

Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

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 equally weighted papers for A Level Politics and no coursework.

Qualification	Component	Content
A Level	1. UK Politics	Political Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democracy and participation• Political parties• Electoral systems• voting behaviour and the media Core Political Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservatism• Liberalism• Socialism
	2. UK Government	UK Government <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Constitution• Parliament• The Prime Minister and executive• Relationships between the branches of government Political Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feminism
	3. Comparative Politics	The USA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The US Constitution and federalism• Congress• The presidency• The Supreme Court• Democracy and participation• Civil rights

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 6 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 contrasting news outlets online and in print.
- 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, Sociology, Economics, 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 MPs, leaders of political parties, members of think tanks, CEOs of top companies, civil servants, lawyers and even Prime Ministers!

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