

# Politics

## A Level



### Overview

Do you enjoy a stimulating and dynamic subject which investigates topical issues and controversies that affect our everyday lives? Politics helps us understand how the British political system works, where power lies and how our system compares with others. Students will develop a range of analytical, investigative and critical skills to use in whatever career path they choose. To do well in Politics students will need to keep up-to-date with current affairs.

### What goes well with this course?

Politics combines well with the majority of

subjects, particularly:

- English
- Economics
- History
- Philosophy

### Progression

Politics students are well respected for their versatility and their analytical and evaluative skills, which are essential in many professions. Possible careers include the Civil Service, Teaching, Marketing and Advertising



## Course Content

The course is divided into three papers:

- UK Politics and Core Political Ideas
- UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas
- Comparative Politics (USA)

## Educational Experiences

### Course Specific Trips, Visits & Experiences

Politics students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of course related experiences. In the last couple of years, these have included:

- A visit to Parliament where students took part in a question and answer style debate about the UK's membership of the EU
- A tour of the Houses of Parliament and a question and answer session with Reigate's MP, Crispin Blunt
- A 'Question Time' debate involving all the major candidates for the Reigate Constituency and a mock election
- A visit to the Reigate & Banstead Council Chambers for an interactive elections activity

## Assessment

This course is 100% examination based. Students will sit three external examinations at the end of the second year.

The exam board for this A Level is Pearson Edexcel.

## Entry Requirements

All students need to have at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above (and a satisfactory school reference) in order to be accepted on an A Level/BTEC Level 3 Programme.

In addition, students should meet the following minimum GCSE requirements:

- Grade 5 in English Language

No previous experience of Politics is required, however, an interest in current affairs and a desire to explore new ideas is essential. Students need to be willing to work hard and be able to plan their own learning.

Most students begin studying Politics having never studied the subject before: this is not a disadvantage. However, a willingness to find out about contemporary politics is essential. Students should genuinely enjoy the following:

- Reading and keeping up-to-date with Politics
- Developing and analysing different points-of-view in writing
- Group discussions

This course will help students to develop a range of analytical, investigative and creative skills which they will be able to use in whatever career path they choose.