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# GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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From this course students can expect a widened and deepened understanding of the world around us and the issues beneath many of the most disturbing dilemmas and problems faced today, including terrorism and globalisation. The course specifically looks in depth at both the actual, practical working of the system of government here in Britain, and the main political ideas, ideologies and philosophies that exist in the world today. Candidates are encouraged to engage with contemporary politics and current political debates.

*Examining Board*  
EDEXCEL

*Specification*  
A Level 9PLO

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO THE A LEVEL COURSE**

Please see the Sixth Form Admissions Policy for the entry requirements to this course.

### **Topic 1: UK Government & Politics**

Students gain an understanding of the ideas, structures and behaviour of political parties and pressure groups in the UK, as well as electoral systems, parliamentary elections, voting patterns and party ideology. Students will explore the composition, role and power of the legislative and executive branches of government in the UK as well as the judiciary, constitution, rights of the individual and the European Union.

### **Topic 2: Political ideas**

Students gain an understanding of the core political ideas of socialism, conservatism, liberalism and nationalism by studying the key political thinkers of each ideology and applying their ideas to current political events and institutions.

### **Unit 3: Comparative politics**

Students gain an understanding of the ideas, structure and behaviour of political parties and pressure groups in the US, as well as electoral systems, presidential and congressional elections and voting pattern. Students will also explore the composition, role and power of the legislative and executive branches of the US government as well as the Supreme Court and Constitution. Students then have to compare this to UK Government and Politics to identify similarities and differences.

Throughout the course candidates are expected and encouraged to pay close attention to world political events through the radio, television and other relevant media.

### **STUDENT VIEWPOINT**

Students should enjoy reading and following current affairs in the media. They should also have an interest in engaging in philosophical arguments.

### **COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS**

Government and Politics can be successfully combined with almost all other Arts, Science and Modern Language A Levels. It is particularly valuable for those aiming for History, Geography, Modern Languages, Law, Media and of course Politics degree courses.

### **CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES**

Politics qualifications are regarded as particularly useful in career areas such as: Journalism, Health Authorities, Banking, Retail Management, Marketing, Inland Revenue, Accountancy, Public Relations, Social Work, Advertising Media, Insurance, and Teaching.