

Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

FULSTON MANOR SCHOOL



WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics, doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you." – attributed to Pericles, 5th century BC.

A-level Politics will provide insight into political beliefs central to an understanding of the modern world. Within this course, analytical and evaluative skills will be developed in relation to awe inspiring topics prevalent in this current, fraught political climate. Politics A-level is not required to study the subject at degree level but many Politics students enjoy the subject so much that they continue their studies at undergraduate level or in related subjects such as International Relations. Some Politics students do in fact go on to work in the political sphere, while other popular career options include law and journalism.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

With an incredible series of unexpected and unpredictable events at home and abroad in recent years, the study of Politics has never been more relevant or more fascinating and it's a great subject for those with enquiring minds and a desire to find out just what is going on in the world today and why. Key aims are to:

- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes

- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The Politics A-level is assessed at the end of the course through three exams and their examination structure is given below:

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas: This paper lasts two hours and requires you to answer two 30 mark essay questions on UK Politics topics including Democracy and Participation, Political Parties, Electoral Systems, and Voting Behaviour. You will also answer a 24 mark short essay question on either Liberalism, Conservatism or Socialism.

Paper 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas: This paper lasts two hours and requires you to answer two 30 mark essay questions on UK Government topics including the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister, and Relations between Political Institutions. You will also answer a 24 mark short essay question on Multi-culturalism.

Paper 3: Comparative Politics – Global Politics: This paper lasts two hours and requires you to answer two 30 mark essays and two 12 mark exam questions on sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, and comparative theories.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted on the A Level course a student should have at least 5 GCSEs at grades 9 - 4 (or equivalent). The course does utilise and build on prior learning and geography, history and citizenship knowledge from GCSE level. However, entrants to the course without a GCSE in any of those three courses may be considered if they can show five grade 4 passes at GCSE including English Language at grade 4 or higher.