

Politics

Examination Board – Edexcel

Politics is a study in how power is used and, more specifically, how we are governed. Students often develop a curiosity for the subject while studying History; the clashes of capitalism and communism, democracy and dictatorship lead to questions about how people around the world are governed and the ideas that underlie Politics.

Students will spend a good portion of lessons debating the issues of the day and applying them to the structures and processes they have studied. They will learn to develop considered judgements about what they see on the TV and in the papers, as well as how to structure their thoughts argumentatively and persuasively.

Future Careers

Politics is a degree course in its own right, but also features in joint-honours courses, such as History & Politics, Politics and International Relations or Philosophy, Politics, & Economics (PPE). Students can go on to a wide variety of careers (they needn't become MPs!), using their skills in Law, Business, Journalism or the Civil Service.

Edexcel A Level Content

Component 1: UK Politics

This component focuses on democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. In short, how democratic is our system? Does

our 'First past the Post' voting system waste votes and rig things in favour of the major parties? What is their role in the modern system? What influences people vote as they do, and just how influential is the media in this, and the broader political process, does 'The Sun' newspaper (Or Mark Zuckerberg) have the power to swing votes?

This module also includes a study on core political ideologies: Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism. We will explore the history of, and key thinkers behind, these ideologies and how they have shaped Politics.

Component 2: UK Government

Here we will focus on the constitution, parliament, Prime Ministers & the executive, and the relationships between the branches of government. Government is about how the system works and where power lies. The concept of sovereignty is key as we question how much power any one branch of government has. Can the Prime Minister rule in the manner of an elected dictator if they have a sufficient majority? How effective or the Commons and Lords in holding them to account? How are laws passed, and can the judiciary act in defence of the constitution?

This module also includes a study on Feminism as a political ideology. We will look at its history and development in various waves to consider its views on sex and gender, patriarchy, equality and

intersectionality. Key thinkers on liberal, radical, socialist and post-modern feminism will feature.

Component 3: Global Politics

Global Politics includes studies on the state and globalisation, global governance (political, economic, human rights and environmental), power and recent shifts in it, regionalism and the EU. It is a very current module as it questions whether institutions like can the UN

work for peace, climate solutions and freedom in the face of global anarchy? How has globalisation challenged the nation state, and has it led to conflict? Can liberal economics spread rule of law, democracy and co-operation?

Entry Requirements:

An IGCSE in History with grades 7-9 would help in terms of skills, but is by no means a necessity.