



Politics

No of Units: 3

Awarding Board: Edexcel

Course Code: 9PLO/01/02/3B

Unit Outline and Assessment:

Component 1 – UK Politics. There are five themes within this component: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media and core political ideas (conservatism, liberalism, socialism).

Component 2 - UK Government. There are five themes within this component: the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches and political ideas (anarchism).

Component 3 – Global Politics. There are five themes within this component: sovereignty and globalisation, political and economic governance, human rights and the environment, regionalism and the European Union and comparative political theories.

Each module makes up a third of the qualification and has a two hour written exam.

Further Information:

'Man is by nature a political animal' – Aristotle

UK Politics. This component explores the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK. You will investigate how people and politics interact and focus on the role of political parties in contemporary politics. You will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions. We will also consider the role of the media and you will examine voting patterns and voting behaviour.

UK Government. This component enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. You will be introduced to the set of rules governing politics in the UK, the UK constitution. You will be introduced to the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of government as well as the relationships and balance of power between them. Students will also study anarchism and its aim of liberating people from political domination and economic exploitation.

Global Politics. We live in a complex world with significant challenges, including global terrorism, poverty, economic instability, failing states and environmental degradation; global politics gives students the opportunity to explore further these issues. You will gain an understanding of abstract political concepts through grounding them in contemporary real world examples and case studies that will develop an international awareness and knowledge of multiple perspectives.

Possible Career Links:

After the A-Level course is over a number of possibilities are open to you. It may be that you decide to extend your knowledge of politics by taking a university degree in the subject, or in a related area such as international relations. This might lead you to become involved in politics in a practical way – by working for a political research organisation or as an assistant to an MP, or possibly even by seeking election to local government or parliament. Who knows where A-Level politics may lead you?

Whether or not you decide to take politics further, you will have learned valuable skills that can be applied to a range of situations and disciplines. You will have learned how to select and analyse information, how to discriminate between different viewpoints and how to make a case. All of these are essential skills in a variety of career paths, including law, journalism, the media and the civil service. And of course you will never look at the news in the same way. You will have a deeper understanding of the stories behind the headlines, and be much better equipped to play your part as an active citizen in the world you are about to enter.

Further info contact: Mr A Brennand or Ms N Biggs