

Politics

Higher

Recommended Entry Requirements

- A pass in National and/or Higher Modern Studies, a pass in National or Higher Social Subject.
- Pupils should feel free to discuss this course choice option with the Faculty or Pupil Support.

Progression through History

- A pass in Higher Politics is a very acceptable entry qualification for all university courses and is well respected by employers.



About the course

This course builds upon the principles and practices of the social studies curriculum area. Candidates have opportunities to develop important attitudes, such as respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas; and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship.

The course contributes to candidates' understanding of society by helping them to develop an understanding of political theory, political systems in the UK and international contexts, and factors affecting the electoral performance of political parties. Candidates develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political theories, systems and parties.

Course Content

Pupils will study:

Political Theory

- Concepts of power, authority and legitimacy
- Theories of democracy
- Key political ideologies - conservatism and socialism

Political Systems

- Constitutional arrangements
- The legislative branch
- The executive branch

Political Parties and Electronics

- The dominant within and between political parties
- The impact of campaign management strategies
- Theories of voting behaviour

Skills Developed

Candidates build up a framework of political knowledge and understanding through interpreting, evaluating and commenting on political issues. They develop higher-order thinking skills through research and critical-thinking activities carried out individually and in groups. This develops attributes that are important for life and work. Candidates progressively develop skills in literacy and numeracy.

Assessment

- Component 1: Question paper 1 (1 hour and 45 minutes)
- Component 2: Question paper 2 (1 hour and 15 minutes)
- Component 3: Assignment (1 hour and 30 minutes)

Related Careers

Politics, sociology, international relations, law and/or other social science courses, journalism and the media, civil and public service, social work, human relations and in the third sector etc.

Tim Farron, Barack Obama, George Alagiah and Miranda Hurt all have studied Politics at University.

