



Wakefield Girls' High School
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
Wakefield

Technical Information

A-level

A-level Course Title	Unit Code	Awarding Body
Government and Politics	7152	AQA

A-level Examinations:

Name	Method of Assessment	Marks
Government and Politics of the UK	Examination	77
Government and Politics of the USA	Examination	77
Political Ideas	Examination	77

WGHS Senior School

(Girls 11-18 years)
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QEGS Senior School

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Course Guide

A-level Government and Politics

Government and Politics

Background Knowledge and Qualifications

Government and Politics has been taught at WGSF for over 20 years and has enjoyed considerable academic success, as well as ever increasing numbers.

Due to the subject not being available before Key Stage 5 past academic experience of the subject is not possible and therefore all students start at the same level. However, we do expect students to have an interest in what is happening around them in the world of politics and current affairs, mainly by regularly reading broadsheet newspapers or watching the news.

A good indication of how students are likely to perform in this subject would be their ability in English and History, although a GCSE in History is not necessary to take Government and Politics. Both these subjects involve the use of sources and essay writing skills, which are transferrable to A-level Government and Politics.

Course Description

The AQA Politics course is split into 3 areas, each worth an equal weighting of the A-level.

Government & Politics of the UK

This 2 hour paper will focus on Democracy & Participation, Elections & Referendums, Political Parties, Pressure Groups, EU, Parliament, UK Constitution, Prime Minister & Cabinet, Devolution and the Judiciary. It will consist of a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Government & Politics of the US

This 2 hour Paper will focus on the Constitution, Congress, the role of President, the Judiciary, Elections, Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Civil Rights. There is also a section comparing the US systems with the UK. It will consist of a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Political ideas

This 2 hour paper will focus on Conservatism, Liberalism & Socialism. There will also be an option to study one topic from:

- Multiculturalism
- Feminism
- Nationalism
- Anarchism
- Ecologism

Lessons are taught mainly in a seminar style with plenty of opportunity to participate in lively discussions, as well as independent learning through class presentations. Outside the classroom, the department organises regular visits to London to attend talks from a variety of politicians and speakers, as well as an opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. There are also visiting speakers in school, who provide the students with in depth knowledge of various political functions.

Use of Course and Qualifications

A-level Government and Politics allows students to keep their options open – the skills taught in the subject are in high demand by universities and employees. All universities offer Politics as a degree option either as a single subject or in combination with other social science or humanities based courses. The subject would also be useful in supporting a degree application in a variety of other subjects including Law, History, English, and foreign language subjects. The subject also offers the opportunity to enter a career related to Politics (e.g. Law, Civil Service, Local or Central Government).

Many of our Sixth Form leavers go on to study Politics at a variety of different universities and we regularly have students studying PPE at Oxford.



Student Testimonial

Year 13 student
Proposed University
Course: Politics with
French

By studying Government and Politics you will not only be able to examine some of society's most pressing concerns but you will also be able to cultivate your own opinion, learn how to evaluate information and, critically, begin to enjoy understanding the world around you. It will prepare you for many forms of employment or further study as you will gain the analytical and practical skills deemed invaluable in today's competitive job market.