

## Politics A-level

Exam board: AQA

### Where do I start?

You must meet the minimum entry requirements of Wootton Park VI. In addition, you then also need at least a **Grade 6 in English or a Humanities Subject**.

### Politics – about the subject:

From the Greek Πολιτικά – Politica – ‘The affairs of the Cities’.

The study of Politics looks at the different systems of government across the world, the development and evolution of the systems, and analysis and evaluation of how they work. It is rooted in the understanding of the ‘rule of law’ and the way power is distributed.

The politics course looks at:

**The Government & Politics of the UK** – The monarchy, Parliament, Institutions, The Party System, Electoral Systems, The role of the Press, The history and evolution of the system, The end of Empire, Modern Society, The rule of Law, The EU, Parliamentary supremacy, The British ‘Constitution’, Approaches to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government ...

**The Government & Politics of The USA & Comparative Politics** – How to compare systems, Approaches to Democracy, The role of the President, Republicans and Democrats, The History of the US system, International Politics, Federalism, The US Constitution, The Bill of Rights, Approaches to the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government, Direct Democracy ...

**Political Ideas & Theory** – Ideologies, Liberalism, The concept of Freedom, The Individual and the State, Conservatism, Socialism, Right and Left Wing – understanding the continuum, Revolution, Social Democracy, Marxism, Nationalism, Minorities, Self-Determination, The idea of the Nation, Sovereignty, Feminism.

It is assessed through a mix of short-to-medium ‘explain’ style questions and essays.

### Why study Politics?

If you are an enthusiastic learner with an interest in how the world works, as well as a determined interest in current affairs then Politics can offer an engaging and challenging course which equips you with very useful transferrable skills for a number of careers and areas of future study.

### Learners study Politics because they want to:

- Work in Politics in the Future
- Learn more about the big decisions in society and how the world works
- Investigate international trade, business, politics and law
- Understand comparative approaches and how other countries work
- Learn how to comprehend and interpret political material
- Construct effective, evidence-based arguments; develop and debate coherently; reason, persuade and evaluate.

### What type of learner chooses Politics?

Learners who are truly interested in the way the world around them works, how business can be effective, how society runs and is governed will all be interested in the study of Politics. The theories at the base of our society, and the history that created our institutions and the processes that are creating the future are all central to the study of politics.

A-level Politics is a social science course, which links well to other social sciences, such as Business Studies, Psychology, Religious Studies, Philosophy and Sociology. It also links well with Humanities based subjects such as History and Geography and can complement Human Sciences, English and Languages. Learners interested in Financial and Political studies, Management, Business, Social Sciences, Humanities, Law or Languages at university would be wise to consider Politics as an option.

### How can I be an outstanding Politics learner?

Pay attention to the news. Take an interest in local issues. Get involved in school and societal activities. Listen to relevant podcasts. Talk !



**WPS VI**  
*‘Ipsum quod faciendum est diutius’*

### What are the career/higher education prospects?

Politics combines well with most other subjects. Here are some careers that studying A-level Politics can lead to...

Politics and National Government – Parliament  
Law Journalism Management Social  
Theory & Academia The Civil Service

Local Government Financial & Political  
Analysts Teaching International Law  
Recruitment Media ...

### What co-curricular opportunities are there within this subject?

Politics offers several opportunities for learning outside the classroom and enrichment, subject to suitable numbers and interest, there should be opportunities for trips and visits, including trips to the Houses of Parliament, Local Government, as well as Lectures and Visits from key speakers – from MPs, Councillors, Think Tanks etc. We will also look to develop debating or mooted teams, encourage participation in Youth Parliament and Model United Nations events, and develop public speaking through competitions. Additionally, we would encourage learners to develop their own news reading – accessing a range of newspapers, political commentary shows and news analysis from a range of media – including newsprint, television, social media, radio and more.

### The A-level will be assessed in the following way:

#### A-level Examinations

#### Paper 1 – UK Politics

#### And Core Ideologies

2 hours

84 marks (33.3% of A-level)

#### Paper 2 – UK Government

#### And additional Ideologies

2 hours

84 marks (33.3% of A-level)

#### Paper 3 – Comparative

#### USA/UK

2 hours

84 marks (33.3% of A-level)

#### All examinations are in the second year of the course.

We will most likely follow the Edexcel/Pearson specification

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf>