

## Progression between Year 12 and Year 13

A-level Politics is a two year course and students continue their study of all three units across both years. We focus on UK Politics and Government in year 12 and we look at political ideologies and global politics in year 13.

## Changes in 2017

The Politics A Level is now a two year course, all examined at the end of year 13.

# Coombe Sixth Form Politics A Level



**Bethany**

“Studying Politics at Coombe Sixth Form has been an amazing experience. The lessons involve structured debates that allow everyone to get involved and voice their own opinion. The course gives you a real insight into how the world is run and the teachers provide a supportive environment. It’s the perfect preparation for a Law degree at university and hopefully a career as a barrister.”

Exam board / website: Edexcel



# Politics

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## What does studying Government and Politics involve?

The aim of A Level Politics is to develop pupils' critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes. Pupils will acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political system of the United Kingdom, and how these may differ from those of other political systems. Pupils will also acquire knowledge and informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the individual and encourage an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics. Politics is a living course and students are expected to be aware of current affairs. A key feature of A-level Politics is the fortnightly news lesson, during which pupils debate and discuss this and consider how these events fit into the course.

The Department organizes trips and events to develop your political awareness. Recent events have included talks by General Election candidates, visits to the Houses of Parliament, question and answer sessions with MPs and Lords as well as co-curricular opportunities such as participation in The Cabinet Office's Spending Challenge.

## What skills will I develop and where could studying this subject lead?

Politics is an academically respected subject which teaches very valuable skills

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such as debating, essay writing, analysing information and refining a judgement from evidence and the ability to express an argument persuasively and with clarity. The skills that are developed in A Level Politics can lead to further study in Law, International Relations, History, Sociology, Media Studies, Business Studies, Management, Politics and more at university. Politics develops skills that are relevant to careers such as Law, Journalism, Civil Service, Politics, Teaching and Management.

## Entry requirements / prior knowledge:

Students must have at least seven 9-5 grades at G.C.S.E. It is preferred that students have studied history or another humanities subject at G.C.S.E and gained at the very minimum a 6 grade. Pupils also need good literacy skills so a 6 grade or higher for G.C.S.E English Literature and Language is essential. Whilst we do not presume any prior knowledge of British Politics we do expect enthusiasm and interest, it is absolutely vital that pupils follow current political events in the news.

## Modules that you will cover and assessment details

In all three component students will be expected to use current examples to support their answers. Assessment will involve a variety of modes including stimulus response extended writing and essays. Each of the three components will

be examined by a 2 hour examination at the end of Year 13. Each examination is worth 33.3% of the overall A Level grade.

## Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

This section explores the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK. Students will explore democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour and the media. They will consider the strengths and weaknesses of current systems. Students will also study the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism; examining their key principles and ideas.

## Component 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

This component looks at how the UK government works and enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. They will study the constitution, parliament, the prime minister and executive and parliament. Students will come to understand where power lies in the political system. For this paper, students will also learn about one non-core political idea from anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism and nationalism.

## Component 3: Comparative Politics – Global Politics

Global politics gives students the opportunity to develop an understanding of

local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity. Students will study the state and globalisation, political and economic global governance, human rights and environmental policy, how power changes on the international stage and regionalism and the EU. Throughout this students will need to apply the comparative political theories of realism and liberalism to what they have studied. This unit will require students to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of global institutions such as the United Nations and European Union.

## Which other subjects does it combine well with?

Politics combinations suitably with other essay based options such as English, Humanities, Sociology or a Modern Foreign Language. It also combines very well with Economics and Philosophy. Choosing one or more academic subjects extends your ability for critical thinking and mastery of essay writing to proceed onto degree level. It also requires good personal organisation to cope with the pressures of heavily essay based subjects.

## Similarities between GCSE and A Level

Whilst there is no Politics GCSE, it is a literacy based subject so good written communication skills are essential. Pupils will be required to write well-structured essays that explore two sides of the argument, which is supported by evidence that reaches a balanced judgement.

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