

POLITICS

“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors”

Plato

Current Teaching Staff:

Mr A Endersby

Ms E Browne

Examination board and syllabus: Edexcel Politics
[Edexcel AS & A level Politics \(2017\)](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#)

Entrance requirement:

A willingness to write extended essays

The curriculum is delivered through a variety of teaching methods. These include lectures, discussions, group work, student presentations, video material, student subject specific guides, revision packs and IT-based activities. Lesson resources are shared online with the students through Office 365 SharePoint and Teams. Students also engage in learning through field trips and visits from guest speakers, including local MPs.

There is no assessed coursework in this subject. Examination (100%) – Assessment is at the end of the two-year course through three two-hour papers. Both paper 1 and paper 2 consist of essay style questions which require lengthier responses, some of which draw upon source material. The paper 3 exam consists of both shorter style questions (one of which is compulsory) and essay style questions with no source material.

There are three broad areas of study in this specification:

UK Politics and Core Political Ideas: Year 12 (taught) Formally examined in Paper 1

Case studies of elections, democracy, political parties, and the role of the media. The core political ideas studied are Conservatism, Socialism and Liberalism.

Typical debates include: How democratic is the UK? Should we use referendums more frequently? How far does New Labour represent different values and policies to Old Labour? To what extent do modern and classical liberals agree over the role of the state?

UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas: Year 12 (taught) Formally examined in Paper 2

Case studies of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Parliament, Constitutional change, Relationships between the branches (for example the judiciary and parliament, Britain and the EU). The non-core political idea studied is Feminism which includes the historical origins and current issues within feminism, such as #metoo and divisions of opinions within the ideology.

Typical debates include: Should Britain introduce a written, codified constitution? To what extent has the UK government's control over Parliament been reduced in recent years? What are the differences between radical and liberal feminists?

Global Politics: Year 13 (taught) Formally examined in Paper 3

Case studies of the State and globalisation, Global governance: political and economic, Global governance: human rights and environmental issues, Power and developments, Regionalism and the EU and Comparative theories. This aspect of the course is very current, and students will be engaging with news stories as they emerge. Typical debates include: The role and significance of the UN with regards to universal human rights. The impact of international agreements in approaching climate change. The effectiveness of both the IMF and the World Bank. The extent to which the USA has dominated global politics. The rise of emerging powers including China.

Exam – more detail:

Number of Unit	%	Examination	Length of Time	Examination Date
Paper 1	33.3%	Politics	2 hours	June of year 13
Paper 2	33.3%	Politics	2 hours	June of year 13
Paper 3	33.3%	Politics	2 hours	June of year 13

There are three exams at the end of year 13 and the paper will contain a mixture of medium and longer-style essay questions.

All Politics students must be prepared to undertake independent study utilising

traditional and new media, the press, journals, television and radio. Success in this subject requires students to take an interest in current affairs and to read widely. Both teachers regularly share new stories of relevance to our course, and we will expect students to discuss how they relate to different topics.

There is also a joint Politics and History trip to Parliament in the summer of year 12. Students will spend two days in London where they will have a guided tour of Parliament and attend a workshop, directly related to their course. They will also have an opportunity to visit other important bodies which may include political party headquarters or an international pressure group. There will also be visits to other important historical sites with constitutional significance.

In recent years, many of our students have been actively involved in politics at the local level, embracing opportunities to gain work experience with local MPs, both in the local constituency office and in Westminster. Students have also participated in Model UN, mock trials and debating, and these have enabled them to develop their communication skills as well as broadening their understanding of the course. Politics has become a very popular subject at TGS, and there has been an increasing number of students applying to study International Relations at universities across the UK.

Students will need to:	Compulsory	Optional
Attend extra sessions before Examinations	X	
Read widely around the subject	X	
Make extensive notes	X	
Carry out detailed revision for regular tests beyond public examinations		X
Be willing to lead class discussions		X

CAREERS

This subject is appropriate for those intending to study Social Sciences post A Level at University. It is also a very useful subject for a wide range of careers including law, journalism/media, the civil service, many areas of management and of course the world of politics itself. Our experience indicates that a variety of employers in both the private and public sectors value the qualification