

POLITICS

A LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Politics is very much a 'live' subject. It involves the study of events which have happened and are happening all the time. Consequently, Politics provides an explanation of the world which is unfolding around us and is directly relevant to life today. Through a study of Politics, students will be able to explore how our country and others are governed and gain an understanding of political life. This course will appeal to students who take an interest in and enjoy debating current affairs and politics.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to gain a minimum of grade 6 at GCSE English. To succeed in Politics, the student not only needs to be prepared to use the appropriate texts provided, but must read newspapers regularly and take an interest in current affairs programmes on television and radio. Personal research is vital if the aims of the subject are to be fully achieved. It is helpful if students have some knowledge of British History and good written English is essential.



Progression

The overall course is a perfect basis for progression to the study of Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at Russell Group universities including UCL, Oxford and Cambridge.





MAIN AREAS OF STUDY

This exam is now linear, which means students will gain a grade based on their overall performance at the end of Year 13. Students follow the Edexcel syllabus which is divided into three modules of study. Two modules equal in length are studied in Year 12 and these focus on the structure and workings of the UK political system. Students will have the opportunity to sit the AS at the end of Year 12. It is expected that all students will proceed to take the full A Level in Year 13.

Year 12	Year 13
Content overview Political Participation	Content overview Core Political Ideas
Students will study: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. Introduction to Core Political Ideas , students will study: conservatism, liberalism, socialism.	Students will study: conservatism, liberalism, socialism. Non-core political ideas Students will study: one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism
Governing the UK	Governing the USA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Parliament • Prime Minister and Cabinet • Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Congress • The Presidency • Supreme Court

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is via examinations which are taken June of the first and the second academic year. There is no coursework element to this qualification.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

As Politics is an essay based subject, it combines well with many subjects including English and History. Throughout the course we will be addressing key themes such as economic policies of the main parties; as a result, Politics goes hand in hand with Economics.

DEPARTMENTAL ENRICHMENT AND STUDENT SUPPORT

Revision sessions are held every holiday session which are extremely well attended and students are encouraged to sign up in advance for the unit that they feel that they need the most help with. Alongside this, we are part of the sixth form study support rota and have a weekly study support session.

Teaching and learning materials are available on Google drive.

We also run trips to a variety of politically relevant venues and events including political theatre and the Houses of Parliament.

Routes for Success - Humanities

The Routes to Success Programme is designed for ALL students in Year 12 at St Angela's Ursuline 6th Form. The HUMANITIES programme aims to offer students opportunities to work with both industry and universities, opportunities will include links with; The Houses of Parliament, Black Lawyers

Directory, Debate Mate, Trowers and Hamlin, St Mary's and Leicester University. Summer school opportunities will include links with; UCL History, SOAS and London Met.

Please note- All Year 12 students will select one main 'Route for Success' from these in order to experience a specialist enrichment and learning support programme. It will, of course, be possible to select a subject/subjects from another route on your timetable. We base our Routes to Success Programme on the university curriculum structure and university links are not exclusive to one route, so can be accessed by all students.

