



# A Level POLITICS

## What will I be studying?

A Level Government and Politics is a two-year course which covers all aspects of the political life of the UK and USA.

YEAR 1 and 2		
The United Kingdom		
Political Participation	Political Institutions	Core Ideologies
The USA		
Constitution and the presidency	Supreme Court and Civil Rights	US Congress and Federalism.



### **EXAM BOARD**

EDEXCEL specification:  
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

# What is the detail of the course in the Lower 6<sup>th</sup>?

## **Part A**

- Democracy and Political Participation
- Party Policies and Ideas
- Elections
- Pressure Groups

A) Areas are studied which deal with how individuals and groups participate and exert political pressure through the political and constitutional institutions of the UK.

*Questions addressed include:*

*Who are the Political parties? What is the significance of referenda in the political life of the UK? What is the influence of the media in UK Politics?*

## **Part B**

- The Constitution
- Parliament
- The Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The relationship between the different branches of government- Judiciary, legislative and Executive

B) The Political institutions in the UK and how each works. The respective roles of the PM and Cabinet, Parliament and the Judiciary as well as the definition and place of the Constitution.

*Questions addressed include:*

*Has the reform of the Constitution gone far enough? Who has power within the existing Constitution? Why do Judges decisions appear increasingly political? Who makes the Law?*

## Part C

Core Political Ideologies:

Liberalism

Conservatism

Socialism

Additional Ideology: (a choice of 5)

- C) The core ideas and political aspects of these systems of thought. Tensions within the systems between rival explanations. The key ideas of the range of thinkers associated with this area of theory.

***Questions addressed include:***

*What are the core ideas and principles of these political ideas?  
How do they explain the relationship of human nature and the  
state and society? What is the role of the economy in Politics?*

# What can I do to prepare for Politics?

**To succeed in Politics at A Level you must have an understanding of what is happening in the news. There are many ways in which you can keep up with current affairs in politics:**

<b>WATCH</b>	The Andrew Marr Show, BBC1 Sunday 9am Have I Got News For You, BBC1 Friday 9pm Prime Minister's Questions, <a href="http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/">http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/</a> Wednesday 12pm
<b>VISIT</b>	The Houses of Parliament <a href="http://www.parliament.uk">http://www.parliament.uk</a> The Supreme Court <a href="http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk">http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk</a>
<b>LISTEN</b>	Weekly Politics Review podcast <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4">http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4</a>
<b>READ</b>	Politics website <a href="http://www.politics.co.uk/">http://www.politics.co.uk/</a> BBC News website <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics</a> Sky News website <a href="http://news.sky.com/skynews/Politics">http://news.sky.com/skynews/Politics</a>
<b>TWITTER</b>	Follow: @Politics_co_uk, @BBC Politics, @politicshome, @Number10gov, @UK Parliament, @bbcdemlive

# Log book

**Over the Summer you must keep a record EACH WEEK of the top political news stories. There is no excuse for missing a week with all the different media you have available!**

**You must record all work completed on the following sheets and hand one copy into Mr Hart, Director of Sixth Form, and one to Mr Mitchell in the first week of term. An example entry has been done for you.**

Date	Medium(s) used	What learnt
8-14 June	Podcast, BBC news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MPs mourn the death of Charles Kennedy, ex-leader of the Liberal Democrats.</li><li>• Cameron says he will sack any Conservative MP who doesn't vote for the EU referendum bill.</li><li>• Andy Burnham tops poll of who most likely to be the next Labour leader.</li><li>• Zac Goldsmith to run for London mayor.</li><li>• Harriet Harman tells Cameron to stop gloating about the election and have 'a bit more class' during Prime Minister's Questions.</li></ul>

Date	Medium(s) used	What learnt
3-9 July		
10-16 July		
17-23 July		

Date	Medium(s) used	What learnt
24 July- 30 July		
31 July-6 Aug		
7-13 Aug		

Date	Medium(s) used	What learnt
14-20 Aug		
21-27 August		
28 Aug- 3 Sept		

# Challenge and Extension

**Working independently is an essential skill in order to succeed at A Level and University. The step up to A Level from GCSE is a large one which requires you to develop the skills of research and self-motivation.**

**The extension tasks are designed to extend and develop your knowledge. Our experience shows that those girls who begin to work independently gain better grades at A Level so start NOW!**

<b>WATCH</b>	The Politics Show, BBC1 Sunday 12pm Question Time, BBC 1 Thursday 10:35pm
<b>LISTEN</b>	Today in Parliament podcast <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4">http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4</a>
<b>READ</b>	An introduction to British Politics, Tony Wright A History of Modern Britain, Andrew Marr The Rise of Political Lying, Peter Osborne