



Politics Department Profile

Department Overview

The department is staffed by two full time teachers who also teach History. We have one A Level class in Year 12 and one in Year 13. Students do not have the option to take AS politics but study for the full A Level, which they sit in the summer of Year 13.

General Aims and Objectives

The department strives to provide the best possible standard of education to girls of all abilities and backgrounds, through well planned and focused teaching. Teachers stimulate interest in the subject to encourage independent study and to enable the achievement of high grades in public examinations. Politics aims to promote students' knowledge of the ways in which governments operate. It also aims to develop their understanding of the different factors (political, economic and social) that influence government decisions and affect events. Students gain an interest in current affairs and extend their knowledge outside lessons by following media reports of political issues. They also gain:

- Debating skills by forming opinions whilst retaining an open mind
- Practice at presenting either individual or group PowerPoint presentations
- The ability to structure essays presenting balanced and well justified arguments

A Level Examination Details

Awarding Body: PEARSON EDEXCEL LEVEL 3 Advanced GCE in Government & Politics 9PL0

Paper 1: UK Politics (*Paper code: 9PL0/01)

1. Political Participation: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
 2. Core Political Ideas: conservatism, liberalism, socialism.
- Assessment: 2 hour written examination- (two 30 mark essays and a 24 mark essay)

Paper 2: UK Government (*Paper code: 9PL0/02)

1. UK Government: The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.
 2. Optional Political Ideas: One idea from the following: anarchism, feminism, multiculturalism, or nationalism.
- Assessment: 2 hour written examination- (two 30 mark essays and a 24 mark essay)

Paper 3: Comparative Politics (A Level Only) (*Paper code: 9PL0/3A)

1. USA Politics: The US Constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation, civil rights.
 2. Comparative Politics: Comparing the USA and UK Political systems.
- Assessment: 2 hour written examination- (two 12 mark questions and two 30 mark essays)



Year 12 Content

UK Politics

Political Participation: students study democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.

UK Government: Students study the Constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and Executive, relationships between the branches.

Year 13 Content

USA Politics: students study: The US Constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation, civil rights.

Comparative Politics: Students compare the USA and UK Political systems.

Political Ideologies: Students study the core ideologies of liberalism, conservatism & socialism. We do feminism as our optional ideology.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Academics from the LSE & Goldsmiths University have visited the school to deliver lectures to students.
- Year 12 trip to the Houses of Parliament & Supreme Court
- Our local MP Sarah Jones has visited the school to give a talk to students.
- Croydon Council Takeover- our students have shadowed Councillors for a day.
- Several of our students have participated in the Young Mayor of Croydon Campaign.
- Year 13 have attended the Congress to Campus conference at the Eccles Centre for American studies.