

Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Edexcel Government and Politics consists of 2 core modules at AS and 2 further modules at A2, which allow for more specialisation. Assessment is through examination, which consists of a range of assessment methods including short answer questions, stimulus responses, extended writing and essay writing. There is no coursework.

Politics is not a History course. Politics is a contemporary studies course where you will critically examine how the current political system is constructed and examine how effectively you think it works.

Qualification	Unit	Unit Content
AS	Unit 1: People and Politics	Key channels of communication between the government and the people will be examined and an evaluation of the existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy will be critically assessed. Content: Democracy and participation, Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Voting Systems
AS	Unit 2: Governing the UK	An introduction to the major government processes and the role and effectiveness of the key institutions will be assessed. Content: Parliament, Cabinet, Judiciary, Role of the Prime Minister
A2	Unit 3: Key themes in Politics The Representative Process in the USA	This topic looks at the representative processes of the US political system and considers their adequacy in terms of popular participation and full democracy. Content: Elections and Voting, Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Racial and Ethnic Politics
A2	Unit 4: Extended themes in Politics Governing the USA	This topic examines the institutional framework of US government and considers the interrelationships between its legislative, executive and judicial processes and the health of US federalism. Content: The Constitution, Congress, The Presidency, The Supreme Court

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.

- 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 Sociology.
- 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