

Politics



at RHB Sixth Form

A Level Politics (Edexcel 9PL0)

Exploring both the UK and American systems, with three examined components, the course aims to create independent learners, critical and reflective thinkers, and confident communicators — all personal assets that make students stand out as they progress to higher education and the workplace.

Available as
AS Level

“Studying Politics made me so much more aware of the news and the political debates happening all the time. It really challenged my opinions. I learnt how governments work and how people can influence change”

Aliya, Class of 2025, currently studying Law at Newcastle University

COURSE OUTLINE

For our **Edexcel Politics A Level** we have three examined components which together cover the principles and practice of politics in the UK, the development of major political ideas, and the comparison of Britain with either the United States or the wider global system.

Critical evaluation of political systems, the ability to interpret and assess data, and the development of clear, coherent arguments are central to assessment. All three components are examined at the end of Year 13, each contributing equally to the final A Level grade.

It is possible for students to take the AS Politics qualification at the end of Year 12. Students following this course will take exams in Component 1 (UK Politics) and Component 2 (UK Government) only.

UK Politics

Component 1 – 33%

This unit introduces students to the foundations of British democracy. Topics include the role of elections and referendums, political parties, pressure groups and protest movements, and the influence of the media on voting behaviour. Assessment is by a combination of short evaluative responses and longer essay questions.

UK Government & Political Ideas

Component 2 – 33%

Here students explore how Britain is governed: the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the judiciary. Alongside this, A level students study core political ideas — Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism — plus one additional ideology chosen from Feminism, Nationalism, Multiculturalism, Ecologism or Anarchism. Students are assessed through source-based analysis and evaluative essays. AS Level students only study the UK Government part of this component without the ideologies.

Comparative Politics

Component 3 – 33%

In Year 13, A level students broaden their horizons by studying US Politics: the Constitution and federalism, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, civil rights, and comparative theories contrasting the UK and US systems; or Assessment requires students to demonstrate strong comparative skills and to construct synoptic essays.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE TAKE ME?

Further Education

Many of our students go on to study Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Law, International Relations or History at university.

Careers:

Politics is a highly regarded subject that leads to a wide variety of professional careers, most notably law, journalism and the media, public policy, government, diplomacy and the charity sector.

Enrichment

Students are encouraged to join the Politics Society which collaborates with the Baldwin School, Philadelphia. We also attend the annual Politics Conference in Westminster Hall and organise outside speakers such as our local MP, councillors and political candidates.



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