



Politics

Exam Board: WJEC

If you are interested in developing a broad knowledge and understanding of the political system of the UK then you should study Politics. The skills remain with you for life: the ability to explain; to research independently; to think critically. These can be applied in other areas, not just obvious career options such as Law, Politics or Journalism. Most importantly, you gain an ability to make sense of events in an ever-changing world.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- A minimum of 6 A* to C grades at GCSE with a grade **B** or above in English.
- If you have any queries, please contact Mrs N Clarke (Subject Leader).

The AS course

At AS learners will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the political system of Wales and the UK, through the study of two compulsory units. The first unit focuses on the process of government, looking at parliamentary structures, core executives and multi-level governance in both Wales and the UK as a whole. The second unit focuses on participation and voting behaviour, electoral systems, political parties and pressure groups/protest.

Government in Wales and the United Kingdom 20%

Unit 1 serves as an introduction to how Wales and the UK is governed today. Through the study of the Constitution; National Assembly and Parliament; Welsh and UK Government; The Supreme Court and the EU, learners will be able to discuss, analyse and evaluate the key themes, issues and debates surrounding governance in Wales and the UK.

Living and participating in a democracy 20%

Living and participating in a democracy Unit 2 is an introduction to the concept of active citizenship; the rights and responsibilities of citizens, some of the ways in which citizens can participate in a democracy and the importance of citizen engagement. Learners will be able discuss, analyse and evaluate the key themes, issues and debates, and it is expected that learners will investigate contemporary developments and examples.

The A2 course

Political concepts and theories 30%

Political concepts and theories Unit 3, political concepts and theories, involves the study of political theories and their application. Learners will develop a critical knowledge and understanding of a range of ideological traditions: liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism and nationalism, and their contemporary relevance.

Government and politics of the USA 30%

Government and politics of the USA. This unit introduces learners to the government and politics of the USA through an examination of three related themes: democracy in America, governance and participation. Learners will analyse critically the ideas and institutions that underpin the American political system. In the assessment of this unit credit will be given for appropriate references to contemporary developments, issues and debates in the areas covered.

Progression Routes

Politics is a valued qualification for an infinite number of courses as it demonstrates a wider interest and useful skills that perhaps not all candidates will possess. You will develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements. Courses with an obvious link include: History, International Relations, Politics, Law, Education, Archaeology, Social Policy and the Police.

Career Opportunities

Law, Politics, Journalism, Education, International Relations, Civil Service, Public Relations and Public Affairs.