



AS / A2 Government and Politics (Level 3)

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

Government and politics has a real impact on the way in which people's lives are lived. The economy, health service, education and housing are all affected by decisions made by Westminster. This is a really exciting time to study the workings of government as we enter the first peace-time coalition government since World War Two.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In the first year you will focus upon British politics and topics such as political parties, pressure groups, the role of the Prime Minister, the significance of Parliament and the Judiciary.

The A2 course in the second year builds upon the topics covered in the AS course and focuses upon American politics. You will study the workings of US political parties, US elections, Race and Ethnicity, The US Constitution and the US Supreme Court.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will sit a January examination in your first year examining your work on political parties and pressure groups. This will account for 50% of your AS grade. A further examination on unit 2 topics in the summer of your first year will account for a further 50% of your AS grade.

In your second year you will sit two further examinations testing your knowledge of the US political system, one in January and a further exam in the summer.

There is no coursework in either the AS or A2 year.

WHAT SKILLS AND SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

You should have good written and communication skills. You will develop the ability to construct academic arguments in addition to evaluating evidence from a variety of different views. An interest in politics and current affairs is essential.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

An A Level in Politics provides an excellent background for careers in Law, Journalism, the Caring Professions, Teaching, and a range of Management and Business areas. It is also useful preparation for a full range of University courses.

PRIESTLEY EXTRA

There are lots of opportunities for Politics students to get involved in additional activities including the Politics Society which meets on a regular basis to debate topical issues and meet with key political figures. Students have recently participated in a visit to Parliament to meet their MP and tour the Houses of Commons and Lords. Over the past 2 years students have also visited Washington and New York and Rome and Sorrento.