

Politics

Awarding Body: Students follow the AQA Government and Politics AS and A2 courses.

Course Content and Examination Requirements

Year 12	Year 13
AS Level Units	A2 Units leading to full Advanced GCE
Unit 1 People Politics and Participation 50% of AS marks & 25% of total A level.	Unit 3 The Politics of the USA 50% of A2 marks & 25% of the total A Level.
Unit 2 Governing modern Britain 50% of AS marks & 25% of A Level.	Unit 4 The Government of the USA 50% of A2 marks & 25% of total A Level.

Comparison with GCSE

Although this subject can be easily studied without previous qualifications, it is vital that students have an interest in current affairs. Students should be willing to follow events by watching news and current events programmes on television, listening to relevant radio programmes and reading quality newspapers. A good standard of written English is vital and good qualifications in this subject are important, a B grade at GCSE is the minimum requirement. Students will have to undertake a lot of background reading.

Students usually have the opportunity to visit London and the Houses of Parliament during the course of their studies. Students are also encouraged to join Sunderland Youth Parliament and during election years, the local candidates are invited to school to participate in debates and a mock election is held. In 2004 and 2007 we were involved in the European Youth Parliament debating competition, issues such as immigration and global energy sources were debated. In 2009 students took part in a debate at Polam Hall School where Kate Adie was a lead speaker.

Relevance to Further Studies and Careers

This subject is directly useful for students who wish to enter careers in the media, public service and politics. It can be easily combined with History, Law, English and similar subjects at prestigious Universities. As with most degrees, a good degree in this subject is widely acceptable to employers.

Further Information: Mrs H. Smith