

# Politics

## A level

### What will I study and learn?

BGS offers the Edexcel A level in Politics, comprising three components:

#### Component 1: UK Politics

You will explore democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media, conservatism, socialism and liberalism.

#### Component 2: UK Government

You will explore the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches, and nationalism.

#### Component 3: Comparative Politics, the USA

You will explore the US Constitution and federalism, the US Congress, the US Presidency, the US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, and comparative theories.

### How will I be assessed?

The assessment comprises three equally weighted exams that will be taken at the end of the Upper Sixth. There is one exam for each of the three components. There is no coursework for A level Politics.

### What skills should I have and what will be developed?

Studying Politics at A level will help you to develop a range of key skills that are complementary to many other subjects you might already have studied, including History, PRE, and English. In class you will be expected to participate in discussion and sometimes present on topics. You will learn to analyse and evaluate information and build balanced and supported arguments. In addition, you will be expected to keep up-to-date with current affairs – especially news relating to the UK and United States.

### Beyond the classroom

We have a wide range of activities, guest speakers and trips, and in the past have taken trips to the legislative centres of Westminster and/or Washington DC.

### Entry requirements

Politics is a literary subject, so a willingness to read, write, argue and explain is a must. Given the contemporary nature of what we study, an engagement with both traditional and new media is essential. You need to be up-to-date with what is happening in both British politics and in the wider world, and bring your ideas and opinions of these into the classroom. It is helpful to have gained a high grade in GCSE English, along with any other essay-based subjects.



### Want to know more?

Mr Charles Pearson  
Head of History and Politics  
[cpearson@bgs.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:cpearson@bgs.bristol.sch.uk)

Exam Board:  
[www.qualifications.pearson.com](http://www.qualifications.pearson.com)



## Future opportunities

The study of Politics is ideal if you're considering studying Politics, International Relations, History, Sociology, Philosophy and Ethics, Advertising, or Journalism at university. It is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.