

# Welcome to the Government and Politics Department

Subject Leader: Mr S W Birkett

Teachers: Mr J Briggs

## Subject Overview

### Post 16

A level Government and Politics enables students to develop a wide range of skills including the ability to comprehend, synthesise and interpret political information. Students also analyse and evaluate political knowledge by selecting relevant material, and construct and communicate arguments clearly and coherently. They also will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the political system of the UK and USA.

## Teaching Aims and Objectives

The Assessment Objectives are common to AS and A Level. The assessment units will assess the following Assessment Objectives:

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories and debates.

AO2: Analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of the political systems studied.

AO3: Construct and communicate coherent arguments making use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary.

The study of Government and Politics provides opportunities to develop students' understanding of moral, ethical and social issues. Students should be aware that society is made up of a range of different groups from varied social, cultural and religious backgrounds. Political decisions are influenced by the ethics and moral and cultural values of the groups and their governments. Students should also be encouraged to develop an understanding that differing values and attitudes exist, and to reflect on these and their own beliefs within society.

## Course Information

### Post 16

- Year 12:
- Unit 1: People, Politics and Participation
    - The nature of participation in the political process
    - Participation through the ballot box
    - The role of elections in a democracy
    - The nature of representation
    - The role of political parties in a democracy
    - The importance of pressure groups
  - Unit 2: Governing Modern Britain
    - The British Constitution
    - Courts in Modern Britain

- The role of Parliament
- The Prime Minister
- Policy Making and Implementation
- Local and Devolved government in the UK
- The European Union

Year 13: Unit 3B: Ideologies

- Liberalism
- Socialism
- Conservatism
- Fascism

Unit 4A: The Government of the USA

- The Constitutional Framework of US Government
- The Legislative Branch of Government: US Congress
- The Executive Branch of Government
- The Judicial Branch of Government: The Supreme Court

## **Homework Expectations (Including ICT resources and websites)**

We aim to challenge all our learners intellectually, whatever their level of ability and we want the learning experience to be an enjoyable one. We will consistently set homework following the school policy and according to the homework timetable and provide clear instructions and deadlines for each task. We will set homework at the start of the lesson wherever possible to allow time for questions. We expect students will talk to their teacher if they have any questions about their homework and attempt all work, completing it to the best of their ability. Students should seek help from parents, peers or the class teacher before the deadline if additional support is needed.

A Level students (Years 12 and 13) are expected to support their study with extra research and note making and wider reading. This is in addition to essays and fact tests set.

A wide variety of websites support the study of Government and Politics (including):-

[www.alevelpolitcs.com](http://www.alevelpolitcs.com)

[www.tutor2u.net/politics](http://www.tutor2u.net/politics)

[www.psa.ac.uk](http://www.psa.ac.uk)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics>

## **Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

Post 16 students are encouraged to take part in the many debating and public speaking opportunities available and we will visit London for an understanding of the working of Parliament.

## **Marking and Assessment**

### **Sixth Form**

A mixture of mock examination work and ongoing assessment will be used throughout the course. Progress is monitored in an assessment folder. Students also complete regular checks of factual knowledge including co-constructed class tests. Students will sit four examinations (two in Year 12 and two in Year 13).

# Examinations

## A level

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/government-and-politics/as-and-a-level/government-and-politics-2150>

Students take **four** examinations.

### AS examinations

#### **Unit 1** – GOVP1 People, Politics and Participation

50% of AS, 25% of A Level 1 hour 30 minutes written examination

80 marks - two structured, source-based topics from a choice of four.

#### **Unit 2** – GOVP2 Governing Modern Britain

50% of AS, 25% of A Level 1 hour 30 minutes written examination

80 marks - two structured, source-based topics from a choice of four.

### A2 examinations

#### **Unit 3** – GOV3B Ideologies

25% of A Level 1 hour 30 minutes written examination

80 marks - two topics from a choice of four.

#### **Unit 4** – GOV4A The Government of the USA Action

25% of A Level 1 hour 30 minutes written examination

80 marks - two topics from a choice of four.