



Government & Politics

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: 7152

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/government-and-politics/as-and-a-level/politics-7152>

Why should I study Government & Politics?

You are likely to benefit from this course at A Level if you:

- Are already interested in current affairs and politics
- Realise that you don't know much about politics or the organisation of government, but think it is important to find out more
- Like studying a subject which is relevant and affects people's everyday lives
- Like to be actively involved, in terms of discussion, research and visits
- Would like to do something different and keep your options open for the future.

What will I learn about?

The first unit provides an introduction to and an understanding of the concepts which guide our political system and the structure of government. For example, we begin by looking at the British constitution and its origins, and also at the nature of democracy in the UK. The second unit allows a study of the US style of government and a comparison to the UK, for example how the roles of the Prime Minister and President differ. The final unit allows students to explore some of the key ideologies which underpin our political system, such as conservatism, liberalism, socialism and, as our optional ideology, feminism.

A Level

Examined Units **Unit 1:** Government and Politics of the UK

Unit 2: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics

Unit 3: Political Ideas

There are three examinations, all taken in the summer term. Each paper carries a third of the marks and contains a mixture of short answer questions, source material and a choice of two essay titles.

How will I be taught?

Government and Politics is a subject which draws a great deal upon the developments of the present and recent past and is being constantly updated. We make good use of a variety of textbooks but also rely on the use of TV, Internet, radio and the press.

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The course is designed to encourage you to analyse and criticise and we therefore promote active discussion to develop an understanding of what has been read, seen and heard. Likewise, you will have opportunities for individual research of various kinds and will be able to present work in a variety of ways, e.g. talks and wall presentations, not just essays! Class atmosphere is friendly and informal.

It is also important to keep up with current affairs through newspaper, television, radio and internet. Politics students recently visited the Houses of Parliament and we attend the local 'Democracy Forum' each year, where girls have a chance to quiz a panel of MPs. As a department, we are committed to offering a continuing programme of involvement and stimulation within the confines of the school's visits policy.

Application beyond school:

- As the basis for degree study: either a pure Politics course, or as part of International Relations, American Studies, Public Policy or similar courses. Politics is also commonly offered in conjunction with other subjects e.g. Law, PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics), Sociology, Business/Management, History, and Economics, to name but a few!
- Even without further study, the course will enable you to take a lasting interest in political issues and play your part as an effective citizen at election time!

Assessment Format:

Level	Component	Requirements	Duration	Marks
A Level	Paper 1 Government and Politics of the UK	Contains a mixture of short answer questions, source material and a choice of two essay titles.	2 hours Year 13	77 33.3% of A Level
A Level	Paper 2 Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics	Contains a mixture of short answer questions, source material and a choice of two essay titles.	2 hours Year 13	77 33.3% of A Level
A Level	Paper 3 Political Ideas	Contains a mixture of short answer questions, source material and a question on our optional ideology, feminism.	2 hours Year 13	77 33.3% of A Level

Are there any special requirements?

There is no requirement for previous related study and you **do not** have to be a History student, though the two subjects do go well together! You should have good written skills, a general interest in current affairs and an ability to think critically. A grade 9, 8 or 7 in English or History is required.

Love of Learning, pride in diversity, excellence for all