



# A Level Politics

**Key contacts:** Mr D Hayward (Head of Department)

**Exam Board:** AQA.

## Overview of the course:

A Level Politics promises to be current, relevant and controversial. A Level Politics is an engaging and interesting qualification that will captivate your imagination and open doors to university. The course covers news and current affairs in the UK and US and develops your research skills, written communication and it will also encourage you to debate. The course will foster your curiosity as you interpret a range of political information and it will teach you to critically analyse and evaluate political ideologies. Our teachers are committed and fascinated by current and historical political affairs.

## What will you study?

### Unit 1: Government and Politics of the UK.

2 hour written exam.

This unit teaches you the foundations of British Politics and takes you on a journey to recent constitutional changes. You will have the opportunity to debate the extent of rights in the UK and focus on two recent legislative changes such as the Freedom of Information Act and the Human Rights Act. You will focus on the significance of the Houses of Commons and Lords and the extent of Parliament's influence on government decisions. This unit offers an in-depth insight into the British Political system and focuses on the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Judiciary and Devolution.

### Unit 2: The Government and Politics of the USA, and Comparative Politics.

2 hour written exam. This unit provides students with the opportunity to study the nature and sources of the British Constitution and the structure and role of Parliament. Students will also gain knowledge about the Constitutional framework of the US government. This includes a study of the legislative branch of government and the executive branch of government.

### Unit 3: Political Ideas.

2 hour written exam. This unit focuses on studying ideologies at the core of politics. You will debate the nature of Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism. You will also study in depth one of the following; feminism, nationalism, multiculturalism, ecologism or anarchism.

## Assessment:

The AQA A Level Politics course is made up of three components;

Government and Politics of the UK:

- 77 Marks
- 2 hour written exam
- 33/3% of A Level

The Government and Politics of the USA:

- 77 Marks
- 2 hour written exam
- 33/3% of A Level

Political Ideas:

- 77 Marks
- 2 hour written exam
- 33/3% of A Level

## Possible career path?

A Level politics will open doors in a variety of professions. Politics students are very successful Public Affairs Consultants, Social Researchers, Policy Analysts, Public Relations Officers, Marketing Executives and Journalists.

A Level Politics students benefit from an enriched curriculum in a well-resourced department. A Level Politics is poised to be a popular subject and combines well with A Level History, English and Languages. It also complements A Level Maths and the Sciences.

Politics is a fascinating A Level that will teach you the skills necessary to develop as an independent and critical thinker. You will enjoy digesting current affairs and constructing arguments that are relevant and offer clarity and coherence about controversial political issues.

## Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including Mathematics, **and** Grade 6 in English