

A level Politics at Latymer



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Politics

What is politics?

The definition of politics as a discipline is ‘The study of power relationships’.

Studying A-level Government and **Politics** will provide insight into **political beliefs central to an understanding of the modern world**. It also develops analytical and evaluative skills in relation to interesting topics prevalent in the turbulent political climate of today.



Why study politics?

1. Ever-evolving subject. The world of politics does not stand still, and neither does the teaching of it.
2. Transferable skills. The skills you'll develop during a Politics degree course include arguments, research skills, debating, writing, speaking and listening.
3. You'll gain superior public speaking skills – and never lose an argument!
4. If you have taken a humanities subject at GCSE, such as history or geography, you'll find similar topics and issues covered at politics A level:

‘History is the Politics of the past and Politics is the History of the present’

What will I study?

AS Level

- **Component A –UK Politics**
- Democracy and Participation
- Political Parties
- Elections and electoral systems
- Voting behaviour and the Media
- **Component B - UK Government**
- Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Executive
- Relations between Institutions: EU, Supreme Court

What will I study?

A2 Level

UK Politics

- Democracy and Participation
- Political Parties
- Elections and electoral systems
- Voting behaviour and the Media
- **Ideologies: Socialism, Liberalism and Conservatism**

UK Government

- Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Executive
- Relations between Institutions: EU, Supreme Court
- **Ideologies: Feminism or Multiculturalism**

A2

Comparative Politics

US Politics

- The US Constitution and Federalism
- US Congress
- US Presidency
- US Supreme Court
- Democracy and Participation Elections
- Civil Rights

Global Politics

- Sovereignty
- Theories of International Relations
- Global governance: Economic and Political
- Global Terrorism
- Power – The rise of China
- Human Rights and International Law

What subjects does it combine well with?

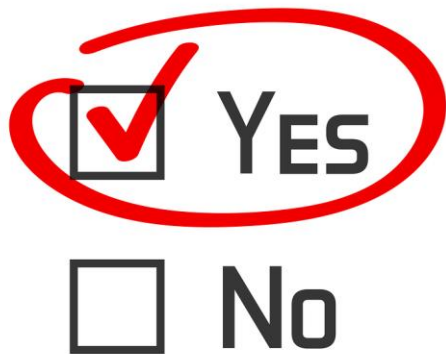
- Politics combines effectively with most subjects. A number of you may be considering taking a range of Humanities subjects.
- One myth to tackle here is that taking too many essay subjects is a bad thing. This is not the reality as developing your writing and analytical skills in one Humanities subject will help you to improve in another. It might even accelerate your intellectual progress.
- In addition to this students taking predominately science subjects have found that Politics provides an interesting contrast to science type subjects.

What kind of support will I get to ease me into A Level study?

- If you think carefully about the kind of additional support you have been given from your History teachers over the course of your GCSE then you will have an idea of what to expect at A Level. Politics teachers are always willing to see students on an individual basis if they need help.
- In addition to this if you decide you want to study the subject at university we will provide extra help to prepare you for interviews. The History Department will run revision sessions to improve examination performance.

What should I do next if I am interested in studying Politics?

- We think it is really important that you make an informed choice.
- This should involve talking to Ms Quinn, Mr Peacock or Miss Ferracane about the subject. We are always available.
- **You are the one who will be studying the subject for the next two years and it is really important that you are happy with the choice you make.**



Extra curricular activities at A level Politics

- **Politics Podcast:** formally called the People's Politics Podcast (2020) started as a lockdown project for students who wanted an alternative revision resource. Now the podcast teams produces bi-weekly podcasts on recent politics topics; themes and ideologies.
- **Politics society:** an opportunity to run and lead debates for younger years. Most recent debates have included 'Where is communism now?'; 'Neo-colonialism in a post-colonial world?'; 'Brexit and what happens next to UK-EU relations'? There is also an Instagram page to follow @latymerpoliticsoc
- **Politics Review:** An opportunity to contribute to a termly politics blog/review magazine. An excellent opportunity for students who are looking to pursue a career in media or journalism.

University destinations

- Lots of our students this year are applying for politics at university: combined honours or single. Popular choices at university are: international relations; history and politics; law and political studies; PPE; HSPS.
- Politics is also a useful A level for students applying to Law, business, media and history.



Independent Learning Skills

- ▶ Research skills are something all universities want potential students to have and they also feel that not enough students come to university adequately prepared with independent learning skills. In Politics you will be expected to do some work outside the classroom. This will range from undertaking wider reading to making additional notes. You will not be expected to do lots of these things to a very high level or in great quantities at the beginning or year twelve. Your research skills will develop over the course of two years and you will gradually feel more confident about undertaking work on your own.

We do not expect you to be the finished article in year twelve but we do expect you to be willing to develop and listen to advice on how to improve.

Reading

