

# A Level Politics

**Examination board & syllabus:** Edexcel 9PLO

**Minimum Entry Requirements:** GCSE History Grade 5/B or English Language and English Literature Grade 5

## **Course Outline:**

The course is split into 3 modules which will be examined at the end of Year 13.

### Paper 1- UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Section A: In this we study participation in politics, the political parties, pressure groups and elections and how we study how the British political system works on a day-to-day basis.

Section B: In this we study the core ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

### Paper 2- UK Government and non-Core Political Ideas.

Section A: In this we study features of the UK Government such as the role and powers of the Prime Minister, the constitution and the relationships between the branches that make up our government.

Section B: We study one non-core political ideology, such as nationalism, feminism or anarchism.

### Paper 3- Comparative Politics

In this we study politics of the USA, including the features of the US Constitution and federalism, congress, the role of the presidency and the Supreme Court.

## **Assessment/Exams:**

Year 13: Three exams with equal weighting, each 2 hours in length, worth 84 marks each.

## **Equipment required / Approx Cost:**

One textbook for each module (from £15 new).

## **Independent Study Tips:**

Read for at least 30 minutes every day for each module on issues studied in class to develop a deeper understanding of each module. Interest in British and US politics and current affairs is essential in developing understanding. Complete a weekly journal reviewing relevant political events.

## **Higher Education Progression:**

A Level Politics is useful for Politics degrees and is highly regarded by top universities. It combines well with History, English, Economics, Business Studies, Languages and Psychology at A Level and suits similar courses at university degree level. Additionally, it should be noted that both Oxford and Cambridge Universities offer Politics-related courses (PPE and HSPS respectively).

## **Career Opportunities:**

This A Level is seen as a useful qualification in most, if not all professions – especially law, media, banking, journalism, public relations, advertising, public sector administration, teaching and many more.

## **Useful Websites:**

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) (New York Times)