

SUBJECT: POLITICS A LEVEL (Linear)

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:
MR A SUTHERLAND**

**HEAD OF SUBJECT:
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**SYLLABUS NUMBER:
Edexcel 9PLO**

*NB: at time of writing this specification is
subject to Ofqual approval.*

SYNOPSIS OF CONTENT

Politics is the study of how we organise ourselves as a society for good and ill, and particularly how laws are made, how people are governed and how people compete to construct the world they want. Examples of the key questions the course tries to answer are:

- What is democracy and do elections with low turnouts guarantee it?
- Do pressure groups such as Amnesty and Greenpeace really influence modern UK Politics?
- Should the House of Lords be reformed?
- How has EU membership affected UK politics?
- What is globalisation and does it benefit the few rather than the many?
- What are Human Rights and when should we intervene to protect them?
- What has been the effect of the rise of China and India on the 'world order' of power?

The A Level course offered is the most outward-looking available, to match the interests and experiences of Anglo European students.

SKILLS THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

- Ability to research and analyse both political data and commentaries.
 - Evaluation of political theory.
 - Ability to form logical arguments.
 - Development of debating and presentational skills.
 - Developing a world view on political events
- All of these skills are highly valued by universities and employers alike.

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES

www.edexcel.org.ukquals/gce/gvmt-pol
www.historylearningsite.co.uk/british_politics.htm
www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/default.stm
www.economist.com
www.newstatesman.com
www.tutor2u.net/politics/blog.htm
www.newint.org

ASSESSMENT

There will be three exams at the end of the course.

- 1) **UK Politics**
You will study political participation and ideas such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism.
- 2) **UK Government**
You will study The Constitution, Parliament, the office of Prime Minister as well as relationships between these groups.
- 3) **Global Politics**
You will study global political structures and issues such as sovereignty, globalisation, governance, human rights, terrorism, war, environmental politics and the European Union.

SPECIFIC MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the Sixth Form matriculation requirements, students must have at least a GCSE grade B or above in a Humanities subject.

An enquiring mind, an ability to write essays combined with an interest in current affairs is vitally important. A grade B or above in English Language is preferable.

OTHER INFORMATION Eg Field Trips/expenses/books

During the Lower Sixth students visit the Houses of Parliament and other political institutions of interest. Many Politics students also take part in the bi-annual trip to the United Nations headquarters in Geneva.