

Overview

A Politics A Level is a great way to immerse yourself in the current affairs of the UK and US political systems. You would be starting your A level study on the cusp of the results in the US Presidential election. The UK may have had its own general election, but the date of this is less certain. Why? The answer lies in the differences in the US and UK political systems. Examine the two systems: through their voting and party systems, their constitutional frameworks, the roles of their legislatures and their heads of government. All of this is underpinned by the political ideas of key thinkers from different ideologies. We try to do this through questioning, listening to podcasts, debates, news and, of course, essays.

Awarding Organisation:
Edexcel

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 4+ in English

More information:
Ms A Duncan/
Mrs S Chamberlain

Curriculum and assessment

Topics include:

- Assessing whether referendums offer value for the UK
- Assessing the role and influence of pressure groups, lobbyists and think tanks
- Assessing whether we need a more codified and entrenched constitution.
- Assessing whether we need to reform the House of Lords.
- Examining the ideas of liberal, conservative and socialist political thinkers and how they have affected our systems.
- Assessing the role of the US judiciary in creating quasi-legal decisions.
- Assessing whether the US electoral system is fit for purpose.
- Assessing the American Presidents powers in a system of 'checks and balances'
- Final assessment is through 3 examination papers which are all 2 hours long covering UK Government and Politics, Political Ideologies and US Government and Politics.

Skills that will be developed

- Critical analysis and evaluation are key to the subject. This is encouraged through developing sufficient knowledge and understanding of core concepts, through questioning, class presentation and debate. If this sounds scary, don't worry – this is a two year course that develops your thinking skills.

Post 18 opportunities

Students go on to study at Russell Group universities in a full range of subjects: from continuing with Politics to broader subjects such as Law, International Relations, PPE, Journalism or Philosophy or connected subjects such as Geography, History, Psychology, Sociology, English . . . the combinations are extensive.

Other A Level students continue to business apprenticeships or work in the Police Force. Politics can only open doors, rather than close them.

Expenses

Students will need to purchase their own textbooks. There are additional revision booklets available, should students wish to purchase them and there is an educational visit to London to go to the Houses of Parliament, the UK Supreme Court and No. 10 Downing Street.