

| AS/A Level Government and Politics | Course Content | Assessment and weighting |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Year 1 A/S Unit 1 People, participation and politics. | This course will begin by looking at the nature of politics including political culture as well as the changing composition of the electorate. We then move onto look at theories and debates concerning the factors that influence voting behaviour in general elections. We look at electoral systems, first examining the U.K electoral system and the major proposals for reform. We will discuss the arguments for and against other systems as well as referendums. | Written Examination 25% |
| Unit 2 Governing Britain | This unit will allow students to assess Britain's representative institutions such as Parliament, how it works, its composition and proposed reforms. Then we will examine the personnel of the British government, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, junior ministers and civil servants and debate where power lies. | Written Examination 25% |
| Year 2 A2 Unit 3 The Politics of the USA | This will be an in-depth study of the politics of the USA. Firstly we will look at the Republican and Democrat parties as well as important pressure groups. We will move onto looking at the electoral process in presidential elections. Finally we look at political culture and voting behaviour in America and the importance of ethnicity, race, religion and gender in voting choice. We also examine why there are such levels of abstention in the USA and what the consequences are. | Written Examination 25% |
| Unit 4 The Government of the USA | This unit is concerned with the workings of American government, first looking at the constitutional framework of the USA. We then examine the three branches of government, the presidency, Congress and finally the judiciary in the Supreme Court. We review the role of the judiciary; judicial review and constitutional interpretation. We then go on to examine the recruitment, appointment and independence of senior members of the judiciary. | Written Examination 25% |

Where are they now?

NICOLE MANION (2011-2013) A levels; Government and Politics, English Literature, English Language and Philosophy and General Studies. Human, Social and Political Science at Robinson College, Cambridge intending to pursue a career in banking.

JACK BERRY (2008-2010) A levels; Government and Politics, History, Religious Studies, General Studies and EPQ. Modern History and International Relations at the University of St Andrew (2010-14) and now working as a parliamentary adviser in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Learning outside the classroom

Politics students are among the highest achieving in the college in terms of grades As and A*s and nearly all progress to top universities or superb higher level apprenticeships in law and management. At degree level, most students read Law or Politics and/or History and/or Economics but medics and science students found this A level a refreshing contrast to their other subject choices. The subject itself offers endless extra and super-curricular opportunities, offering visits to the Westminster Parliament as well as the trip of a lifetime to Washington and New York. Politics students are usually the backbone of the Debating Society and public speaking contests in national debating competitions and mock United Nations conferences like that of 2015 in Munich.

There are as many opportunities as students want to become involved in local politics and meet local MPs and councillors; many students do work experience with them to enhance their applications. We enjoy a special relationship with the University of Manchester in preparing students for top degrees at all universities on its 'pre-uni' course in the September of Upper Sixth. Politics works closely with Law to prepare students for the LNAT* entrance exam as well as helping all students with personal statements and university interviews.

Study Support

When you enrol, we'll make sure that you're receiving all the support you need, for example you may be entitled to extra time in your exams, you may benefit from working with a dyslexia tutor or you may simply need help with organising your time and many pieces of paper! As with all the subjects in Politics, Law and Sociology, academic support is available on request as are revision tutorials. Subject material is readily available electronically.

Academic Challenge

We also give important advice on degree choice after Winstanley. A key strand to our success is that we already have students at Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities who act as mentors to A level students in coaching them on personal statements and interview technique. Politics plays a key role in the HE Plus master classes we run in conjunction with Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge as well as preparing students for Law and History as well as Politics interviews. Students who do Law and/or History are strongly advised to consider this subject and in the case of potential Law undergraduates, one Politics module normally forms part of a Law degree under the heading of constitutional law.

From school pupil to Winstanley student

All we ask when you start the course is that you have an interest in current news issues. Hopefully you will have attended one of the taster days in July where you will get a feel of the structure of the lessons; few, if any, students have studied the subject before and so we invest three weeks teaching you all the background knowledge you will need. If you like current affairs enjoy debates including listening as well as taking part and occasionally watch programmes like 'Have I got News for You', this could be the right choice for you!