Formby High School
Sixth Form

A Level Politics

Why study Politics at Formby High School?

Our lives are dominated by politics. People's everyday concerns — health, the economy, crime, education, war are all, to some extent, controlled by politicians.

The course is concerned with power and how it is distributed. You will develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes.

In Year 12 you will learn about UK Government and Politics, including the UK's key institutions such as parliament, the office of Prime Minister, political parties and the UK constitution. You will also learn about what influences how people vote and the strengths and weaknesses of first past the post, the UK electoral system. In Year 13, students learn about different political beliefs and ideologies and then consider these ideologies in action. There is also a unit on US politics, which will allow you to compare and contrast with the UK.

The theoretical study of Politics is enhanced by following current affairs and having the opportunity to visit parliament.

What does the course involve?

Unit 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Unit 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

Unit 3: Comparative Politics: USA

What can the qualification lead to?

A Level Politics can help students access a number of university courses and careers. The skills developed will provide excellent preparation for a number of careers such as law, journalism, government, human resources, teaching, marketing and politics.

Politics qualifications are highly valued by a range of employers, as students of this subject are inquisitive and make their own judgements on information presented to them. They also develop strong written and verbal communication skills and are capable of working independently.

What are the entry requirements?

A grade 6 in GCSE History (if studied) or grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

Which other subjects complement Government and Politics?

- Ancient History
- English
- History
- Religious Studies

Politics also provides an interesting contrast to Science and Mathematics based subjects, offering students the opportunity to pursue a rounded curriculum.

Student Viewpoint

"At a time of such political upheaval and change, studying Politics has never been more relevant. I have thoroughly enjoyed this subject as it has developed my knowledge of current affairs and how political systems operate, including their weaknesses. It has helped to enhance my communication skills, both written and verbal. At a time when interest in politics among young people is not always high, I am delighted to have developed a greater understanding and am confident that it will help me in a variety of ways in my adult life."

Courses will require a minimum number of five students in order to run.