

RMGS

POLITICS

A LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

To develop students' critical awareness of the nature of politics both in the UK and other societies. To make students aware of the rights and responsibilities of individuals in a democratic society and to encourage them to be active citizens.

What does it involve?

Students will develop a wide range of political knowledge which will allow them to develop:

- knowledge of contemporary political structures and issues within the **UK and globally**.
- a critical awareness of the **changing nature of politics**
- knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which **impact on political decisions**.
- knowledge and an informed understanding of the **rights and responsibilities** of individuals and groups
- interpretation and evaluation of political information to make **effective judgements**

How is it assessed?

The course is linear and will be assessed in three exams at the end of the two-year course.

Each exam will take the form of extended-writing (essay-style) tasks and will last 2 hours.

The specific topics to be covered are:

- Elections and voting (voting behavior, factors influencing election outcomes, referendums)
- Political participation in the UK (e.g., voting systems, role of pressure groups, UK rights, suffrage)
- Political parties (funding, reasons for success/failure, historical development)
- Government in the UK (e.g., British constitution, accountability of government, role of the judiciary, impact of devolution)
- The European Union
- Political Ideas (e.g., Socialism, Liberalism, Feminism, Anarchism)
- Comparative politics (comparing the UK with USA and/or other countries)
- Government and politics of the USA (e.g., The Constitution, Congress, President; Supreme Court, Civil Rights)
- Global politics (e.g., global governance; role of the UN/IMF/World Bank, etc; political and power developments across the world; globalization)

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students should have a C grade in GCSE English Language, an enthusiasm for current affairs and a curiosity for understanding how power is allocated within the world.

Why is it a useful qualification?

The course develops writing and analytical skills and provides an excellent foundation for those students wishing to study any Social Science, Arts or Humanities subjects at university. It would also give Science and Mathematics students the breadth of study which universities and employers now demand.

