



Prince Henry's
Grammar School

SIXTH FORM

Politics

Course Leader: Mr P Low

Why Study Politics?

Politics offers fresh and interesting subject matter which requires students to think critically about the key issues and events of the day. The world is changing. Britain is in a state of considerable flux, with changing and contrasting relationships with the USA and European Union, while internal politics struggle to address the fundamental conflicts that all developed societies encounter. A sound knowledge of global and national politics, and the frameworks and ideologies that underpin them, enable students to understand the world around them and to successfully engage with it. Politics is a course for those interested in understanding power and people and who want to debate the big issues of today. It is for those who want to speak out and be counted!



Course Content and Assessment

Paper 1: Government and politics of the UK (2 hour exam - 33%) Students will study various aspects of the British political system. They will study and analyse the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, the relationships between the executive, judiciary and legislature, Democracy, Electoral Systems, Voting Behaviour and the Media and Political Parties.

Paper 2: Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics (2 hour exam - 33%) In this module, students will learn about key aspects of the American political system and will be asked to compare the political process and workings of the government in the USA with that of the British system. The specific areas that they will study include the US Constitution, Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, Democracy and participation in the USA and Civil Rights.

Paper 3: Political ideas (2 hour exam - 33%) The main focus of this module is for students to study the three main political ideas that shape the political system: Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism. In addition, they will also study Feminism as a specialist investigation and explore the impact that it has had on the British political system.

The exciting aspect of studying Politics is that it is a constantly changing environment and requires students to stay up-to-date with current affairs and political debates. In order to support this, the faculty has previously organised trips to London where students have had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and other key political institutions. Students are encouraged to undertake extra reading and to follow a variety of news media as part of the course. The nature of the course means that students are able to explore and develop their own political ideas and understanding, while also developing higher level academic skills of analysis and argument.

Progression Routes

A Level Politics is of great value because it trains minds to think logically about decision-making in the modern world. These skills are highly regarded by employers and higher education institutions, making this a valued and respected option. It provides a sound basis for a range of careers (especially in law, journalism, broadcasting, teaching and the civil service) and, of course, for those with political aspirations themselves.

Entry Requirements

In order to cope with the demands of the course, students should have gained at least grade 4 and preferably grade 5 in GCSE English. Similarly, a keen interest and enthusiasm to follow current affairs are essential.