

POLITICS A LEVEL

Subject Leader: **Mr Wilson**

Syllabus: **AQA**

Course Specification : **7152**

Course Overview

Politics enables students to develop their critical thinking skills and enhance their ability to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics. Students will concentrate on people, politics and participation as well as governing modern Britain. In the second year students will learn about the popular options: US politics and US government and ideologies.

Course Requirements

5 GCSEs grade 9–5 including Maths at grade 5 and English at grade 6 or History at grade 6.

Year 1

Unit 1: Government and Politics of the UK

- The British Constitution
- Parliament
- The Executive
- The Supreme Court
- Devolution
- Democracy and participation
- Elections and voting
- Political parties
- The European Union

Unit 2: Political Ideologies (Part I)

- Liberalism
- Socialism

Year 2

Unit 2: Political Ideologies (Part II)

- Conservatism.
- Anarchism

Unit 3: The Government of the USA and comparative politics

- The Constitution of the USA
- The Legislature: Congress
- The Executive: the Presidency
- The Judiciary: the Supreme Court
- Democracy and participation
- Civil Rights

Assessment

Year 12

The course is linear but there will be a Mock exam in the summer term of Year 12.

Year 13

Each unit is assessed by a written exam of 2 hours – a mixture of medium length ‘explain’ and essay type questions. Each paper is worth 77 marks. Each of the 3 papers is worth one third of the A-level.

Additional Information

It is envisaged that the course would be supported by ongoing liaison with the House of Commons Education Department and the United States Embassy; guided trips to Parliament and regular workshops with guest speakers – members of pressure groups, pollsters and journalists. A working holiday to Washington D.C. would also be a (long term aspirational) element of the Year 13 Syllabus.

