

A Level Government and Politics at West Hatch High School

**IN OUR AGE
THERE IS
NO SUCH THING
AS 'KEEPING OUT
OF POLITICS.'
ALL ISSUES ARE
POLITICAL ISSUES.**

What does the course involve?

At West Hatch we follow the Edexcel AS and Level Politics courses. The AS course covers UK Politics and UK Government. The A Level covers UK Politics, UK Government and US Government and Politics.

How many exams will students sit? What coursework will they need to complete?

There are two exams for the AS course which are each worth 50% of the final grade. Each exam is 2 hours long and comprises 4 questions with a total of 60 marks available per paper. There is no coursework.

At A Level there are three exams. They are equally weighted; each paper carries a possible 84 marks and is 2 hours long. The third paper encompasses questions which demand comparison of UK and US systems as well as questions on US Government and Politics. There is no coursework.

AS Level

Paper	Content	Content	Length of exam	Marks available	% of AS Level
1	UK Politics	Political Participation	1 hour and 45 minutes	60	50%
2	UK Government	UK Government	1 hour and 45 minutes	60	50%
				120	

A Level

Paper	Content	Content	Length of exam	Marks available	% of A Level
1	UK Politics	1. Political Participation 2. Core political ideas	2 hours	84	33%
2	UK Government	1. UK Government 2. Non-core political ideas	2 hours	84	33%
3	Comparative Politics	USA	2 hours	84	33%
				252	

Topics covered:

UK Politics	UK Government	USA (A Level only)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Democracy and participation2. Political parties3. Electoral systems4. Voting behaviour and the media5. Core political ideas (A Level only) – liberalism, socialism and conservatism	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The constitution2. Parliament3. Prime Minister and Executive4. Relations between institutions5. Non-core political ideas (A Level only) – feminism	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. US constitution and federalism2. Congress3. US presidency4. The Supreme Court and Civil Rights5. Democracy and participation

FAQs:

The best way to support a student who is interested in studying A Level Government and Politics is to encourage them to keep up-to-date with current affairs regularly and to discuss what they see/read with them. We recommend that all Politics students keep a current affairs diary as it is imperative that they have modern-day examples to use alongside historical examples to use in their essay writing.

Politics students often ask at the start of the course if there are a lot of debates in the classroom and the answer is yes, regularly! This is what makes it such an enjoyable and interesting subject to study. Students are encouraged to share their ideas and to challenge each other's opinions to develop their ability to formulate and justify arguments and to respond to counter arguments.

Students soon realise that this subject is different to others in many ways; primarily because it is always changing but also because all of the topics are interlinked and some knowledge of every topic is required in order to answer questions on any topic. As a result of this the Politics Department places a great deal of emphasis on revision throughout the course and supports students to identify and explain the links between topics.

The skills that are developed on this course are incredibly useful to all progression routes as students develop the ability to analyse, compare and evaluate. Such critical thinking skills are impressive to universities and employers alike. Former Politics students at West Hatch have gone onto study Politics/International Relations courses at university, but many have found that the skills were transferable and beneficial to other areas of study; such as Economics, History, and Psychology. Some students choose Politics to complement science-based or creative subjects to show future universities and employers a diverse range of skills.

Any further questions about studying Government and Politics at West Hatch should be directed to Mrs. Teplizki – eteplizki@westhatch.net.