

Politics

Pathway 2

Course description:

As a politics student you will engage with key political ideas that have shaped our modern thinking, explore different modern political systems and gain a greater understanding of the political world around you. The course centres on the study of the political systems of Britain and the United States of America. This is based on the draft specification as outlined by AQA and is subject to change.

Qualifications required:

- In line with the entry requirements for a Pathway 2 subject.
- Grade 5 and 6 in a Humanities subject and English Language. This combination of grades can be either way round.

Aims of the A Level course:

- Develop an understanding of the political systems in the UK and USA
- Develop an understanding of key political concepts that have shaped modern thinking

Future prospects:

- You can progress to study politics or international relations at university. Politics A Level students would be well suited to work in any role that requires good analytical or communication skills. Politics students can go on to work in many fields for example, politics, the media or academia.

Subject Teachers:

Miss Bishop (Head of Politics) and Mr Shetcliffe

Features of the course:

- Government and Politics of the UK
- Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics
- Political Ideas (conservatism, liberalism, socialism)
- Feminism

Politics

Units

The Government of the UK

Students will study:

- The nature and sources of the British Constitution
- The structure and role of parliament
- The Prime Minister and the Cabinet
- The judiciary
- Devolution
- Democracy and participation
- Elections and referendums
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- The European Union

Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics

- The constitutional framework of the US government
- The legislative branches of government: congress, president and judiciary
- The electoral process and direct democracy
- The electoral process and direct democracy
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- Civil rights
- Comparative politics – structural, rational and cultural comparisons between the US and UK

Political Ideas

Pupils will study three key core ideologies:

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism

As part of this topic, pupils will learn about the key principles of these ideas, debates, issues and thinkers within them.

Pupils will also do a depth study on a fourth political topic. The one we will be focusing on is feminism.

Pupils will be learning about the core ideas and principles of feminism, feminist views on human nature, the state, society and the economy. They will explore liberal feminism, radical feminism and socialist feminism.

As part of this topic pupils will learn about the following key thinkers:

- Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Simone de Beauvoir
- Kate Millett
- Shelia Rowbotham
- bell hooks

Methods of Assessment:

A2 Exams, all 2 hour exams worth 33.3% of the overall A Level

Paper 1 – Government and politics in the UK

- A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions

Paper 2 – Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

- A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions

Paper 3 – Political Ideas

- A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions