

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

TOPIC 1

UK Politics

This involves developing your understanding of democracy and participation, core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

TOPIC 2

UK Government

In this module you will discuss the relationships between the three branches of government, non-core political ideas and anarchism, feminism and multiculturalism.

TOPIC 3

Comparative Politics

In this module you will develop your understanding of the US constitution and federalism, the three branches of the US government, democracy and participation.

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.

ASSESSMENT 1

UK Politics

- 2 hours
- 84 marks
- 33% of overall grade

ASSESSMENT 2

UK Government

- 2 hours
- 84 marks
- 33% of overall grade

ASSESSMENT 3

Comparative Politics

- 2 hours
- 84 marks
- 33% of overall grade

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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 compliments 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

Please see the exam specification for more details: [A-level Politics - Specification \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com/UKHigherEducation/catalogue/politics-a-level-specification).

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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