

Subject: Politics

Level: A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel



Course Outline

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups
- develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements
- develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

The knowledge, skills and understanding

The specification for this qualification is delivered across three components;

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Component 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

Component 3: Comparative Politics: Government and Politics of the USA

Students must comprehend and interpret political information in relation to areas of UK politics and core political ideas.

- Students must fully understand, and critically analyse and evaluate areas of UK politics and core political ideas.
- Students must identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between content studied, providing a basis for comparing the UK with the USA and appreciating the UK's position in global politics.

• Students must construct and communicate arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence, and draw reasoned conclusions about UK politics and core political ideas.

• Students must develop knowledge and understanding of key political concepts.

• Students must use appropriate vocabulary.

How is the qualification assessed?

The course requires students to sit three external examinations, one for each component. All three examinations are 2 hours long and are worth 84 marks.

Exam questions are all long answer worth 24 and 30 marks.

Who would be a successful student of politics?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have a keen interest in government and politics;
- enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences;
- are interested in developing an understanding of politics of the UK and the comparisons to the USA
- want to follow a course that is active and enjoyable;
- want to move on to a career with management potential or a higher education course.

Career Opportunities

You will find this course particularly useful if you wish to progress onto an apprenticeship or degree in one of the following areas:

- Courses that relate directly to government and politics
- Law
- Economics
- Philosophy
- Finance
- Business