

A LEVEL GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Awarding Body: EDEXCEL



Examinations:

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Component 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

Component 3: Global Politics and Comparative Approaches

Course content

Studying Government and Politics at Newstead Wood involves gaining a detailed understanding of the institutions and structure of UK politics, a working knowledge and understanding of current affairs, an overview of political theory and a comparative understanding of the global politics.

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections, and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. Students will also explore the three traditional political theories of conservatism, liberalism, and socialism.

Component 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

This component introduces students to the set of rules governing politics in the UK and the UK constitution, which is different in nature from most of the rest of the world. It further introduces students to the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of government – legislative, executive, and judiciary. Students will also explore one of five additional political ideologies – at Newstead Wood we study feminism.

Component 3: Global Politics and Comparative Approaches

Approaches Students will explore the key international relations theories of realism and liberalism, making sense of power balances and state behaviour at an international level. This paper also compels students to consider the strengths and weaknesses of globalisation, the role of the state and supranational bodies, regionalism, and global governance in terms of politics and economics, as well as in terms of human rights and the environment.

Entry requirements

Grade 7 or above in English AND Grade 7 or above in either History, Geography or RPE

Future opportunities

A Level Politics is highly regarded by universities and employers and is particularly useful for those hoping to study Law, Journalism, International Relations, or Economics. It provides an excellent training in critical thought and the ability to write logically and analytically.

Students in Year 12 are invited to apply to be Subject Leaders whose role is to promote the subject across the school, mentor younger students, run revision sessions for Year 12 and speak to potential students and parents at Open Evening. In recent years the Politics Subject Leaders have run our mock elections and referendum campaigns and invited a host of different speakers to school to run workshops and debates.

Further information

Results in Politics are consistently high, and we are proud that so many students choose Politics, or a related subject, for undergraduate study. We also support students with multiple external guest speakers and other opportunities to learn beyond the specification. Past students have gone on to read Politics at Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, Warwick, Bath, Leeds, Manchester, and Birmingham.