



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

The Politics Department teaches the Edexcel examining board syllabus in Government and Politics. The first year gives a good grounding in the fundamentals of British Politics with core political ideas. The course consists of three modules. Unit 1 is a study of Democracy and Participation; Political Parties and Elections. Unit 2 includes a study of the UK Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister, Cabinet and more political ideas such as: anarchism, socialism, conservatism and liberalism.

Unit 3 students study the USA political system. This unit consists of: the Constitution and Federalism, Congress, Presidency, Supreme Court, democracy and participation, civil rights.

WHAT SKILLS ARE YOU GOING TO ACQUIRE?

- Develop critical thinking skills and the ability to interpret, evaluate and comment
- Develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political system of the United Kingdom, and how these may differ from those of other political systems
- Acquire knowledge and informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the individual Develop an interest in and engagement with contemporary politics

TRIPS:

- House of Commons
- Supreme Court
- Numerous visits and outside lectures in LSE and King's College
- Numerous visits to politicians (MPs and Peers)

EXPECTATIONS

Expectations are high. Each student is expected to meet or exceed her/his own individual grade potential. This is indicated from data based on GCSE grades and an aptitude test conducted around September. This is called the ALIS grade.

No prior knowledge of politics is expected. That said, a genuine interest in the conduct and outcome of elections and the nature of the political process in Britain is vital. A willingness to read a quality newspaper each day, subscribe to a periodical, like the Economist and watch the news daily are essential practices for success in Politics A Level.

Full attendance at lessons, punctuality and the ability to meet deadlines are required qualities. In lessons the willingness to enter into a discussion and share your own knowledge and opinions is expected.