

A LEVEL POLITICS **(Edexcel specification)**

Is Liz Truss a strong Prime Minister? Will she fix the cost of living crisis? Was Boris right to resign after Partygate? What challenges face President Biden? How should climate change be addressed by our government? Should Scotland become independent? Will Keir Starmer ever be Prime Minister? Are Extinction Rebellion a force for good? Are you a Socialist or Conservative? Should guns be banned in the USA?

A Level Politics will enable you to answer these questions and understand how the UK and US Governments work as they make day-to-day decisions about the running of each country. The course will draw on up-to-the-minute modern politics and will challenge you to critically reflect on current political issues. You do not need to have any prior knowledge of politics to study this course but you should have an interest in political matters and current affairs and should be prepared for independent study and to read around the issues. You should also enjoy a good debate!

Year 1 – UK Government and Politics & Political Ideas

Core Content: Government and Politics of the UK

Topics covered: The British Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister, Judiciary, Democracy and Participation, Elections, Referendums, Political Parties, Pressure Groups, the European Union.

Questions we consider will include:

Why don't more people vote? What affects the way we vote? Should we have proportional representation? Why do people protest? Is Prime Minister's Question Time representative of what goes on at Parliament? Who protects our Human Rights? What do feminists believe?

Year 2 – Politics of the UK, USA and Political Ideas

Core Content: Government & Politics of the UK; Government & Politics of the USA; Political ideas

You'll be studying elections, political parties, voting behaviour and American pressure groups like the National Rifle Association. We will also compare the UK and USA systems of government and how democracy works in both countries. It includes topics on the Constitution, Presidency, Congress – including the Senate and House of Representatives - and the Supreme Court. Students will also study four key ideologies: socialism, liberalism, conservatism and feminism.

Assessment will be through 3 examinations, one paper on UK Politics & Core Political Ideas; one on UK Government & Non-Core Political Ideas; and Comparative Politics - USA. Each paper is 2 hours.

Questions we consider will include:

Should abortion be legal across America? Why did Donald Trump win in 2016? Should he have been jailed? Should people have the "right to bear arms" and keep guns? Should the death penalty be abolished? Who controls the FBI? What impact did 9/11 have on the US Government? Why is Congress "gridlocked"?

There will also be opportunities to enjoy visits from guest speakers and attend trips to Parliament and the Supreme Court in London, and to Washington DC, USA, to further enhance students' understanding of key political issues and trends.

A Level Politics is obviously relevant to careers in politics, but also relates to other professions such as law, business, the civil service, education, media and journalism.

*GCSE requirements:- English Language – grade 4; in total, at least grade 5 in **two** literate subjects*