

## **Government and Politics AS and A level (Syllabus: Edexcel)**

Entrance Requirements: GCSE Grade B or above in History or English Literature (if not studied History at GCSE)

Politics involves the study of what's going on in Britain today. The course focuses on the events which happen during the two years you are on the full course, as well as looking at the major issues of the past twenty years. In all units the emphasis is on what is happening now. You must be interested in keeping up to date with latest news from Westminster and watching TV current affairs programmes.

In lessons you will get the opportunity to discuss the issues and express your point of view. Unit 1 and 2 are examined in two separate 1 hour and 20 minute exams and Unit 3 and 4 are examined in two separate 1 hour and 30 minute exams. Each unit represents 25% of the overall A Level. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

AS Level (Unit 1: People and Politics & Unit 2: Governing the UK)

Units 1 and 2 deal with how the UK is governed and how Britain is changing today. You will look at such questions as:

- The power of the Prime Minister – are they becoming more powerful? How has coalition government affected that power?
- The role of Parliament. Is it democratic and does it still matter?
- Should we abolish the House of Lords and the Monarchy?
- How do pressure groups such as Greenpeace operate?
- What are the differences between the main political parties?
- How does our electoral system work? Does it need changing?
- What is e-Democracy and how does it affect politics in the UK?

A2 Level (Unit 3: Introducing Political Ideologies & Unit 4: Other Ideological Traditions)

Units 3 and 4 look at how political ideologies have been formed and influence the modern world. You will look at such questions as:

- Is Feminism still relevant in modern society?
- Is Multiculturalism a melting pot of ideas and traditions? Or merely a failed experiment?
- How can Nationalism appeal to both Left Wing and Right Wing doctrines?
- Is Ecologism the most relevant ideology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- Is Communism still relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- Is Anarchism a realistic, achievable aim in a modern western society?

Many of the students who study Politics A level, even if it starts as their fourth choice, end up following Politics and related courses at university. Politics is a well respected academic A level and is useful back up for anyone applying to university to study an arts or humanities subject. In recent years students have gone to university to read subjects such as Law and Politics.

Lead member of staff:

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