

Government & Politics

The aim of the Government and Politics course is to explore the political concepts central to an understanding of the modern world. Politics is essentially the study of power - who gets what, where and when. The course will develop an in-depth knowledge of the UK political system and the sources of power within it. Specifically, you will assess the ability of citizens to exercise power and influence over the decision making process through elections, pressure groups and political parties. You will also assess the effectiveness of democratic institutions within the UK and thus the need for and desirability of change. You will also study a number of key political ideologies such as Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism. Students will also examine the US political system in order to undertake a comparative analysis with the UK.

Politics is a dynamic and contemporary subject and you will be given the opportunity to investigate and debate current political issues and events. It is a subject of debate and disagreement; and of rival viewpoints and competing opinions. You are not taught what to think but how to think. Studying politics will nurture a capacity for critical thinking and also develop a number of key skills such as analysis and evaluation, research and information gathering and the ability to construct reasoned and coherent arguments.

ASSESSMENT and CONTENT

Component 1: UK Politics - 2 hour examination

Component 2: UK Government - 2 hour examination

Component 3: Comparative Politics - 2 hour examination

The course requirements...

Grade B/6 or higher in GCSE English. Citizenship and History GCSE are advantageous, but not essential.