

HUMANITIES: tpurnell@rushcliffespencer.org.uk

POLITICS (A LEVEL)

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The aim of the A level Politics course is to provide students with an in depth understanding of political theory and the application of this theory in British and American Politics. It is an engaging, relevant and controversial subject that will cover news and current affairs whilst developing research and debating skills. Students will study political theory, including Liberalism, Conservatism, and Socialism. The ideas of theorists like Edmund Burke, John Locke and Mary Wollstonecraft will be analysed as well as contemporary thinkers like Betty Friedan. We will then build on this to examine how Government and Politics works in practice within the UK, then the Government and Politics of the USA and how these compare. We have been lucky enough in the past to visit both Parliament and the Supreme court in the UK and engage in "live" debates with our partner schools in the US to gain even greater depth of understanding. In general the course is largely essay based and students will be expected to have an active interest in Politics and current affairs, and a desire to read, think critically and question why.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Assessment	Overview	Marks
2:00	Government and Politics of the UK - exam	77
2:00	Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics - exam	77
2:00	Political Ideas - exam	77

The politics course builds a strong understanding of key political theories and thinkers, including liberalism, socialism and conservatism. Students will develop their knowledge of the UK's government structure and political atmosphere, as well the comparable institutions in the US.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

The course will help to develop an excellent understanding of how politics works and how it affects all aspects of our lives.

QUOTE

"Studying Government and Politics has educated me about important contemporary issues that people my age often discuss without knowledge."

Students will also acquire research skills which can be applied to any course at university regarding essays or dissertations. Students will develop essay writing skills such as analysing content, applying theory, writing coherently, evaluating and thinking critically.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS

Students use A level Politics as a platform for careers in law, media, journalism, the civil service, the police, local / national Government and teaching. More than this though, it is seen as a traditional academic subject and is extremely well respected by universities and employers alike. The ability to read and understand complex texts, analyse and evaluate the information and then construct a coherent essay based on those texts is an invaluable skill that is applicable and relevant to all disciplines.

ADDITIONAL EXAM BOARD DETAILS

<https://n9.cl/whr4ii>

PREVIOUS GRADES

Exam Board: AQA

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X	Totals
2023	2	5	1	10	1	2	0	0	21
2024	1	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	9
2025	2	4	11	3	2	1	0	0	23

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE grades 4-9 including Mathematics and English Language
- Grade 5 in English Language
- Desirable to have a Grade 6 in a Humanities course