

Government and Politics



Our students say...

“Government and Politics is my favourite subject because it’s so current and relevant to what is happening in our society. I enjoy debating issues and learning about how the government may deal with some of these issues.”

Year 13 student

Entry Requirements

B English/C in Maths and any humanities qualification would be an advantage.

Method of assessment

- AS Level: 100% Examination (50% A-Level)
- A2 Level: 100% Examination (50% A-Level)

Course Content — AS Level Course Content — A2 Level

Unit 1: People, Participation and Politics

Explore how people's different patterns of participation can be explained in a democracy. The importance of voting behaviour, the influence of electoral systems, political parties and pressure groups and how they can shape people's political ideas.

Unit 2: Governing Modern Britain

Focus on the process of governing the UK, with power dispersed from local to European levels. The extent to which Britain's unique constitution regulates the process of government and maintains the balance between individual rights and the power of the state. Explore the role of Westminster in providing a democratic element in government.

Key Skills

- comprehend, synthesise and interpret political information in a variety of forms, for example, written, oral, visual and numerical sources;
- analyse and evaluate: political institutions, processes and behaviour; political arguments and explanations; the relationship between institutions, processes, behaviour and values, ideologies, concepts;
- identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of the political systems studies;
- select and organise relevant material to construct arguments and explanations leading to reasoned conclusions;
- communicate arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence, using vocabulary appropriate to the study of Government and Politics.

Unit 3b: Ideologies

Analyse how political ideologies have evolved recognising the core beliefs and values associated with the four 'isms' which are to be covered: -

- Liberalism
- Socialism
- Conservatism
- Fascism

Unit 4b: Ideologies in Action

Focus on the way in which certain beliefs and values affect human behaviour, government policies and programmes in four broad areas: -

- Ethnicity and gender
- The environment
- Education
- The economy