

A LEVEL

Exam board AQA

POLITICS

SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General entry requirement for advanced level applies to this subject. You do not need to have studied history to GCSE.

COURSE CONTENT

You must be prepared to read, research and debate. An awareness of current political issues in the UK and the world via internet, television, newspapers and radio is essential.

Unit 1: government & politics of the United Kingdom

- Why is political apathy a major issue?
- Is the British voting system fair?
- What factors influence our voting behaviour?
- Are pressure groups more important than political parties?
- Does Britain need a written constitution?
- Has Britain become “an elected dictatorship?”
- Does power lie at Westminster, the EU or local level?

Unit 2: government & politics of the USA

- What are the main characteristics of presidential and congressional elections?
- What are the differing ideologies, values, policies and traditions of the main political parties - Democrats and Republicans?
- What is the significance of the nature and changes of the US Constitution?
- To what extent does the President exert dominance within the US government?
- What are the key similarities and differences between the democracies of the UK and USA?

Unit 3: political ideas & ideology

Four political ideologies are studied: conservatism, liberalism, socialism and nationalism involving key thinkers, views on human nature and core principles.

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

Three written examinations at the end of Year 13, each lasting two hours. All papers are worth 33.3% of the final marks. The examinations will consist of structured stimulus / data response questions.

SKILLS, LINKS AND PROGRESSION

This politics course links well with history, English, geography, business, French, German and religious studies. One of the purposes of the course is to BROADEN your experience, and so it would also be appropriate to be taken in conjunction with science subjects.

Choosing politics at this stage need have few specific career implications. However, its analytical skills, including presenting ideas cogently, are crucial to most areas of work including journalism, law and the humanities. The ability to make a reasoned choice when voting in politics or becoming involved in single issue politics improves an individual's understanding of how, and where, decisions affecting our lives are reached.

CONTACT

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