

Government and Politics

A Level



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

C OF E SIXTH FORM

PENINSULA CAMPUS

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Exam Board: **Edexcel**

What is Government and Politics?

In its broadest sense, Politics is concerned with power and the way in which, for better or worse, it is distributed and exercised in society. It is also concerned with people: how they interact, make decisions and settle disputes. The study of Politics provides a developed understanding of the British and American political environment, as well as the political ideas which have shaped western government and society. This A Level will encourage interest in and enthusiasm for the study of Government and Politics and will enable students to develop an insight into political beliefs central to an understanding of the modern world, with an emphasis on contemporary political issues.

What will I study?

Component 1: UK Politics

- **Political Participation** - democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
- **Core Political Ideas** - conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government

- the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between them
- **Political Ideas** - one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, Nationalism

Component 3: Comparative Politics

- **US Politics:** The US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US Presidency, US Supreme Court, civil rights and democracy and participation.

What entry requirements will I need?

In addition to the general entry requirements an interest in Politics is required.

How will I be taught?

Students participate in seminars; lectures; group work and undertake original research, give presentations and use ICT extensively as part of the course. Students augment their wider learning through a range of essay competitions, conferences and excursions, including a biennial trip to Washington DC with the History Department.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: 2 hour written paper (worth 33.3% of the A Level)

Component 2: 2 hour written paper (worth 33.3% of the A Level)

Component 3: 2 hour written paper (worth 33.3% of the A Level)

What career opportunities does this open up?

Students of Government & Politics have forged careers in academia, research, civil service, politics, journalism, consultancy, banking, business, PR, marketing, retail, accountancy and more.