



Government and Politics

Overview of the course

Government and Politics explores the system of government in the UK and USA, along with the nature of politics in both countries.

In this course students will learn about the forces influencing politics, as well as the mechanisms of government such as the role of MPs and the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

You will consider your own political views, as well as showing understanding of a range of different political viewpoints.

Theoretical foundations will also be explored, to understand the forces behind our political and governmental systems, as well as those in the USA.

All exams involved extended writing, mostly essays.



Paper 2:

UK Government

The Constitution
Parliament
The Prime Minister and the Executive
Relations between the branches
Political theory:
Nationalism

33% final grade
2-hour exam

One 30-mark source-based essay
One 30-mark analytical essay
One 24-mark theoretical essay

Course Details and Assessment

Paper 1:

UK Politics

Democracy and participation
Political parties
Electoral Systems
Voting behaviour and the media
Political theories:
Conservatism
Liberalism
Socialism

33% final grade
2-hour exam

One 30-mark source-based essay
One 30-mark analytical essay
One 24-mark theoretical essay

Paper 3:

Comparative Politics -Government and politics of the USA

The US Constitution and Federalism
US Congress
US Presidency
US Supreme Court and US Civil Rights
US democracy and participation
Comparative theories:
Rational, cultural, structural

33% final grade
2-hour exam

Two 12-mark extended response questions
Two 30 mark-essays

Background Requirements

5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above. You will need a GCSE grade 5 or above in History or English.

Some basic background knowledge of UK Politics.

Students should be well motivated and have a genuine interest in the subject.

Skills Gained

Key skills are very much an integral part of the Government & Politics A level course.

They include communications skills, teamwork, self - management, powers of analysis, literacy, problem posing and solving, and computer literacy.

Future Career Prospects

An A Level in Government and Politics provides an excellent background for careers in law, journalism, and a range of management and business areas. Example degree courses, which generally require or accept politics A Level include: Politics, Economics, Journalism, Law, International Relations, History, Sociology, plus others.

A-Level Government & Politics can also lead to a variety of career options, including Civil Servant, Political Analyst, or working in national or local Government. The transferable skills gained from this course will also be particularly useful in a vast number of employment positions.

For More Information

Students interested in following the A level Government and Politics course, should contact the Head of Department or course teachers.

Head of Faculty

Mr D Parkin BA (Hons) P.G.C.E

Subject Staff:

Mr D Parkin BA (Hons) P.G.C.E.

Miss L Ashton BA (Hons) P.G.C.E

Syllabus

A Level – 9PLO

Exam Board

Pearson Edexcel

Website

Further details of this course can be found on the exam boards' website.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com>