

POLITICS

Course Length:	Studied over two years
Examination Board:	AQA
Course Leader:	Mr P Wyke (wyke@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Why study Politics? In the current climate of massive political change in Britain, the US, and our world as whole, there is no better time to be studying Politics.

Will the combination of Brexit and COVID-19 change the political landscape in the UK forever? How will a Conservative (naturally Libertarian) government move the UK out of the crisis? Will Keir Starmer abandon Corbynism and take the Labour Party in a new direction? Will Donald Trump win a second term? Will Donald Trump change the political balance in the Supreme Court for a generation? These are some of the many questions that studying Politics will allow you to wrestle with and try to answer!

Where can Politics take me? It's ideal if you're considering studying politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

Course Content

The topics studied are:

Paper 1 - The Government and Politics of the UK

In this section of the course, students will study the Government and Politics of the UK. Students will develop knowledge of the government of the UK, focusing on the British constitution, the UK Parliament, the Prime Minister and cabinet, the judiciary and devolution. Students will also develop knowledge of UK politics, covering democracy and participation, elections and referendums, political parties, pressure groups and the European Union.

Paper 2 - The Government and Politics of the USA

In this section of the course, students will study the Government and Politics of the USA. Students will develop knowledge of the constitutional framework of US Government, the legislative branch of government: Congress, the Executive Branch of Government: President, and the Judicial Branch of Government. Students will also look at the electoral process and direct democracy, political parties, and pressure groups. Key to this section will be pupil's ability to make links between similarities and differences between UK and US politics.

Paper 3 – Political Ideas

In this section of the course, students will study the main three ideologies that are present in our society: liberalism, socialism, conservatism, and the fourth ideology of multiculturalism. They will make links between the ideologies and issues that have been studied in Paper 1 and 2. They will examine the arguments and theories of the influential figures within the ideologies.

Assessment

Paper	Title	Assessment	A Level
1	Government and Politics of the UK	Written exam: 2 hours	33%
2	The Government and Politics of the USA	Written exam: 2 hours	33%
3	Political ideas	Written exam: 2 hours	33%