

POLITICS



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This evening we  
are going to  
tell you about:

- Course structure
- Assessment
- Extra resources
- Potential degree and apprenticeship routes from this A-Level
- Subjects that work well with this subject
- Potential career opportunities



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# Why should you study politics?

## What questions do we seek to answer?

**2024 – USA presidential election**  
**2025 – UK general election**

**This means you'd be studying the subject at a crucial time in political history!**

**As of September 2023, there have been over 500 mass shootings in the USA. Despite this, changing gun laws is incredibly difficult, even when President Biden pushes for it – why?**

In 2016, Hillary Clinton gained 2.9 million more votes than Donald Trump, yet Trump won the election and became the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the USA. How?

What was Partygate and why was it so controversial?



What's the deal with Brexit?



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# Why should you study politics? What questions do we seek to answer?

**Don't be put off by the appearance of the subject as complicated  
– politics is for everyone and it's applicable to your entire life**

**Politics is the first step into understanding the world and knowing the history of institutions that govern us. By knowing this, we can know how to change the system**



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# What our students say:

“I really like politics because I feel like I am able to voice my opinion on lots of different issues and feel very supported to do this, even if other people disagree”

“It’s clear that Miss really loves teaching politics and this has helped me to find my own passion for the subject”

I chose politics as it was a subject that would help me for a Uni course prospect, while I have changed that course, politics remains one of my favourite subjects. It is engaging, entertaining and has helped me with being able to back my arguments in a political and humanitarian conversation.

“Politics helps me to better understand the world around me and I can now discuss this with other people with much more confidence”

“I’d always wanted to study Politics so jumped at the chance to do so at A-level. Politics has quickly become my favourite subject. Every lesson is engaging and challenging and I always leave having learnt something new”

I chose politics as a 4<sup>th</sup> subject, because I thought it sounded fun, but it’s become my favourite subject because it is so interesting seeing how you can change the world.



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# Course Structure

Year One	Year Two
UK Politics	Political Ideas – Nationalism
UK Government	US politics and systems
Political ideas – liberalism, socialism, conservatism	Comparative politics

Edexcel Pearson –  
9PLO

Examined at the end  
of the two years



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# What are politics lessons like?

- **Debates**
- **Multimedia forms**
- **Group Discussions**
- **Exam question activities**
- **Research tasks and projects**
- **Analysis of speeches, current events and political articles**



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# How will a 100 minute lesson be used ?

- More opportunities to practice political skills such as debating and oracy
- More opportunities to consider politics on a global and philosophical scale by discussing case studies beyond those prescribed by the exam board
- Wider opportunities to discuss topical issues as they arise
- More opportunities to practice exam skills
- More feedback and advice on progress



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# Assessment

## External

- Paper 1: UK politics and core political ideas
- Paper 2: UK government and nationalism
- Paper 3: Comparative politics US and UK

All 2 hours

Focus on extended writing questions



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# Extra Resources

## UK politics

- BBC: Inside the Lords
- BBC World Series
- BBC1: PMQ
- BBC 2: Daily Politics Show, Sunday Politics, Newsnight
- BBC Parliament
- [www.yougov.co.uk](http://www.yougov.co.uk) (for up to the minute polls and data)
- <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/>
- <https://www.psa.ac.uk/insight-plus>
- Podcast: The Rest is Politics, Politics Weekly UK

## US politics: Film and TV

- The West Wing (for a general understanding of US Politics)
- Knock down the house (Congress)
- All the President's Men (about the Watergate scandal)
- The Candidate (Congressional Elections)
- The Contender (elections)
- Frost/Nixon (Presidency)
- Freedom on my Mind (Civil rights)
- Inside Obama's Whitehouse
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/>
- <https://www.usa.gov/about-the-us>
- Podcast: Politics Weekly America



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# Potential degree and apprenticeship routes

## Degree Routes

BA or BSc

- Politics
- International relations
- Political Science
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

## Apprenticeships

- Parliamentary academy scheme
- House of Commons apprenticeship
- House of Lords apprenticeship
- Civil Service apprenticeship
- Apprenticeships with some MPs



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# Complimentary subjects

- English
- History
- Law
- Economics
- Media
- Film
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Geography
- MFL
- Business Studies
- Maths



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# Career opportunities

- Local or national government
- Charity sector
- Journalism
- Civil Service
- Academia
- Legal sector
- Business sector
- Education
- Economist



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