

Politics

What is the course about?

You will study the workings of government and political culture in the United Kingdom and the United States. You will also study political ideas such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism and nationalism. The course is particularly interesting as we have to study the current events, issues, controversies and scandals in conjunction with political theory and historical developments. Every day in Downing Street and the White House, Parliament and Congress, Fleet Street and Wall Street will raise important issues for debate.



Is this course suitable for me?

The course will appeal to you if you:

- Enjoy debating current affairs and have an interest in politics generally.
- Have a desire to participate as an informed citizen in our democracy.
- Like doing a subject which affects your everyday life.
- Are interested in political theories and ideas.
- Want to combine the subject with other social sciences and humanities subjects.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You do not need to have studied Politics at GCSE in order to take this course. It is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in current affairs, and a desire to explore new ideas.



Links with other subjects

Politics links well with many subjects especially in the Humanities and Social Sciences, such as Economics, History, Philosophy and English Language.

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

As well as covering the advanced level study of Government and Politics, this course will enable you to develop key skills. The key skills you can develop in this course are:

- Effective communication in a range of media
- Application of number such as statistical analysis
- Information technology, especially the critical use of the Internet
- Problem solving
- Working with others
- Improving your own learning and performance through reflection



How will the course be taught?

We make the course as varied and interesting as possible, using a full range of resources, including the Internet and social media. Our aim is to promote lively, and informed, debate and interest. We therefore look closely at events such as British, European and American elections, and at the continuing developments in British and American politics. You will be expected to conduct research and lead discussions making critical use of resources such as academic journals, newspapers and the Internet. As part of Unit 3—Political Ideas—you will learn about political theorists and analyse extracts from their writings.



There is no coursework, all assessment is by examination.



Politics

What can I do to prepare?

You can prepare by keeping up to date with political developments. Read the newspapers and watch current affairs programmes like Newsnight or Question Time. If you enjoy debates, controversy and current affairs then Government and Politics will be a enriching subject choice for you.

Unit 1

Government and politics of the UK

- The nature and sources of the British Constitution
- The structure and role of Parliament
- The Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The judiciary
- Devolution
- Democracy and participation
- Elections and referendums
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- The European Union



Unit 2

Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

- The legislative branch of government: Congress
- The executive branch of government: President
- The judicial branch of government
- The electoral process and direct democracy
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- Civil rights
- Students will use the above theoretical approaches to analyse key similarities and differences between the USA and UK and evaluate the extent to which they explain these similarities and differences



Unit 3

Ideologies

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Nationalism



For further information please contact:

Mr S Collins (Humanities Dept)

Email: scollins@swchs.net



SWCHS Sixth Form

