

A LEVEL POLITICS

Course description

Awarding Body: Edexcel



Examinations

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Component 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

Component 3: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Approaches

Non Examined Assessment

N/A

Course content

Studying Government and Politics at Newstead Wood involves gaining a detailed understanding of the institutions and structure of UK politics, a working knowledge and understanding of current affairs, an overview of political theory and a comparative understanding of the politics of the USA.

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. Students will also explore the three traditional political theories of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Component 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

This component introduces students to the set of rules governing politics in the UK and the UK constitution, which is different in nature from most of the rest of the world. It further introduces students to the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of government – legislative, executive, and judiciary. Students will also explore one of five additional political ideologies – at Newstead Wood we study feminism.

Component 3: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Approaches

Students will explore the US Constitution and the arguments surrounding this guiding document of US democracy. In learning about the key institutions of government in the USA and analysing the manner in which they achieve this power and exercise it over their citizens, students will judge ultimately whether 'liberty and justice for all' has been achieved in the USA.

Entry requirements

Grade 7 or above in English AND Grade 7 or above in either History, Geography or RPE

Future opportunities

A Level Politics is highly regarded by universities and employers and is particularly useful for those hoping to study Law, Journalism or the Media. It provides an excellent training in critical thought and the ability to write logically and analytically.

Students in Year 12 are invited to apply to be Academic Prefects whose role is to promote the subject across the school, mentor younger students, run revision sessions for Year 12 and speak to potential students and parents at Open Evening. In recent years the Politics APs have run our mock elections and referendum campaigns and invited a host of different speakers to school to run workshops and debates.

Further information

Results in Politics are consistently high and we are proud that so many students choose Politics, or a related subject, for undergraduate study. 90% of our Politics students achieved grades A*-B at the end of Year 13 in 2019. Past students have gone on to read Politics at Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, Warwick, Bath, Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham.