



**I. Examination
board and course
title:
A-level Politics AQA**

GDA



2. Course Overview

Without us thinking about it – politics is everywhere. How many days of school are there each year? How much does the bus cost? Politics is behind all these kinds of things. But, of course, politics is also about the bigger things in our lives too: Should the NHS stay free for everyone in the UK? Why is it so easy to have a gun in the USA? Who gets to positions of power and why?

Studying A-level politics helps you to build an understanding of, and interest in, how the world of government and law works. You will study the structures of power in the UK and USA, debate current issues in the news and consider the opinions of some of the greatest political minds from history. The course enables you to engage with decision-making processes and develop your own political opinions and identity.

The qualification builds a range of transferable skills and is highly respected for future pathways, whether you continue to pursue politics in higher education and employment, or not.

3. Assessment outline

The Politics A-level qualification is assessed through three exams. Each is 2 hours long and has the same format - a mix of medium length 'explain' questions and longer essay-style questions.

Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK

Including:

- The development of human rights and equality
- The role of the Prime Minister
- Political parties
- Elections and referendums

Paper 2: The government and politics of the USA; Comparative politics

Including:

- The constitutional framework of US government
- Landmark judicial cases
- Roe vs Wade (about abortion rights)
- Brown vs Topeka Board of Education (about equal access to education for black Americans)
- Civil Rights
- Comparative politics
- Analysing and explaining differences between the USA and the UK - e.g. comparing the roles of the President and the Prime Minister

Paper 3: Political ideas

Including analysis and evaluation of great political thinkers within the major theories of:

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Multiculturalism

Extracurricular activity:

You will get the opportunity to see politics in action, with potential visits to Parliament in London and local political events in Birmingham. Through studying politics, you will directly engage with current issues and be encouraged to pursue extracurricular activities such as attending political events, speeches and meetings. Relevant work experience opportunities will also be facilitated.

4. Entry requirements

There are no specific requirements for A-level politics. However, high level reading, writing and analytical skills are expected. These can be evidenced through grade 4 and above GCSEs in subjects including English, history, geography and RE.

5. Career pathways.

Politics is highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. Specific skills which politics students excel in are debating, communication and analysis. These skills and the knowledge you develop are valued within fields such as law, economics, business, journalism, management and, of course, politics.