

Politics

What is Politics? Politics is the study of political institutions, ideas and concepts which determine how we live.



What will I learn?

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas 2 hour exam 33.3%

Democracy and participation: features/advantages and disadvantages of current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy; pressure groups.

Political parties: functions and features of political parties; funding.

Electoral systems: advantages and disadvantages of different electoral systems; referendums and how they are used.

Voting behaviour and the media: case studies of three key general elections.

Core Political Ideas: Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism. For each ideology you will study core principles, key thinkers and tensions.

Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas 2 hr exam 33.3%

The constitution: the nature and source of the UK constitution,

Parliament: the role, structure and powers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords; the ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive.

Prime Minister and the Executive: the structure role and powers of the Executive.

Relations between branches: the Supreme Court and its interactions with, and influence over, the legislative and policy-making processes.

Non-core Political Ideas: Nationalism. You will study core principles, key thinkers and tensions.

Paper 3: Global Politics 2 hour exam 33.3%

The state and globalisation: the process of globalisation and its impact on the state system.

Global governance – political and economic: origins, role, significance and strengths and weaknesses of the United Nations, NATO, IMF, WB; WTO, G7/8 and G20.

Global governance – human rights and environmental: Origins and development of international law and institutions, including the ICJ, ICC, special UN tribunals and European Court of Human Rights.

Power and developments: different types of power, including hard power and soft power; the implications of unipolarity, bipolarity and multipolarity.

Assessment in Politics

Politics A level assesses the skills of:

A01, Knowledge: demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.

A02, Analysis: analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.

A03, Judgement: evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.

Exam questions are principally 24 mark or 30 mark essay questions. In Paper 3, there are two short answer questions as well as the essay questions.

Entry Requirements

Good **English skills**— 6 in English language GCSE. The ability to write essays well, in a clearly structured and coherent way. The ability to comprehend complex text and ideas,

You need to have an interest in current affairs,

You need resilience and perseverance.

You need to be a hard worker.

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel

Link to course specification [here](#).

Link to example exam papers [here](#).

Complementary Subjects

- History—essay skills and 20th century Britain
- Geography—'People Geography', studying development and superpowers.
- Economics—supply and demand, balance of payments, interest rates.
- Philosophy—links with political ideas.

Enrichment in Politics

Politics has a key presence in the Marylebone School Community holding a variety of talks and events throughout the year. In the past this has included mock general elections, visits and talks from Members of Parliament, workshops run by the Civil Service. Other enrichment opportunities available include:

- Opportunity to write for the weekly student newspaper NewsTues.
- Politics Society - fortnightly talks and discussions on current affairs affecting the UK and the Global World
- Year 12 Parliament trip to consolidate and enrich their understanding of the roles and functions of Parliament.

Here's what our students think!

Politics is by far my most interesting subject. The fact that the course covers a wide range of political theories and contexts allows me to fully interrogate the systems that govern our country and the world. I come across Politics in all my subjects, and daily life. Best choice I made.

Politics allowed me to establish my views and opinions. I particularly enjoyed engaging in passionate debate. Debates about contemporary issues allowed me to hear different viewpoints and perspectives, and improve my debating skills.

Careers in Politics

- Civil Service
- Journalism
- Law
- Education
- Policy officer
- Public relations officer or account manager
- Social researcher
- Charity officer
- Diplomatic service officer
- Member of Parliament

Introduction to Politics

Reading:

- Wright (2003) British Politics: A Very Short Introduction
- Heffernan et al (2018) Developments in British Politics

Keep up to date with the developments in Politics:

- News websites: BBC News Politics, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, Huffpost UK, Politics.co.uk.
- Magazines: The Spectator, The New Statesman.
- Podcasts: Talking Politics, Guardian Politics Weekly, FT Politics Podcast, BBC Week in Westminster, BBC Political

Politics is an extremely interesting subject, particularly now, with being one of the hottest topics of 2020. There is no better time to delve deeper into the world of politics.

