



A Level Politics – Lower Sixth

Our ambition is to help our students make sense of the world around them, we will challenge them to be curious, ask questions and ensure that they acquire the skills required to navigate the vast amount of information available in our modern society. Our curriculum is highly relevant, contemporary and perfectly blended with the international ethos of the school. The key concepts of power, sovereignty, legitimacy, interdependence, human rights, justice, liberty, equality, inequality, globalisation, sustainability, peace, conflict, violence and non-violence underpin teaching and learning in both A-Level and IB Politics courses. These concepts will be applied at different levels of analysis throughout the courses: local, regional, national and international.

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors - Plato

Students will learn:-

Component 1: UK Politics

Section 1: Political Participation: (T1-T2)

Component Democracy and participation

Political Parties

Electoral Systems

Voting Behaviour

The Media

Section 2: Core Political Ideas (T3-T4)

Conservatism

Liberalism

Socialism

Component 2: UK Government (T1-T2)

Section 1: UK Government

The constitution

Parliament

The Prime Minister and executive

Relationships between the branches.

Component 3: Comparative Politics – Global Politics (T3-T5)

Sovereignty

Globalisation

Global Governance – political and economic.

Human Rights

Environmental Politics

Power and developments

Regionalism and the EU

Comparative Theories

Enhance Your Home Learning:-

You must engage with contemporary issues and debates and read journalistic articles widely, you should consider how and where you can see different perspectives in your sources of information, key sources:

BBC

The Guardian

Channel 4 News

The Financial Times

The Economist

The New Statesman

Keep a 'scrap book' of news stories, annotate and highlight to show links and connections to the course content.

Read widely in relation to the chosen case studies, develop detailed and specific knowledge.

Section 1: Legitimacy, direct democracy, representative democracy, pluralist democracy, democratic deficit. Participation, franchise/suffrage, think tanks, lobbyists, old Labour, New Labour, one nation, New Right, classical liberals, modern liberal, party system, left wing, right wing, first past the post, AMS, STV, minority government, coalition government. Class dealignment, apathy, manifesto, mandate.

Section 2: Hierarchy, authority, autonomism, noblesse oblige, anti-permissiveness, radical, human imperfection, laissez-faire, empiricism, equality (foundational and formal, social contract, mediocracy, tolerance, limited government, mechanistic theory, negative freedom, positive freedom, harm principle, minimal state, enabling state, fraternity, cooperation, capitalism, common ownership, consumerism, Marxism, social justice, materialism.

Section 1: entrenchment, codified/uncodified, unitary, parliamentary sovereignty, rule of law, common law, devolution, convention, authoritative works, legislative, executive, prerogative, responsibility, presidential style government, neutrality and independence, legal and political sovereignty, ultra vires.

Sovereignty, nation state, non-state actors, globalisation, homogenisation, interconnectedness, world government, global government, north south divide, dependency theories, intervention, universalism, global commons, sustainability, hard power, soft power, autocracy, regionalism supranationalism





International Opportunities

Visits Programmes

- United Nations visit to Geneva
- House of Commons visit
- International work experience visits
- Local mock parliament
- Community lectures
- Model United nations conferences

International Politics module covering topics such as:

- Globalisation
- Human Rights
- Terrorism
- Environmental politics
- European Union
- International institutions

What does excellence look like?

- **Acquisition of knowledge:** Sound ability to frame questions, researching case studies, picking out key examples.
- **Explaining theory and reality:** being able to explain how things should work, for example identifying aims and ambitions and using knowledge of the reality of politics to explain how things work in practice.
- **Identifying and developing a line of argument** being able to recognise and explain differing perspectives in politics and refining and supporting personal arguments and reflections.
- **Evaluating evidence:** being able to consider perspective in the sources of evidence used, explaining origin, purpose, access to information and judging how this might impact the evidence that is used.
- **Essay writing skills** being able to respond to an issue raised within a question, plan and produce a well-supported and well-argued response to exam style

Wider Reading

- Andrew Heywood, Global Politics
- Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, Global Politics a New Introduction.
- Tim Marshall, Prisoners of Geography: Ten maps that tell you everything you need to know about Global Politics.
- John Bayliss, The Globalisation of World Politics: An introduction to international relations.
- Jonathan Wolff, An introduction to Political Philosophy.
- Nick Gallop, UK Politics Annual Update
- Andrew Marr, A History of Modern Britain
- Steve Richards, The Prime Ministers



Facing dramatic global challenges, we need a global capacity to address them that reaffirms the importance of multilateralism and the importance of a rules-based set of international relations, based on the rule of law. As an institution, the United Nations has never been needed more in our recent history.

Antonio Guterres