

A Level Politics

Why study Politics?

We are living in a world that is rapidly and constantly changing. Politics and the role of Government underpins much of this change, from the implementation of new laws, giving or limiting rights and freedoms, to the complete upheaval of entire political systems. By exploring the fundamental structure of our own government and the government of America as well as discovering the ideologies that form the foundation of political theory, we can understand the complex nature and impact of these changes in to the 21st century.

What is the course structure?

AQA syllabus.

Part 1

The Government of the UK

Students will develop an understanding of the workings of British politics, ranging from the role of the Government, how parliament operates and the various aspects of creating laws and policies and their implementation. Students will address some of the most important controversies surrounding politics in the UK such as whether Lords should be elected, how much power the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish parliaments should have and just how effective the opposition can be when they are in crisis.

The Politics of the UK

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- Visits: political institutions such as Westminster and beyond; interaction with political figures, both locally and nationally, Higher Education institutions.
- Research: independent and collaborative; further developing your skills in effective research.
- Preparing articles and notes for others: responsibility given to you to create resources to be used by others on particular topics; ownership given to you to design the resources and establish learning relationships with your class mates.
- Engaging with the media e.g. newspapers, blogs, news apps: Use the media to find a political story that captures your interest or imagination; explore the different opinions and motivations of others; download media apps to get the latest information. Keeping up to date with the world of Politics is vital and an incredibly important part of being a Politics student.
- Pre-reading: Knowledge and understanding before the lesson has even begun.
- Participating in social media discussions e.g. Twitter: create open forums to discuss and debate; follow key political figures; analyse how social media impacts political issues.

How can I prepare for the course?

Worth noting - The exam boards write exam papers in May, which means your exam for June 2021 will be prepared in the May of 2020. Keep up to date with what is happening at the moment e.g. the coronavirus pandemic, the US Primary debates, Brexit, as these events/changes can form part of the focus of the papers.

There are many ways that students can prepare for the course that are interesting and accessible.

These might include:

- Read newspapers – both tabloid and broadsheet. Keep clippings and articles as well as recording the name of the source, the date written/ published and the author.
- Watch the news – BBC, Sky News, FOX, Al Jazeera, CNN. Download news apps to phones or tablets/ iPads.
- Read the selected articles provided by the department prior to the course starting. Keep organised notes and be prepared to discuss key aspects of the reading.
- Follow a particular political story – note down different views or points of progression as the story unfolds.
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