

## **Politics** **(Exam Board: AQA)**

**For teaching from September 2017 onwards and A level examination 2019 onwards.  
An AS qualification is also available.**

Full details of the assessment and syllabus content:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/politics/specifications/AQA-7152-SP-2017.PDF>

### **What do I need?**

- **Grade 4 or above in English Language**
- An interest in current events
- No prior politics knowledge/qualification needed to start the course

### **Politics – A Student Guide**

This course is particularly suitable for students who want to study Economics, History, Sociology and English. It may also appeal to students who wish to study Government and Politics, History or Law at a higher level.

### **What type of student enjoys this course?**

A-level Politics is a good choice for students considering a career in many professions, or those who simply want to understand how the UK's government works. Politics goes well with Economics, History, Sociology and English. Politics does not just appeal to Social Science students, however: increasingly Science, Maths, Art and Drama students have enrolled to study Politics, giving them a broader perspective on the world. However, Politics is a valuable qualification for all students. Young people moving into professional roles need a sound understanding of how our society operates and how they can be empowered within it.

Politics provides you with the chance to study a new subject at Advanced Level. It is a fast moving subject, where history in the making is studied on a day to day basis. Students monitor political events on a daily basis and use them to explore and understand political language, concepts and systems.

## **Assessments**

### **Paper 1**

**What's assessed - Government and politics of the UK**

**How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 77 marks
- 33⅓ % of A-level

Questions A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

## **Paper 2**

**What's assessed - The Government and politics of the USA and Comparative Politics**

**How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 77 marks
- 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  % of A-level

Questions A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

## **Paper 3**

**What's assessed - Political ideas**

**How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 77 marks
- 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  % of A-level Questions A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

## **Subject Core Content**

### **Paper I Government and politics of the UK**

- The nature and sources of the British Constitution
- The structure and role of Parliament
- The Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The Judiciary
- The politics of the UK
- Elections and referendums
- Political parties
- The European Union

### **Paper 2 The Government and politics of the USA and Comparative politics**

#### **Government and politics of the USA**

- The constitutional framework of US government
- The legislative branch of government
- The executive branch of government
- The judicial branch of government
- The electoral process and direct democracy
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- Civil rights

#### **Comparative politics of the UK and USA**

Students will study the following three theoretical approaches to the study of comparative politics:

- structural • rational • cultural
- constitutional arrangements
- their nature (codified/uncodified)
- similarities and differences between the devolution model in the UK and the federal model in the USA
- the legislatures
- the executives
- judiciaries
- electoral and party systems
- pressure groups
- protection of civil rights

### **Paper 3 Political ideas**

Students will study four ideologies.

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism

Feminism (to be confirmed)

- Nationalism (to be confirmed)

### **Government and Politics at Notre Dame – A Student Perspective**

#### **(Applying for English and Philosophy at Durham)**

It provides a greater understanding of current affairs, allowing for greater debate, engagement and reflection; a compelling reason to keep up to date with the news. Teaches good writing skills- how to construct a solid essay to a question - introduction, argument and conclusion - and the logical steps in between. *Possibly the subject that is most involved with daily life*; easy for the lines to blur between lessons and reality. Gives students a good grounding in the political history of the UK and the forces that have shaped contemporary politics. This provides the right information for a justified assessment of divisive figures like Thatcher who are championed and disparaged in almost equal measure. *Good mix of ideology, economics and history.*

#### **(Applying for a Games Design course at Sheffield Hallam)**

Very good subject, helps to give you a much bigger understanding on what is going on in government and in the news. Will clearly help with later life when it comes to actually participating in politics through election, by helping you to understand issues and making sure you make to right choices. *Also helps overwhelmingly in History if you do that as a subject because both subjects help for better understanding of the other, and adds a level of complexity to both subjects by showing the Politics involved in History and the History within Politics.*

#### **(Applying for Law at Nottingham)**

The investigation of contemporary issues and current affairs, as well as a look into significant historical movements and issues provides the subject with a broad spectrum of interesting content. Learning in particular about the political foundations of the United Kingdom is fascinating and especially useful in other subjects such as History; *many subjects complement the study of Politics very well.*

#### **(Applying for Geography at Liverpool)**

*Politics has shaped my understanding and appreciation of the world and will help me in my chosen career.* I am hoping to look for a job dealing with environmental sustainability and progressive development of communities. Politics provides a social perspective to local and global issues and ensures an awareness of where power lies in our system.

#### **(Applying for Journalism at Newcastle or Birmingham)**

Studying *Politics has really complemented my interest in studying English Literature and History at University next year; it is very relevant to the two subjects*, they're all interlinked, it has also developed my analysis skill which is essential in English and History.

**(Applying for Biology or Zoology)**

Government and Politics has developed my knowledge and understanding for modern history and has shown me the importance of awareness in current affairs. Politics has enabled me to be aware of the ethical and political issues sciences can bring.

**(Applying for Law at Exeter University)**

Politics was something I thought I would never have an interest in as I always viewed it as dull and aggressive. Studying Politics at A-level changed this for me. You don't need to be Einstein to study it. I now realise that politics is there for anyone who wants to engage in the subject, it's not reserved for just men or the upper and middle classes. I have also been told that it will provide me with a good start to studying Constitutional law in my degree. *So I think you should give it a chance, it might surprise you when you actually enjoy the subject.*

**Applying for BSc Economics at Durham University. Aspiring economist and banker.**

Having moved from A-level Physics early in Y12, I had high hopes of an interesting, relevant and respected subject in the form of Politics - and it has not disappointed. In my first year, I learnt about the sources of our unwritten constitution as well as elections and voting behaviour. Now going into my second year, I am learning about political ideologies and the US government - possibly the most exciting modules in all of my A-levels. Politics has taught me about the mechanisms of UK and US government, elections and political ideologies. *It has helped me form my own political stance which is important when debating current events. If you are looking for an interesting, relevant and respected subject, then it is the A-level for you!*