

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

AQA Advanced Level GCE Politics 7152

AIM OF THE COURSE

Always lively, relevant and controversial...there are many ways to describe A-level Politics. Covering news and current affairs from the UK, US and the world beyond, it helps you understand how the country is run and develops your critical thinking and analytical skills, as well as research, written communication and debating.

There will be opportunities to broaden your experience of politics with a visit to Westminster, as well as meeting with the MP for Chelmsford. There will also be talks by civil servants with a fascinating range of experiences in Government including with; No. 10 Downing Street; the Counter Terrorism Department of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office; the Northern Ireland Office.

CONTENT

Paper 1: Government and politics of the UK

This is divided into:

Politics - Democracy and participation; Elections and referendums; Political parties; Pressure groups.

Government - The nature and sources of the British Constitution; The Prime Minister and Cabinet; The structure and role of Parliament; The judiciary; Devolution; The European Union.

Paper 2: Government and politics of the USA

This is divided into:

Politics - The electoral process and direct democracy; Political parties; Pressure groups; Civil Rights

Government - The legislative branch of government: Congress; The executive branch of government: President; The judicial branch of government.

Students will then analyse key similarities and differences between the USA and UK.

Paper 3: Political ideas

Students will study three core ideologies; Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, plus Anarchism.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

This qualification is linear, meaning students will sit all three exams at the end of the course.

All three exams are two hours long and are equally weighted, with a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Paper 1: Government and politics of the UK

Paper 2: The government and politics of the USA; Comparative politics

Paper 3: Political ideas

SKILLS /APTITUDES NEEDED TO SUCCEED

- A knowledge of, and interest in, current affairs is essential. Students who wish to achieve a high grade will need to follow the news online, through TV, newspapers and radio.
- Students are required to demonstrate knowledge of key political debates and concepts, analyse issues with precision and show a keen awareness of differing viewpoints.
- They are expected to construct answers to specific questions with relevance, clarity and coherence.
- Students are assessed with regular exam practise, structured questions and presentations, as well as contributions to the various class activities.

BENEFITS AND USES

Government and Politics goes well with A Levels such as History, English and Philosophy that involve critical thinking as well as the key skills of analysis and evaluation.

By the same token, other students take it as their only Humanities subject. It is good preparation for degree courses in Politics, History, International Relations, American Studies, Law, journalism and the like. It will form a useful basis for careers involving research, the construction of argument and communicating in both written and verbal formats, such as law, journalism, media/broadcasting, the civil service, teaching and lecturing.