

Previous Students Comments

A level Politics is a valid and useful qualification for the following careers:

Teaching
Police
Nursing
Business
Civil Service
Local Government
Town Planning
Administration
Personnel

Rapid changes in domestic, regional and global politics may have a significant impact on your daily life. By the time you leave College, you will be entitled to vote and may well have done so. You may be living with the help of a student loan. You are already affected by laws passed by the Westminster Parliament and increasingly by the European Parliament. How well you understand the political system will determine your effectiveness as a citizen.

Student Comments

“A very lively and stimulating subject with plenty of scope for argument and debate”.

“Excellent in every area. Fantastically well organised teaching”.

“Top subject and a subject worth doing”.



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Government and Politics

AS Level and A Level
Information

The Course

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced Level (A2) Government and Politics (Edexcel)

AS and A2 = A level

You may use the AS qualification in one of two ways:

- as a final qualification enabling you to broaden your studies.
- as the first half of an Advanced qualification.

Subject Content

AS

Unit 1: People, Politics & Participation.

Participation and Democracy.
Electoral Systems.
Party policies and ideas.
Pressure Groups.

Unit 2: Governing Modern Britain.

The British Constitution.
Parliament.
PM and the Cabinet.
Judges and Civil Liberties.

A2

Unit 3: Key Themes in Political Analysis: Political Ideologies

Unit 4: Extended themes in Political Analysis. Governing the USA

Assessment

Modular structure AS award comprises of 2 compulsory elements - 1 written paper (1 hr 20mins) for each unit (units 1 & 2)

Structured questions, stimulus based question and an extended question.

A2 - short answer questions and essay questions. (units 3 & 4) .

1 written paper - 1hr 30mins for each unit.

The key differences between AS and A2 are:

AS

- No previous knowledge assumed
- Topics at an introductory level
- Knowledge and understanding of the broad features of the British system of government and politics

A2

- Knowledge of AS content
- More complex concepts and study in greater depth
- Essay questions and more extended responses
- Greater emphasis on analysis and evaluation extending your knowledge beyond the boundaries of the UK political system

Course Requirements (AS)

- A good spread of GCSEs including a competent pass in English.
- A high level of commitment.
- An enquiring mind in relation to political issues and questions.

For example:

- To what extent is the UK a democracy ?
- Why did Labour win a general election in 2005 with just 36%of the vote?
- Has Cameron rebranded conservatism ?
- No previous knowledge of Politics is required.

Higher Education and Related Careers

Apart from straight Politics degrees there are now numerous combined / modular degrees that will allow you to continue your political studies along with other subjects.

Examples:

Politics and History
Politics and Sociology
Politics and Philosophy
Politics and German
Politics and Social Policy
Politics and Law
Politics and Economics