



## What is Politics?

Politics affects everything we do in life and the Politics course at A-Level takes a look at what the major functions of government and politics in Britain and beyond. The political aspect covers the major components of the democratic process; parties, pressure groups and elections. The Government aspect focusses specifically on how a country is run and the various bodies that work together to govern a country. This includes a lot of about the various arms of government; executive, legislature and judiciary, and also looks at the constitution. At A2 similar topics are studied but in the context of the USA. There are also opportunities to further explore the theory behind politics including ideologies within other A2 units.



## What will you study?

**Paper 1:** UK Politics and Core Political ideas

**Paper 2:** UK Government and non-core political ideas

**Paper 3:** Comparative Politics: USA

## Assessment

**see table opposite** - The course is assessed through three 2-hour exam papers in Year 13. Each paper is of equal weighting and contains a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions

## Assessment

Overview	Content	Assessment
Component 1 UK Politics	* Political Participation * Core ideas (Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism).	A range of short answer questions.
Component 2 UK Government	* UK Government * Optional ideas (choose one from anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, and nationalism).	A range of short and long answer questions.
Component 3 Comparative Politics	* Either US Government and Politics or * Global Politics.	A range of short and long answer questions.

## Getting ready to start your A Level Politics course

**Task 1:** Find a Political Podcast from: <https://player.fm/podcasts/UK-Politics>. Write a 250 word review of the podcast including whether it was informative, balanced and interesting.

**Task 2:** Use BBC iplayer or Netflix to find a documentary about UK or US politics (eg. On Iplayer: Brexit Storm, Black and British: A Forgotten History; On Netflix: Knock down the House, The Great Hack, Get me Roger Stone). Write a 250 word summary of it to present to the class including your thoughts on the issues discussed.

**Task 3:** Watch the news over the summer holidays. Create a 10 question politics news quiz to test the rest of the class when you come back.

**Task 4:** Investigate the role of an MP.

a.) research your local MP, who is he/she; which party do they represent; which constituency do they represent; what have they recently shown an interest in; research their voting history to see where they stand on key issues.

<https://members.parliament.uk/>

b.) investigate the role of an MP by playing the game in the link:

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/mp-for-a-week/#cta-target>

**EXTENSION TASK** : You may wish to find out more about the course we will be following by buying: [Edexcel GCE Politics AS and A-level Student Book](#)

