

Government & Politics

AS/A Level

Edexcel

Structure & Specification

Year 1- AS GCE (8GP01)

Year 2- A2 GCE (9GP01)

Syllabus details -

Edexcel syllabus.

What does the course include?

Year One- AS

Unit 1 (6GP01) *People and Politics*: In this unit you will be exploring political participation and democracy, elections, the role of political parties and pressure groups.

Unit 2 (6GP02) *Governing the UK*: In this unit you will learn about the UK constitution, the role and significance of Parliament, the power of the executive and the judiciary.

Year Two- A2

Unit 3 (6GP03 Route C) *Representative Processes in the USA*: We will look at how Americans vote for their president and for other politicians. We will also examine how political parties and pressure groups operate. This module covers issues of race and ethnicity in the US.

Unit 4 (6GP04C) *Governing the USA*: Is the US president accountable to the people? This module aims to explore this issue, as well as focus on the institutions that are vital in our understanding of US politics. The Supreme Court, Congress and the federal bureaucracy will all be covered.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at grades A-C, including a very good grade in English Language.

How will I learn?

The course is shared between two teachers. Class work will involve analysis and evaluation of the political systems and concepts being studied. We will use whole class discussions as a way of exploring the topics, as well as student presentations and small group work. You will be given regular written homework, and you will be expected to read widely around the topics studied in class during your own independent study.

How will my work be assessed?

AS: Units 1 and 2 are all assessed by examination.

A2: Units 3 and 4 will be assessed by examinations.

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

In order to do well in Government and Politics you need to have a genuine interest in political and current affairs. You must be reading a quality newspaper every week. You will gain more from the lessons and learn more effectively if you participate fully in lessons and share your ideas with others. You must be able to show a real commitment to this subject and be prepared to put time and effort into written work.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

Politics is ideal for careers in law and in journalism. Universities also view the subject favourably, especially for students applying for degrees in the social sciences.