

# A Level Politics - Edexcel

## Key Questions

- What exactly will students be studying in Y12 and 13?
  - How is the course examined?
- Who teaches the course and what support is available?
  - Why should you consider Politics as an option?

## Topics covered in A Level Politics



1. UK Politics and Core Ideas



2. UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas



3. Comparative Politics

# What will students study in Y12 and 13?

## Provisional Example

	Year 12	Year 13
Teacher 1	<p><b>UK Politics:</b> <i>Democracy and participation, Political parties, Electoral systems, Voting behaviour and the media.</i></p>	<p><b>Core Ideas:</b> <i>Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism</i></p> <p><b>Non Core Ideas:</b> <i>one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.</i></p>
Teacher 2	<p><b>UK Government:</b> <i>the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between branches of government.</i></p>	<p><b>USA Government and Politics:</b> <i>the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.</i></p> <p><b>Comparative Politics</b></p>

## Assessment Objectives

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Students must:		% GCE A Level
<b>A01</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.	35
<b>A02</b>	Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.	35
<b>A03</b>	Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

# How is the course examined?

## 1. UK Politics and Core Ideas



- June of Year 13
- 2hrs
- 3x extended essay questions
- 33.3% of total A Level

## 2. UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas



- June of Year 13
- 2hrs
- 3x extended essay questions
- 33.3% of total A Level

## 3. Comparative Politics (US Politics)



- June of Year 13
- 2hrs
- 2x short essay questions
- 2x extended essay questions
- 33.3% of total A Level

# What might the questions look like?

## Example UK Politics Question

- Evaluate the extent to which general elections in the UK are lost by the government rather than won by the opposition. (30)

## Example Political Ideas Question

- To what extent are different socialists committed to equality? (24)

## Example UK Government Question

- Evaluate how far Parliament retains sole sovereignty within the UK political system. (30)

## Example Comparative Politics questions

- Examine the ways in which the US and the UK Constitutions are similar. (12)
- Evaluate the extent to which racial equality has been advanced in the 21st century. (30)

# How is the course taught?

- Students are taught by two teachers and we have chosen the unit options based on the subject expertise of staff in the department.
- Plenty of focus on examination technique and practice. Therefore, students can expect reasonably regular practice essays and will be required to undertake independent reading and research.
- There will be regular discussion and debate in the classroom which will require students to complete preparatory work outside of lessons.



# You should consider Politics if...

- You are interested in current affairs and ideas behind how society is organised and governed. If you have an interest in these things and wish to develop them further then this is the course for you!
- You are comfortable with independent research, writing extended essays, creating arguments, reaching judgements, processing and deploying large amounts of information.
- You are keen to apply for university courses! All of the skills above are highly valued by higher education establishments as well as employees.



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3. Comparative Politics