

Welcome to A level Politics at KBA

# So, what is Politics?

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- ▶ **Politics is a subject that, more than any other, explains the society in which we live.**
- ▶ It is not an abstract subject that is irrelevant to daily life - on the contrary, politics affects almost every aspect of the world around us. Politicians are responsible for the public services we use and how they are organised and funded - the decisions that affect our schools and colleges, the NHS, our transport networks and the armed forces are all *political* decisions.
- ▶ In addition, our rights and responsibilities as citizens, the power of the state over us, and our ability to choose and influence those in authority through the democratic process - are all related to politics.
- ▶ For example, understanding the complexities of the recent responses to Covid-19 both in the UK and US require an understanding of politics - from concerns over the privacy of tracking apps and the impact of state control of our liberties in lockdown to the politics of addressing NHS resources and shortages of ICU beds, staff and PPE - or the disproportionate effects of Covid-19 on the BAME community.
- ▶ **The Edexcel A level course will sharpen your knowledge & understanding of how we elect our leaders, how key decisions are made and who makes them; comparing and contrasting where power resides in UK and American society, and examining the outlook and development of often conflicting political ideologies.**
- ▶ **Our intention is not just to make you an informed observers of political structures and processes though - it is to empower you to participate in politics and own the changes you want to see for our society locally, nationally and globally!**



## Overview of the course structure

### **Component 1: UK Politics (\*Component code: 9PL0/01)**

**Written examination: 2 hours**

**33⅓% of the qualification**

**84 marks**

#### **Content overview**

1. Political Participation, students will study:

- democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.

2. Core Political Ideas, students will study:

- conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

#### **Assessment overview**

##### **Section A: Political Participation**

One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.

All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

##### **Section B: Core Political Ideas**

One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

### **Component 2: UK Government (\*Component code: 9PL0/02)**

**Written examination: 2 hours**

**33⅓% of the qualification**

**84 marks**

#### **Content overview**

1. UK Government, students will study:

- the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.

2. Non-core political ideas, students will study:

- one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

#### **Assessment overview**

##### **Section A: UK Government**

- One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.
- All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

##### **Section B: Non-core Political Ideas**

- One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

### **Component 3: Comparative Politics (\*Component code: 9PL0/3A or 3B)**

**Written examination: 2 hours**

**33⅓% of the qualification**

**84 marks**

**Students study either USA (9PL0/3A) or Global (9PL0/3B)**

#### **Content overview**

For USA (3A), students will study:

- the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

OR

For Global (3B) students will study:

- sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

# Assessment

The A Level Law is essay based and requires a lot of reading. Students are assessed in lessons through:

- Verbal contributions including lots of class discussion
- Knowledge/ key terms tests
- Presentations
- Note and annotation checks
- Past exam questions – essay based/problem/source questions
- End of topic tests



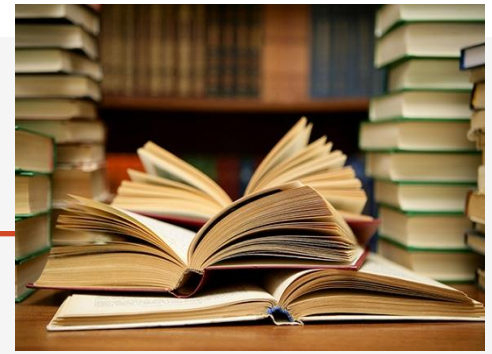
# Why study Politics?

- Study an interesting and dynamic subject that explains how the UK & the world are run!
- Study a subject that enables you to understand how the country is run and your rights and responsibilities
- Study a subject that enables you to develop a range of study & communication skills and explore many aspects of UK and US society.
- Study a subject that teaches you to examine past, present & likely future problems & developments & ideas about society, compare & contrast the ways countries are governed, to analyse & evaluate and work with others.



# Method of study and assessment

- Textbook for reference and independent note taking
- Internet, other books, podcasts, video, news and newspaper articles for wider research
- Essay/source stimulus questions for each topic
- Retrieval of powerful knowledge tests for each topic
- Discussing and debating key issues & developments
- Presentations
- Mock Exams
- Accessing political inputs from the local & national political groups & organisations



## Key Skills needed

## Communication – written and verbal

## Ability to identify issues and analyse situations

## Mastery of detail

## Ability to summarise reading

## Ability to formulate reasoned arguments

**Ability to revise effectively and retain detailed information – good memory recall skills**

## Ability to problem solve & think critically

## Ability to work as part of a team

## Independent learning skills

**Interest in current affairs & curiosity!**



# Transition Work...

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## TRANSITION PACK & VARIED TASKS

**RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET & IN THE MEDIA – AWARENESS OF CURRENT AFFAIRS & ISSUES IN BRITISH, US & GLOBAL POLITICS**

**FOR THE FIRST LESSON BACK IN SEPTEMBER.**





**POLICE**



**THE LAW**



**POLITICAL  
RESEARCHER**



**TEACHING/  
EDUCATION**



**JOURNALISM**

## Careers involving Politics



**SOLICITOR**



**BUSINESS**

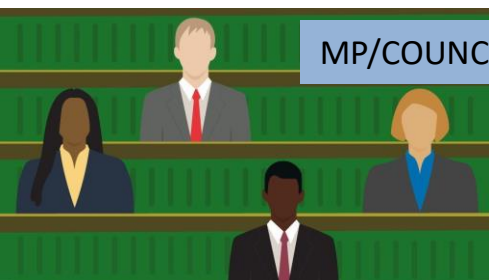


**CIVIL SERVICE/ LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**



**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**MP/COUNCILLOR**



**SOCIAL WORKER**

