

A Level

Government and Politics

Edexcel



A level Government and Politics will appeal to those who want to discover answers to fundamental questions such as 'How can we live together without resorting to violence?', 'Who has the power to make decisions in society?' and 'Why is there a 'participation crisis' in UK politics?'

The Government and Politics A level will cover a broad range of topics to reflect the national and ideological dimensions of the subject. Domestically, the course will focus on government and political participation in the UK, together with our relationship with the EU. Core ideologies (including conservatism, socialism and liberalism) will also be covered in order to explore many of the theories underpinning the UK and other political systems.

The two year course will develop your skills of analysis and evaluation. You will need to express yourself well on paper and think critically and logically. You will take two written exams at the end of the first year and a further two exams at the end of the second year. There is no coursework in Government and Politics.

If you choose not to continue this subject onto year two, you are able to sit an AS exam at the end of year one.

Course Content

In Year One you will study two units and take two exams in June

Unit 1: People and Politics

This unit offers an introduction to four key features of the UK political system: Democracy and Participation, Pressure Groups, Political Parties, and Elections and Electoral Systems.

Unit 2: Governing the UK

This unit analyses the central institutions of the UK government: the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Judiciary and Civil Liberties.

In Year Two you will study two more units and then take two exams in June

Unit 3: Introducing Political Ideologies

This unit focuses on the development of, and the debates surrounding, four political ideologies: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Anarchism

Unit 4: Other Ideological Traditions

This unit considers the development of, and the debates surrounding, four more 'modern' ideologies: Nationalism, Feminism, Multiculturalism and Ecologism.

Government and Politics

Methods of Teaching

We will use a whole host of methods to assist your learning. Sometimes you will be listening to a teacher explaining a political concept or process; sometimes you will be taking notes. On other occasions you will be working in pairs or in small groups to research a particular topic area. You may be asked to prepare a presentation to deliver to the class or to read an article and report back on the key features of the text. All your learning experiences will be designed to enable you to understand the material fully and move swiftly from assimilating new information to applying it. One of the key skills you will be developing is the ability to evaluate arguments and communicate your response effectively. Each unit is accompanied by a course booklet to enable you to access the knowledge you require efficiently. We also hope to be able to offer you the chance to attend student conferences that will be directly relevant to the exams.

Methods and Patterns of Assessment

There will be two 80 minute AS exams in June accounting for 100% of the AS award and 50% of the overall A level. The two AS exams are equally weighted.

At the end of the second year there are two 90 minute exams accounting for 50% of your overall A-level. These two exams are also equally weighted

Financial Implications

You will be expected to buy the recommended textbook to support the work we do in class. We will give you a reading list with the details of the books we recommend. Textbooks are also available in the Learning Resources Centre. In addition each unit is accompanied by a course booklet produced here at Symonds. Expect your costs to be no more than £30-35 per year. We hope to offer trips to relevant student conferences where appropriate, however these will be optional. The College has a student support fund for anyone who has difficulty meeting these costs.

Career Possibilities

A level Government and Politics develops your skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and communication. You will learn to write precisely and to argue logically, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of political institutions, processes, concepts and ideologies.

In this respect Government and Politics is a subject that compliments many other areas of study including Law, History, Sociology, English, Economics, Philosophy, Geography, Classical Civilisation and Psychology. It is a highly regarded and rigorous academic subject that will be of use to a wide range of careers including Journalism, Law, Business, Media, Finance, Civil Service, Finance, Teaching, Public Relations and, of course, Politics!

Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including Maths and English.

Apply online: www.psc.ac.uk/apply t: 01962 857555 e: admissions@psc.ac.uk

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