



Why study Government & Politics?

Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A level Government & Politics. There is no denying that it is one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps the student to understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debating skills. It also helps the individual grow in confidence. It is an ideal subject if considering studying politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

Why study Government & Politics at Hackney New Sixth Form?

Government & Politics teachers (in addition to those within the History Department) have the skills, experience and deep subject knowledge as well as charisma, to make this an accessible, intellectually challenging and hugely enjoyable learning experience. Students will have access to magazines and journals, participate in debates and talks by guest speakers from the worlds of politics and journalism and have the opportunity to take part in many visits and trips. Teaching staff will deliver, with real interest and precision, the following key elements of the A level course:

There are three broad areas of study in this specification:

- the government and politics of the UK
- the government and politics of the USA, and comparative politics
- political ideas.

The specification requires in depth study of UK and US government and politics. Comparisons across the two political systems are required in the topic entitled Comparative Politics. Students will be required to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics. This will ensure that students develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, political institutions and political processes. The political ideas to be studied have relevance to both of the systems of government and politics. The study of the four ideologies will enhance the students' knowledge and understanding of politics, political debate and political issues in both the UK and the USA. Furthermore, students will enhance their personal development and demonstrate the following key skills:

- to comprehend and interpret political information
- to critically analyse and evaluate the areas of politics studied
- to construct arguments and explanations leading to reasoned conclusions
- to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of the areas of politics studied
- to construct and communicate arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence
- to use appropriate political vocabulary
- to make connections between the different areas of politics studied
- to make comparisons across two political systems

The Examination Board that we will be following will be AQA.

Entry Criteria: Grade 6+ in GCSE History (if taken) or a 6+ in another GCSE Humanities subject. Grade 5+ in GCSE English Language

How will I be assessed?

A level Unit 1: Government and Politics of the UK	Government and Politics of the UK Written Examination: 2 hours	Mixture of medium length explain and essay questions 77 marks 33% of A level
A level Unit 2: Government and Politics of USA - Comparative Politics	Government and Politics of USA - Comparative Politics Written Examination: 2 hours	Mixture of medium length explain and essay questions 77 marks 33% of A level
A level Unit 3: Political Ideas	Political Ideas Written Examination: 2 hours	Mixture of medium length explain and essay questions 77 marks 33% of A level

