

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SPECIFICATION

A Level Edexcel Government and Politics 9PL0

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

To develop:

- Knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the UK and globally
- A critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- An informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics
- An informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups
- The ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements
- An interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

- Democracy and participation
- Political parties
- Electoral systems
- Voting behaviour and the media
- Conservatism, liberalism, socialism

Component 2: UK Government and Optional Political Ideas

- The Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and executive
- Ecologism: core ideas and principles; different types of Ecologism and Ecologist thinkers and their ideas.

Component 3: Comparative Politics

- The state and globalisation
- Global governance: political and economic.
- Global governance: human rights and environmental.
- Power and developments.
- Regionalism and the European Union.

- Comparative theories.

Assessment is through 3 examinations, each representing 33% of the course. Each paper lasts for 2 hours and requires essay writing skills as well as responding to political sources. The students will follow a linear programme and complete all 3 units over the 2 years taught by subject specialists.

METHODS OF STUDY

Politics is a highly relevant guide to the students' country, their role in it and the part they can play in its future. Studying Politics will allow them to explore their own ideas and reach conclusions. We will teach students how to think, rather than tell them what to think and, where possible, classes will take the form of seminar style discussions to which they will be expected to contribute. To do this effectively students will need to learn how to analyse and evaluate, and how to construct clear and rational arguments to defend their point of view. They will develop many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication and IT, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market.

Students will be given regular opportunities to develop their essay writing skills in preparation for the final examinations. They will also practise marking and planning answers to ensure they are aware of the exam requirements.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE

Students will have the opportunity to participate in an overseas visit to America, staying in Washington DC, New York and Philadelphia, as well as a trip to Parliament in London. Lecture trips to Manchester University are also a part of the course, as is the weekly Debate Club.

