

## **Government and Politics:**

### **What is the course about?**

You will study the workings of government and political culture in the United Kingdom and the United States. You will also study political ideologies such as the course is particularly interesting as you have to study the current events, issues, controversies and scandals of contemporary politics in conjunction with political theory and historical developments. Every day in Downing Street and the White House, Parliament and Congress, Fleet Street and Wall Street will raise important issues for debate.

### **Is this course suitable for me?**

The course will appeal to you if you:

- ◆ Enjoy debating current affairs and have an interest in politics generally.
- ◆ Have a desire to participate as an informed citizen in our democracy.
- ◆ Like doing a subject which affects your everyday life.
- ◆ Are interested in political theories and ideas.
- ◆ Want to combine the subject with other social sciences and humanities subjects.

### **What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?**

You do not need to have studied Politics at GCSE in order to take this course. It is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in current affairs, and a desire to explore new ideas.

## Course Structure:

### Unit 1:

#### The government of the UK

- The nature and sources of the British Constitution
- The structure and role of Parliament
- The Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The judiciary
- Devolution

#### The politics of the UK

- Democracy and participation
- Elections and referendums
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- The European Union

### Unit 2:

#### Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

#### Government and politics of the USA

- The legislative branch of government: Congress
- The executive branch of government: President
- The judicial branch of government
- The electoral process and direct democracy
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- Civil rights

## Comparative politics

□ Students will use the above theoretical approaches to analyse key similarities and differences between the USA and UK and evaluate the extent to which they explain these similarities and differences.

## Unit 3:

### Political ideas

#### Core ideologies

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism

#### Other Ideologies

- Nationalism
- Feminism
- Multiculturalism
- Ecologism
- Anarchism

***All modules are tested by examination. Exam Board: AQA***

### **Links with other subjects**

Politics links well with many subjects especially in the Humanities and Social Sciences, such as Economics, History, Philosophy and English Language.

### **How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?**

As well as covering the advanced level study of Government and Politics, this

course will enable you to develop key skills. The key skills you can develop in this course are:

- ◆ effective communication in a range of media
- ◆ application of number such as statistical analysis
- ◆ information technology, especially the critical use of the

Internet

- ◆ problem solving
- ◆ working with others
- ◆ improving your own learning and performance through reflection

## **How will the course be taught?**

We make the course as varied and interesting as possible, using a full range of resources, including the Internet and social media. Our aim is to promote lively, and informed, debate and interest. We therefore look closely at events such as British, European and American elections, and at the continuing developments in British and American politics. You will be expected to conduct research and lead discussions making critical use of resources such as academic journals, newspapers and the Internet.

As part of Unit 3—Political Ideas—you will have to read set texts and extracts by political theorists.

## **What can I do to prepare?**

You can prepare by keeping up to date with political developments. Read the newspapers and watch current affairs programmes like Newsnight or Question Time. If you enjoy debates, controversy and current affairs then Government and Politics will be a enriching subject choice for you.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Is there coursework?

*No, all assessment is by examination.*

Do I have to be politically committed?

*No, just be prepared to examine all parties and political actors critically.*