

General Course Information

If your idea of politics is limited to the “Punch and Judy” squabbling seen on TV coverage of Prime Minister’s Question Time, then this course will make you think again. Many people say they aren’t interested in politics, but do have an opinion on such things as education, the NHS, the EU and Foreign Policy. 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 system of the United Kingdom, and how these may differ from other political systems. 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 & Politics

- Political Participation: democracy, parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour & media influence.
- Core Political Ideas: Conservatism. Liberalism & Socialism

Component 2: UK Government

- UK Government: the constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and executive
- Non-core political ideas: Nationalism

Component 3: Comparative Politics

- USA Politics inc constitution, Congress, Supreme Court

How is the course assessed?

All components units are assessed via external examinations and represent 33.3% of the overall mark awarded. The exams are essay based and require a good level of English language skills

Who’s it for?

Government & Politics combines well with the following A levels;

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

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 & Humanities based subjects.

