



Bloxham School

Government and Politics

A Level





Why choose this subject?

The main reason for studying the subject at A Level is likely to be a genuine interest in Politics, and with 49-day premierships, landslide electoral victories, leadership elections, the Brexit Bill, 'Presidential' Prime Ministers and the UK Supreme Court all in the headlines over the last four years there has never been a more interesting time to study the subject.

The A Level Politics course is extremely varied, and the course also explores US Politics, allowing students to draw comparisons and contrasts between the two systems. In addition to studying contemporary politics, the course involves the study of the ideologies of Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism and Feminism, allowing students to trace the development of the key political ideas that have driven political thought in the 20th and 21st Centuries.

The nature of the course



- Paper 1 - UK Politics, and Core Political Ideas (Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism).
- Paper 2 - UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas (Feminism).
- Paper 3 - Comparative Politics - the Government of the USA.



Examination structure

- Paper 1. Length of paper - 2 hours.

1 x 30 mark UK source question; 1 x 30 mark UK essay question; 1 x 24 mark ideology question (Liberalism, Conservatism or Socialism).

- Paper 2. Length of paper - 2 hours.

1 x 30 mark UK source question; 1 x 30 mark UK essay question; 1 x 24 mark ideology question (Feminism).

- Paper 3. Length of paper - 2 hours.

2 x 30 mark US essay questions; 2 x 12 mark US and UK comparative questions.

What do we expect from candidates?



It is important that candidates have lively and enquiring minds, an interest in Politics and current affairs, a desire to explore new ideas (which may conflict with their own) and an ability to communicate their ideas effectively. As any textbook immediately becomes out of date as soon as it is published, students must be proactive in keeping on top of the news.

Candidates must also be sensitive to views, backgrounds and opinions of others, as the course covers a range of sensitive, emotive and controversial contemporary topics.

With which subjects can it be combined?



The study of Politics goes well with any combination of subjects; it has clear links with subjects such as History and Economics, whilst demanding skills of self-expression and analysis similar to a subject such as English.

At the same time, adding Government and Politics to a choice of Science or Modern Language subjects adds valuable diversity.

Higher Education and Careers?



Several former A Level Politics students have themselves gone into Politics (either via the Civil Service, or becoming Research Assistants for MPs). However, A Level Politics is highly recognised and valued by both universities and employers.

It demonstrates an ability to analyse, evaluate and communicate effectively, and thus serves as a valuable foundation for careers in law, business or public service amongst others.

Teaching Staff

Mr R. Hudson (Head of Department)

Mr D. Bowden

Miss E.A. Carr

