

Government and Politics

GCSE to A-Level

Transition work

2024/5



What does the course aim to do?

It aims to provide you with a balanced education in politics by understanding what politics is, an understanding of the context of the United Kingdom and how similar/different the UK's political system is to systems worldwide.

The skills you will develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of basic political ideas, concept, structures and processes.
- The ability to interpret and analyse political information in various forms from various sources and to apply a range of political ideas and concepts/theories.
- The ability to evaluate arguments, theories, values and ideologies to explain political behaviour and suggest solutions to controversial issues.
- The skills to organise and present an argument with relevance, clarity and coherence.

Course outline:

Year 12

Component 1 – UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Topic list

- Participation & Voting Behaviour
- Electoral Systems
- Political Parties
- Pressure Groups & Protest Movements

Component 2 – UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

UK Government

- The Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Executive
- Relationships between branches

Non - Core Political Ideas

A choice of:

- Anarchism
- Ecologism
- Feminism
- Multiculturalism
- Nationalism

Year 13

A choice of either: US Politics

- The US Constitution and Federalism
- US Congress
- US Presidency
- US Supreme Court and US Civil Rights
- US democracy and participation
- Comparative Theories

Or: Global Politics

- The state and globalisation
- Global governance: political and economic
- Global governance: human rights and environmental
- Power and developments
- Regionalism and the EU
- Comparative Theories

How you will be assessed?

Throughout the course there will be knowledge tests on key vocabulary, concepts and case studies that we have explored.

At the end of year 13 you will sit three exams:

1. Government and Politics of the UK (2hr exam)
2. Government and Politics of the USA/Global Politics and comparative politics (2hr 30 exam)
3. Political ideas and ideologies (2hr exam)

How to be successful in this course?

You will need to take an interest in current affairs and political issues.

This will involve:

- Reading a quality newspaper (such as the Times, the Guardian, the Telegraph or the Independent)
- Watching the news or listening to 'Today' on Radio 4
- Discussing and debating political issues with both fellow politics students and others

How will our lessons work?

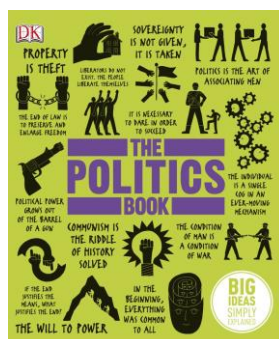
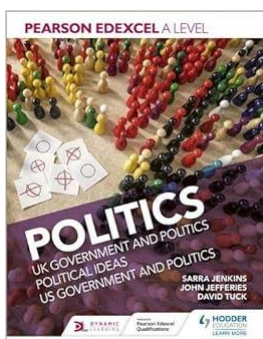
You will be given a variety of tasks including:

- Reading
- Research
- Short answer questions
- Stimulus response questions
- Essays

To ensure quick feedback and a planned workload, it is essential that all work is completed by set deadlines.

How can I prepare?

Over the summer, it would be worth seeing if you can get any second-hand copies of the following:



We also recommend that you follow all of the accounts below on X:
 @Britainelects (for news and updates on all things electoral in the UK)
 @BBCQuestionTime (the UK's most-watched political talk-show: BBC Question Time)
 @SimplePolitics (also on Instagram)

And a range of political journalists like Julia Hartley-Brewer, Owen Jones, etc...

It would also be worth listening to some political podcasts. We will often use some of these in lesson, for homework and pre-learning for lessons:

- Election Cast
- The Rest is Politics

Induction tasks:

1. Glossary

Instructions: Using the internet (e.g. Wikipedia, YouTube, Houses of Parliament website, etc) research and understand what the following key-terms mean and write a short definition for each *in your own words*.

Terms	Explanation
Authority	
Legitimacy	
Government	
Civil Society	
Prime Minister	
Cabinet	
House of Commons	
House of Lords	
Westminster Model	
Direct Democracy	
Representative Democracy	
Parliamentary Sovereignty	
Referendum	
Devolution	
Liberalism	
Conservatism	
Socialism	
Nationalism	



2. Democracy

Instructions: Read pages 6-7 (<https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.pdf>) then answer the questions below.

a) What would the UK be like if we didn't live in a democracy?

b) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the UK system of democracy?

Strengths	Weaknesses

c) What other options are there to the British system of democracy and where are they in place right now?

d) What are the 5 things that liberal democracies depend on? Which do you think is the most important?



3. British Politics

Instruction: Go to the links below for the UK's three major parties:

1. Conservative Party - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crgglmwwlggo>
2. Labour Party - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cyxx1lq50nlo>
3. Liberal Democrat Party - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqeevzldj0jo>

These links summarise their key manifesto policies in the 2024 general election. I would like you to choose a few policies for each party and explain below why you support or do not support that policy.

You must choose at least 1 policy from each manifesto to discuss your agreement or opposition to.

Party: _____

Manifesto Policy:

Agree/Disagree and why:

Party: _____

Manifesto Policy:

Agree/Disagree and why:

Party: _____

Manifesto Policy:

Agree/Disagree and why:



5. Current affairs diary

In addition to these research tasks, you must also start your current affairs diary in the summer holidays. You will continue to keep this diary through your time studying politics.

How to keep a current affairs diary:

1. Each week you should aim to listen to, watch or read what is going on in the country and make a list of one news story. You can do this whilst you are getting ready in the morning; whilst travelling into school; by looking at internet news sites/spending some time each day in the school library or at home looking at a newspaper.
2. You must include a brief outline as to what has happened.
3. From September, at the end of each week, one student will be selected to pick one story from the news and write a short post about it on Teams for your class:
 - a) An objective explanation of the issue.
 - b) Opinions of it from different viewpoints.
 - c) Your opinion – including where applicable alternative solutions to the problem or the issue at hand.

You have been provided with a table (over the next few pages) to record your diary. It is important that this is kept up-to-date and brought with you to lessons.

It will be collected in at random to check that you are completing this.

Week Beginning 24 th June	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 1 st July	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 8 th July	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 15 th July	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 22 nd July	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 29 th July	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 5 th August	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 12 th August	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 19 th August	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 26 th August	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 2 nd September	News Story Summary

Week Beginning 9 th September	News Story Summary