

POLITICS

A LEVEL

AQA

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in English Grade 5 in History desirable
Head of Department or Course Contact	Mrs P Gill
Contact E-Mail Address	pgill@stedmunds.org

Brief introduction to subject:

Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps grow your confidence.

It's ideal if you're considering studying politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

Progression to Career/ University Courses:

Politics provides students with the skills required for degree courses, such as Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Law, History and International Relations. It is particularly useful for students who would be interested in entering careers in journalism, law or the civil service. The skills that you develop throughout your study of the subject, such as an interest in current affairs, critical analysis and a knowledge of how political processes work, will be invaluable in a range of career options.

Key Points:

The course consists of 3 units of study over the duration of 2 years. The course is Linear with students completing 3 exams at the end of Year 13 for each respective unit. Each unit exam is equally weighted when final grades are calculated.

Year 12

Unit 1 - Government & Politics in the UK

Year 13

Unit 2 - Government & Politics in the US and comparative politics

Unit 3 Political Ideas

Students will be required to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics. This will ensure that students develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, political institutions and political processes.

The political ideas to be studied have relevance to both of the systems of government and politics. The study of the ideologies will enhance the students' knowledge and understanding of politics, political debate and political issues in both the UK and the USA.

Skills

In all components of this subject students must demonstrate the following skills:

- to comprehend and interpret political information
- to critically analyse and evaluate the areas of politics studied
- to construct arguments and explanations leading to reasoned conclusions
- to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of the areas of politics studied
- to construct and communicate arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence
- to use appropriate political vocabulary
- to make connections between the different areas of politics studied
- to make comparisons across two political systems

Year 12		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Paper 1</u></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Based on Government & Politics in the UK</p> <p>3 hour examination</p> <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' questions and essay style questions</p> <p><u>Maximum Marks available:</u> 98</p> <p><u>Weighting:</u> 100% of the AS Level</p>		
Year 13		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Paper 1</u></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Based on Government & Politics in the UK</p> <p>2 hour examination</p> <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' questions and essay style questions</p> <p><u>Maximum Marks available:</u> 77</p> <p><u>Weighting:</u> 33 1/3% of A Level</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Paper 2</u></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Based on Government & Politics in the US and comparative politics</p> <p>2 hour examination</p> <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' questions and essay style questions</p> <p><u>Maximum Marks available:</u> 77</p> <p><u>Weighting:</u> 33 1/3% of A Level</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Paper 3</u></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Based on political ideas</p> <p>2 hour examination</p> <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' questions and essay style questions</p> <p><u>Maximum Marks available:</u> 77</p> <p><u>Weighting:</u> 33 1/3% of A Level</p>