

# Citizenship Studies

## Method of Assessment

100% exam. There are two exams of 1 hour 45 mins each. Both exams are taken in Year 11.

## Course Content

Citizenship studies investigates how the citizen is enabled by society to play a full and active part and how citizens are empowered to effect change within society. Citizenship understanding develops through the knowledge of how a society operates and functions and its underlying values.

### Paper 1

- **Active citizenship** – Students will consider how citizens can make their voice heard and make a difference in society. As part of this, they will have the opportunity to work as part of a group or as an individual in conducting an investigation of a Citizenship issue. They will then raise awareness of their issue in a number of ways before evaluating the effectiveness of their action.
- **Politics and participation** - In this theme students will look at the nature of political power in the UK and the core concepts relating to democracy and government. This includes the role of political parties, the election system, how other countries govern themselves and how the citizen can bring about political change.

### Paper 2

- **Life in Modern Britain** - Students will look at the make-up, values and dynamics of contemporary UK society. They will consider what it means to be British, how our identities are formed and how we have multiple identities. Students will also look at the role and responsibilities of the traditional media, the impact of new media formats and the UK's role in international issues.
- **Rights and Responsibilities** - Students will look at the nature of laws and the principles upon which laws are based, how the citizen engages with legal processes, how the justice system operates in the UK, how laws have developed over time and how society deals with criminality. Students will consider also how rights are protected, the nature of universal human rights and how the UK participates in international treaties and agreements.

## Success Criteria

GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable young people to become thoughtful, active citizens. Students gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society. They will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.

## Leading to:

- Students of this subject can pursue all manner of careers including those related to Law, the police, local government, armed forces, journalism and social work.
- The development of transferable skills such as explanation, independent thought, decision-making and evaluation provide an excellent foundation for further study. GCSE Citizenship studies also lays an excellent foundation for those hoping to study Politics at A level.