WGS6 A Level Options
Politics FAQ Information Sheet

Which exam board and courses are studied at A level?

Edexcel. UK Politics & Government (Including Ideologies) and US Politics.

What skills will studying Politics equip me with?

A level Politics is an incredibly interesting subject, encompassing many important skills and knowledge that you will keep for life. Being able to write effective essays that convey a point of view and supporting that with evidence is an incredible skill to possess. The subject will also help give insight into the world of politics at large and help you inform your own decisions.

Do I need a specific grade at GCSE to access A level?

Politics is not on the UK curriculum for GCSE. This means that, apart from a small section in PSHE, Politics is not taught during Y7-11. Therefore, there is no specific grade requirement. However, attainment in subjects such as English and History will be used as an indicator for suitability for the subject.

How is the course structured and how will it be taught?

You will have three examination papers. One for each of your components (UK Politics, UK Government, US Politics). Each UK component will have a compulsory source question, one essay from a choice of two and one ideologies question from a choice of two (Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Anarchism). For the US component, there are two 12 Mark Questions, one of which is compulsory, the other via a choice of two, with the final question being an essay question from a choice of three. Although there are essays and they can seem daunting to begin with, try to see them as a way of showing what you know and understand. You are showcasing your expertise. The ability to write in a clear, coherent manner is a very valuable skill and one esteemed by employers.

UK Politics explores the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK. UK Government introduces the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of the government – legislative, executive, and judiciary – as well as the relationships and balance of power between them and considers where sovereignty now lies within this system. US Politics considers the extent to which the key institutions of government function and provides an opportunity to compare and contrast institutions between the US and UK.

Booklets are specifically designed for each topic to embed learning and a discursive approach is taken during lessons to highlight and debate issues associated with each. The use of articles, social media, videos and other sources are adopted to maximize contemporary analysis of UK and US Politics.

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Is there a coursework component?
No.

Who teaches the course?
Mr Edwards and Mrs Ahern.

How is the course resourced?
The course is resourced via the booklets noted above. There is no requirement to purchase textbooks or any other materials to access the subject. The booklets are updated regularly, with supporting articles and podcasts used to supplement notes. Workbooks and revision guides are provided to support progress and knowledge organisers are also used to summarise content.

How well do students achieve in Politics?
Politics students achieve some of the highest attainment in the sixth form. The average Grade is B+. This mirrors previous attainment scores for the Department. A high percentage of those studying Politics go on to their first choice University with a sizeable number enrolling on Politics specific courses at institutions such as LSE, Warwick, Edinburgh and Durham.

Will I need to do a lot of independent study?
Despite the content being available via the booklets noted above, the subject requires an appreciation of the latest developments and as such does require independent study. Moreover, due to the essay-based nature of the subject, practicing essay skills outside of lesson will be a requirement.

What are typical A level subject choices alongside Politics?
History, English Language, Economics, Sociology, Geography, Philosophy.

Do I need to take another subject to support my study of Politics?
No, however there are some parallels with History A level which can be beneficial.

What subject related extracurricular opportunities are offered at A level?
A weekly politics forum is available to discuss the latest developments in the UK and abroad with other members of the school community. Opportunities to visit Parliament and attend party conferences as well as hosting political figures here at the school for Q&A sessions are some of the opportunities offered at Wirral Grammar School for Boys.

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How might Politics help me in my next steps / university / career planning?

Studying politics enables you to develop specific subject knowledge, such as how different political systems work, how institutions such as Parliament and Congress operate and enables you to interpret global political issues and events. Politics gives you many useful transferable skills for the next pathway including:

- The ability to research, source and examine information thoroughly.
- The ability to critically analyse evidence and construct coherent arguments.
- Excellent written, presentation and oral communication skills.
- Intellectual independence and autonomy.
- Teamworking skills.
- IT skills.
- A flexible and open-minded approach to work.
- Self-motivation and self-reliance.
- A creative approach to problem solving.
- Organisational and time management skills.

A degree in politics can lead to a career in many different sectors. If you become an MP, you could represent your constituents and progress to party whip or leader, a committee chair, cabinet minister, or even prime minister! Or you could work in business, diplomacy, the civil service. or human resources, among other things.

Other helpful information about studying Politics

- Politics saw the largest year-on-year increase of all A-level subjects in the UK, with entries up 11.9% this year compared with 2025.
- Politics is one of the fastest-growing A-levels – up 81% in the UK since 2010.
- 12,258 Politics related vacancies in the past year (A 5.01% projected growth over next eight years).
- Average salary £64,446. Up to £143,081.
- According to the Political Studies Association (PSA) Report, 55.5% of graduates enter full-time work, 7.2% work part-time, and 11.6% pursue further study. 74.8% of employed politics graduates work in professional-level roles.