



Politics policy

Last updated by subject leader

September 2021

**Last reviewed by Principal and
Headteacher**

September 2021

Next review due

September 2022

Overview of the subject

- This Advanced Level course is taught daily.
- Both teachers of the subject have expert knowledge of the subject and receive regular up to date professional development.
- Qualifications offered in the subject: AS/A Level (Edexcel)
- AS/A Politics is complemented by suitably-sequenced schemes of work and a learning journey.

Intent

Politics is relevant to our sixth-form students in a variety of ways. First and foremost the subject offers an opportunity for students to learn about the origins and development of democracy and representation. They are taught to understand the ways in which people can contribute to and participate in politics to become active citizens.

Students develop knowledge and understanding of the role of elections, political parties, parliament, the prime minister and judiciary in the UK and, through global politics, realist and liberal views of the world. They develop an understanding of the way citizens can influence decision making and the role that institutions play in society. They learn the limitations of democracy and how and why they should work to improve the existing system.

The A Level curriculum guides students through an understanding of the workings of the UK political system alongside an understanding of representation through elections and pressure groups. Students then move onto the study of global politics. They also explore the role of political ideologies: conservatism, liberalism, socialism and feminism and analyse how these have influenced our political system and their own thinking.

Implementation

Students develop skills of research and debate and learn to critically evaluate arguments. They learn to express their arguments and evidence fluently in their essay writing. During lessons they develop their skills of public speaking and active listening. Work is marked regularly to provide students with constructive feedback to help them develop effective examination techniques.

Politics requires high levels of comprehension and an ability to write effectively to meet the demands of assessment tasks to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of key aspects of the course. It is also challenging as it requires developed skills in analysis and evaluation to meet the highest levels in source based and essay questions. Students produce regular essays and work with their teachers to establish good practice pieces. Key concepts are embedded in long term memory through concrete examples, elaboration, and dual coding. Elaboration involves asking “how”

and “why” questions about a specific topic, and then trying to find the answers to those questions. The act of trying to describe and explain how and why things work helps students understand and learn. Students can also explain how the topics relate to their own lives or take two topics and explain how they are similar and how they are different. Dual Coding combines verbal words with pictures. When these are combined it is easier to understand the information being presented.

Assessments are used to check students’ understanding of the material and how their writing skills are developing. Assessments establish the level of the students, provide feedback about how to improve their learning, and understand what successful work looks like for each task being completed. Summative assessments such as exams are also used formatively to help students improve.

Impact

Students achieving an A Level in Politics are more socially aware students. Students engage confidently and knowledgeably with political debate and current affairs and become politically aware citizens.

A-level Politics provides an excellent background for careers in law, journalism, teaching, and a range of management and business areas. Politics helps students develop their understanding of structures of authority and power, how political systems differ, and enables them to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics and government. They also develop a range of transferrable analytical, debating and communication skills - all of which are valuable in a wide range of careers.

Lessons contribute to delivering the curriculum intent. The aim is to develop politically aware students, equipped to engage with and understand politics in the UK and around the globe. This supports the teaching of skills such as debate, source analysis, extended writing, critical thinking and reading.

Students’ work is consistently of high quality with examination results consistently above the national average.

Cultural capital

The politics curriculum has been designed to contribute to students’ cultural capital. As examples, the course covers employer rights and responsibilities, recognising bias, propaganda and the manipulation of ideas. Through the political ideas section, issues regarding extremism and radicalisation are also covered.

Politics offers students the opportunity to hear a range of speakers talk on a wide range of subjects, and to discuss current events with them. It is also a platform for pupils to talk and chair discussions on current affairs.

The course exploits our proximity to London, with field trips to historic sites such as the Houses of Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Royal Courts of Justice, and the Central Criminal Court.