

Politics A Level (Edexcel)

Programme of Study:

Year 1

Paper 1: UK Politics

- Democracy and participation
- Political parties
- Electoral systems
- Voting behaviour and the media

Paper 2: UK Government

- The constitution
- Parliament
- Prime minister and the executive
- Relationships between branches

Year 2

Paper 1&2: Ideologies

- Feminism
- Conservatism
- Liberalism
- Socialism

Paper 3: Comparative Politics (USA)

- US constitution and Federalism
- Congress
- US Presidency
- The supreme court and civil rights
- Democracy and participation
- Comparative approaches

Assessment

The course is 100% exam divided equally across three papers at the end of year 13. The topics and weightings are below:

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideologies - 2 hours - 84 marks (33.3%)

Paper 2: UK Government and Feminism - 2 hours - 84 marks (33.3%)

Paper 3: Comparative Politics (USA/UK) - 2 hours - 84 marks (33.3%)

Entry Requirements

A grade 6 in either a humanities subject or English Literature.

Recommended Reading and Subject Enrichment

Students should engage with a whole range of interesting books, articles, podcasts and email briefings. Perhaps the best and easiest place to start is to follow @simplepolitics on Instagram or subscribe the Guardian's weekly brexit briefing via email. There has also been lots of references in the news to The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood with both Extinction Rebellion and the Boris Johnson being likened to Atwood's dystopian characters. For the most up to date picture of US politics you are probably best to start with Fire and Fury by Michael Wolf which gives a behind the scenes look at the Trump Administration. There will also be opportunities to visit the Houses of Parliament

Higher Education and Career Pathways

Degrees in Politics, History, Economics and International Relations are supported by this subject. King's College London and The LSE both offer brilliant Political Economy degrees which open doors to top FTSE 100 companies and large NGOs. Similarly, law firms, finance companies and multinational organisations value Politics qualifications in their recruits. As do more traditional routes such as the civil service, government think tanks, charities and working for Political parties.

Complimentary Subjects

Business, Economics, Sociology, English Literature and History.