

## 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.

### 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 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



#### 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

Miss H Creevy BA (Hons) P.G.C.E.

### Subject Staff:

Miss C McCafferty BA (Hons) P.G.C.E

Miss A Markwell

### 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>