

Politics

at MSJ Sixth Form



In Politics, the political landscape changes every day, with new examples appearing constantly in the media. Picking which examples to use in your answers is really exciting as something that has happened on the day you are taking your A Level exams can appear in your response!

It is about the factors shaping both the British and American systems. You will also be studying Political Philosophy which gives you a real breadth of understanding. It helps in the development of discussion and debating skills and encourages you to think beyond the constraints of a textbook. One main strength though, is that it will give you the knowledge and transferable skills to evaluate and understand some of the most important forces shaping the future of us all.

Pupils will be required to take detailed notes from power points and textbooks, watch news programmes, analyse texts, discuss, do presentations, as well as writing responses from short paragraphs to longer essays.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Component 1 UK Politics and Ideologies

Concepts such as democracy and participation; Why do some groups have more say than others?; Political parties: Policies and Ideas; Elections. Is First Past the Post the best system or should we adopt PR; The role of the media and voting behaviour; Political Philosophy: Conservatism, Socialism and Liberalism.

Component 2: UK Government

The constitution; Parliament; The Prime Minister and the executive; Relationships between the branches of government; Political Philosophy: Nationalism.

Component 3: USA and Comparative Politics

How to elect a President; Democratic and Republican Parties; How much power does the US President, Congress and Supreme Court have?; The US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court Civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

IS IT THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME?

What skills will I need?

A good standard of English is important, but the main qualification is curiosity about how society works, and a deep interest in current affairs and

political debate and philosophy. To get the most out of the subject you will need to keep up to date with current events through newspapers, TV, radio and the internet. Pupils must learn to question the accuracy of all the information they are presented with whether in class or in any form of media.

WITH WHICH OTHER SUBJECTS DOES IT WORK BEST?

Politics combines particularly well with Economics, Business Studies, English, History, Geography, MFL, RS, but equally complements most subjects because of its immediate relevance and focus on current affairs.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CAREER PATHWAYS?

Well regarded by all universities, Politics A Level can lead directly to single subject degrees in Politics or International Relations, and to a wide variety of combined courses, such as PPE. Old girls currently studying Politics and International relations are aiming for Law, Banking and Business and working in International Agencies. There is a considerable range of options open to graduates, including the Media and TV and newspaper journalism, Banking, the Law, the home and diplomatic civil service, local government, business management and political research.

TWITTER

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HEAD OF SUBJECT

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EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

A Level 3 written exams Each examination is 2 hours long and a third of the marks	Component 1: UK Politics: one essay based on a source and one evaluative essay question. Ideologies: an essay on Socialism, Conservatism or Liberalism Component 2: UK Government: as above Ideologies: an essay on Nationalism Component 3: Section A: One 12-mark question from a choice of two Section B: One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories Section C: Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three
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