

# Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

*We intend to continue to follow the Edexcel specification for Politics. This will be new for 2017 but at present is still awaiting accreditation from Ofqual. This information is based on the draft Edexcel A Level Politics qualification and therefore is subject to change.*

Politics is not a History course. Politics is a contemporary studies course where you will critically examine the evolving political environment in the UK and around the world. There will be three externally examined papers for A Level Politics and no coursework

Qualification	Component	Content
A Level	1. UK Politics	<b>Political Participation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Democracy and participation</li><li>• Political parties</li><li>• Electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.</li></ul> <b>Core Political Ideas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservatism</li><li>• Liberalism</li><li>• Socialism.</li></ul>
	2. UK Government	<b>UK Government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Constitution</li><li>• Parliament</li><li>• The Prime Minister and executive</li><li>• Relationships between the branches of government</li></ul> <b>Political Ideas</b> <p>One idea from the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anarchism</li><li>• Ecologism</li><li>• Feminism</li><li>• Multiculturalism</li><li>• Nationalism</li></ul>

	<b>3.Comparative Politics</b>	<b>The USA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The US Constitution and federalism</li> <li>• Congress</li> <li>• The presidency</li> <li>• The Supreme Court</li> <li>• Democracy and participation</li> <li>• Civil rights.</li> </ul>
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### Frequently asked questions

#### **What skills do I need to do well?**

Politics is likely to suit students who have an interest in the world around them — ones who want to know more about the society they live in, how it works and how it could work. As you will need to have strong literacy skills a B in any other subject where there are “essay type” questions such as English, or another Humanities subject is a requirement.

- You will need to have an enthusiasm for keeping up to date with political developments by watching the news and reading newspapers.
- Enjoy debate, discussion and argument — be comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple ‘rights’ or ‘wrongs’. Group discussion will be an element of the course so a willingness to discuss your opinions and defend your judgments is a necessity.
- Think for yourself, develop your views and be questioning of the views of others.

#### **What benefits will studying Politics bring in the future?**

- This course sits well alongside a variety of subject combinations, but Politics particularly complements subjects such as History, Economics, Geography and Law.
- Studying Politics will allow you to develop a range of transferable skills to enable you to respond to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.
- Politics is recognised as an academic subject. It is respected by universities and employers alike. Students of politics have become MP’s, leaders of political parties, members of think tanks and government policy units, civil servants, lawyers and even Prime Ministers.

***Jane Brown, Head of Politics***