

Examination Board

Edexcel

Specific Course Requirements

Whilst we wouldn't expect you to have an in-depth knowledge of Politics, we would expect you to be interested in political issues, eager to find out more and willing to work hard to meet the demands of a challenging course. Students will complete a lot of written work, which is why, in addition to the School's general GCSE requirements, anyone wishing to take this course must have a level 5 in both English Language and Literature. If you have studied History at GCSE, we would expect a Grade 'B' for that too.

Course Content

Year 12

The first year in Politics covers all aspects of the British political system. Why are fewer people voting in elections and what can we do about it? What exactly do the Labour and Conservative parties stand for? How effectively are our civil liberties protected in the UK?

Topics covered include:

- Democracy and Political Participation
- Party Policies and Ideas
- Elections
- The UK Constitution
- Parliament

We also examine core political ideas, the philosophies underpinning political thought. We study three core ideas: Liberalism (Individuals are the most important thing), Conservatism (Preserving the status quo is the most important thing) and Socialism (Society is the most important thing). We also consider an additional ideology: anarchism (Having no government is the most important thing).

Year 13

The second year of the course enables students to develop a comparative perspective through an exploration of the American political system. Why do Americans fiercely guard their 'right to bear arms'? Why can't Congress get anything done and is the Tea Party to blame? How effective is the Supreme Court at protecting rights and liberties? What was the secret of Barack Obama's electoral success – and will Trump make it to 2020? Is affirmative action an effective way of overcoming racial inequality?

Topics covered include:

- The US Constitution
- Elections and Voting
- Political Parties
- Congress
- Presidency
- The Supreme Court

Who is suitable for this course?

If you enjoy following current affairs, sharing your opinion, and having heated discussions with your friends, then this course could be for you. You must have an open mind, be able to listen to the views of others and be willing to complete a lot of detailed written work.

How will I be assessed on this course?

This is a 2 year, linear, A level qualification. At the end of the course there will be three essay based examinations, each lasting 2 hours

What could I do with a qualification in this subject?

Politics at JFS has always been very popular and our results are outstanding. The subject is highly regarded by universities and many of our students go on to study Politics, Economics, History, Philosophy, International Relations and Law. The skills you acquire on the course will be valuable to a variety of degrees and an 'A' Level in Politics will stand you in good stead in a variety of professions such as Law, the Civil Service, Journalism, Business, Education, Public Relations, Academia, and of course Politics itself.

The three most commonly asked questions about this course are:

Is the course entirely exam-based?

Yes.

Do I need to have studied GCSE History?

No, but it is helpful.

Will we have intellectual and ideological debates?

Yes. Lots of them!

Sixth Form			
YG	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Y12	UK Politics (Democracy, political parties) Core Political Ideas (Liberalism, Conservatism)	UK Politics (Elections, Media) Core Political Ideas (Socialism)	UK Government (Constitution, Parliament) Core Political Ideas (Anarchism)
Y13	UK Government (Prime Minister and Cabinet)	USA Politics (Constitution and Federalism, US Congress, US Presidency)	USA Politics (US Supreme Court and Civil Rights, Democracy and Participation)