

# A-LEVEL POLITICS

## WHY STUDY POLITICS AT A-LEVEL?

Should the voting age be lowered to 16? Is the Prime Minister too powerful or too weak? Has politics in the UK and USA become too polarised? What has been the effect of Brexit? Why is turnout at elections declining? Politics is at the heart of everything we do, it is inspiring, exciting and relevant. You will learn to identify political arguments, weigh evidence against opinion and appreciate why politics matters.

## TOPICS STUDIED

In the first year of this Edexcel course, you will study how democracy works in the UK. Answering big questions such as: Is it really democratic to have a government which won less than 50% of the votes? How could democracy work better – should the voting age be lowered? What do the different political parties stand for? How does government work? How well are your rights protected? In the second year, you will complete a comparative unit between the UK and the American political system – what is the constitution? Why is it impossible to ban ownership of guns? How is the President elected? Why did Donald Trump refuse to accept the election result?

- [A-level Politics - Specification \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com/uk/education/higher/subjects/politics/a-level-politics-specification)

## ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

There are three exams, each is two hours long and they are equally weighted. The questions will require students to write essays, some of which draw upon source materials.

### MODULE 1

#### UK Politics

- Democracy and participation
- Core political ideas of conservatism
- Liberalism
- Socialism

### MODULE 2

#### UK Government

- Relationships between the three branches of government
- Non-core political ideas of anarchism
- Feminism
- Multiculturalism

### MODULE 3

#### Comparative Politics

- the US constitution and federalism
- The three branches of the US government
- Democracy
- Participation

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## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE English (Language/Literature)

Grade 6 in GCSE History (where studied)

## CAREER PATHWAY

Politics can be studied at university in its own right. It is also a useful stepping stone to subjects like International Relations, History, Sociology, Philosophy or Law.

Students who want to go into business, public service, journalism, the media and the law would also benefit from this course.

## IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Politics is one of the only subjects which can legitimately call watching the news purposeful homework. We expect you to take an interest in current affairs and develop your understanding by participating in debates that challenge your assumptions so that you can formulate well thought through arguments.

Studying A-level politics complements other subjects at A-Level particularly History and Sociology.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Mrs C. Hunter - Assistant Headteacher for Teaching & Learning  
[chunter@lighthall.co.uk](mailto:chunter@lighthall.co.uk)

### READING LIST

- Pearson Edexcel A Level Politics 2nd edition: UK Government and Politics, Political Ideas and US Government and Politics
- Politics - A survivors' guide – Rafael Behr
- The establishment – Owen Jones

### POLITICS

Politics is always evolving and we expect students to keep up to date with websites like:

- BBC news
  - Politico
  - Real clear politics
  - The rest is politics podcast
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