

Government & Politics

Course content

The students study three main units over the two years. The first unit covers British Politics and the Government of the UK and looks at the nature and function of the British Constitution and the three branches of the British Government: the Prime Minister & the Cabinet; the Judiciary and Parliament. Students also study how democracy operates in the UK by looking at political parties, pressure groups, elections and referendums and how we measure participation.

The second unit is US politics. Students need to be able to make synoptic links between this unit and the British Politics unit and understand that while there are differences between the two political systems there are also similarities. Students will understand the constitutional framework of the US government focusing on the difference between the power of Congress and the US President. Students also study the US Judiciary, political parties and pressure groups and can make connections, links and highlight differences between the US and the UK. One of the key aspects of the US political system is an understanding of Civil Rights thinking about how the United States have developed political freedoms and rights for individuals.

The final unit is an understanding of different political ideologies. Students understand the key features of different political ideologies and the similarities and differences between them. These ideologies include socialism, conservatism, nationalism and feminism.

Entry requirements

Grade 5's in English and Maths; Grade 5 in History or Geography preferable but not compulsory. There is an expectation that you will have an understanding and interest in current affairs.

Assessment

1. **Government & Politics of the UK** – 2 Hours (written paper) – 77 marks – 33.3%
2. **Government & Politics of the USA (+ Comparative Study)** – 2 Hours (written paper) – 77 marks – 33.3%
3. **Political Ideas** – 2 Hours (written paper) – 77 marks – 33.3%

Progression

A level Government & Politics is a subject that is well viewed by the majority of Russell Group and non-Russell Group universities. Students of Politics can go into a range of different careers including political research, the Civil Service, the police, education or even working for a political party or a pressure group. Students of Government and Politics can understand different viewpoints, understand complex problems and be able to articulate and argue effectively.