

A-level Politics

Board and Specification: **Edexcel** 9PL0/01

Head of Department: **A Kelly** (a.kelly@cwlc.email)

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature and/or Language or a humanities-based subject

What skills are required of students?

- Discussion
- Essay skills
- Debating
- A curiosity to look at and understand the political landscape we live in – keeping up to date with current affairs

Course Outline

Politics is about you. You live in a democracy, and, in theory, you have the power to shape the laws that govern this country. Through elections, public debate and civic action, your voice matters. This course explores how that power works in practice. You will study how people participate in politics and how they influence decision-making, from voting in elections to joining pressure groups and protest movements. You will also examine the inner workings of the UK political system, gaining a clear understanding of how laws are made and how governments operate. You will develop a strong knowledge of elections and electoral systems—ever wondered what “*First Past the Post*” really means, and how it shapes political outcomes? By the end of the course, you will confidently understand and evaluate the systems that define modern democracy.

Modules titles and codes:

Component 1 (*Paper code: 9PL0/01) UK Politics

Students will study:

- Democracy and participation.
- Political parties.
- Electoral systems.
- Voting behaviour and the media.
- Core Political Ideas - Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism.

Component 2: UK Government (*Paper code: 9PL0/02)

UK Government, students will study:

- The Constitution.
- Parliament.
- Prime Minister and executive.
- Relationships between the branches.
- Non-core ideology – Feminism. Women are still on the margins and fringes of our society – we seek to give some voice to their histories in the feminism unit. Moreover, we want students to be curious, self-reflective and have a passion for the political landscape – more so in a time of apathy and identikit politics.

Component 3: Comparative Politics (*Paper code: 9PL0/3A)

Students will study:

- The US Constitution and Federalism
- US congress
- US presidency
- US Supreme Court
- Democracy and participation, civil rights.

American politics is once again dominating the news in particular the rights of women and the reach of Executive power.

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

- Debating key political issues.
- Visit to the Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court.
- Follow the debate on social media.
- Discussion of reforms and current affairs.
- Visiting speakers such as MPs, party members and lecturers.
- Watch and listen to the news
- Listen to podcasts

What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?

History, Business Studies, Sociology and English Literature, Law.

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

It is particularly useful for subjects such as Politics, International Relations, Law, History, Journalism, Sociology and Economics.

Beyond specific subject areas, Politics develops a set of transferable skills that support success across many disciplines. These include the ability to evaluate arguments, analyse evidence, communicate ideas clearly and engage with complex and often controversial issues

Studying Politics will help you:

- Understand the world around you and how decisions are made
- Think critically about current events and political arguments
- Develop the confidence to question and challenge ideas
- Engage with issues that directly affect your future

In an increasingly complex and fast-moving world, the ability to understand and evaluate politics has never been more important. This course encourages you to ask big questions: *Will you challenge those in power? Will you make your voice heard?*
Politics isn't just something you study—it's something you live.