

Social Science: Government and Politics A Level

Overview of the course

Unit 1: People In Politics - This introduces students to the key channels of communication between the government and the people.

Unit 2: Governing the UK - Students will analyse the major governmental processes / institutions and develop a critical understanding of their roles.

Unit 3: UK Political Issues – Students will look at contemporary UK policies and analyse their effectiveness and how they have changed over time.

Unit 4: Global Political Issues – Students will look at global issues and analyse their effectiveness as well as building on skills of synopticity.

What skills will students develop?

- Critical analysis and evaluation of policies.
- The ability to construct a coherent argument.
- Extended reading skills.
- ICT skills.
- Essay writing skills.
- Development of using key political terminology.
- Building synopticity into an argument.
- Ability to communicate in a concise manner.
- Ability to develop detailed explanation.
- Presentation skills.
- Ability to justify arguments.

Assessment.

Students are assessed every 2-3 weeks. These are shaped to prepare learners for their exams.

Formative – Past paper essays, controlled assessments and presentations.

Summative - All Units are examined. Each year you will take two exams.

SMSC

Students will develop SMSC through looking at the social and moral implications that government policies can have. Spiritual and cultural development is explored through the study of war and conflict and differences between different political systems across the globe.

Literacy

- Emphasis on the use of key terminology.
- Create model answers to essays in class.
- Develop oracy skills through presentations and debates.

Numeracy

- Analysis of trends in law and order, quality of services, the environment and the economy.
- Analysis of opinion polling, exit polls, general election results and referendum results.

ICT

- Students will create presentations and conduct research tasks.
- Participation in online homework via twitter.

Meeting the needs of individual students

- Stretch and challenge activities regularly included in lessons for more able students.
- Use of essay structures, key word banks and visual aids to help learners that need additional assistance.
- Diagnostic feedback on assessed work for individualised targets.

Resources to support learning

- Newspaper/journal articles
- Textbooks
- Regular viewings of 'Question Time' and 'Newsnight' will provide a sound basis for progression at all levels
- <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/gov/Pa>

Extra-curricular activities

- Attending public lectures at London universities
- Visit to Parliament
- Twitter page

Additional support for learning

- Extension classes
- Mentoring sessions
- Essay structures, vocabulary books and peer mentoring.

Independent study & VLE

- Students are expected to complete at least 5 hours independent study each week as part of the course.