

# A Level Politics Edexcel

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## Why study Politics?

The study of Politics will encourage students to develop their independent research and thinking skills to consider the impact of democratic change over the past one hundred years, and how medieval society shapes the foundations of Britain today. Students will be empowered to confidently reach their own conclusions of historic political ideas based on their analysis of a range of sources, consideration of knowledge and their own personal beliefs. Students will be encouraged to actively participate in all lessons to discuss and share ideas. The skills of discussion, decision making, and analyses are all highly valued in both the working world especially in fields such as law, journalism and management, as well as in further education.

## About the course

Newquay Tretherras is embracing the changes in the A Level to explore and investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections, and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. Students will understand the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens and how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions. Finally, they will examine the role of the media in contemporary politics. It will also give students an understanding of voting patterns and voting behaviour. There will also be an American political option in Year 13: The USA has been considered by some to be a 'beacon of democracy'. As a world power, understanding the nature of US democracy, and the debates surrounding it, is crucial given the considerable impact that the USA has on UK, European and global politics, and hopefully this A level will allow them to critically analyse the political world around them.

## Year 12

In Year 12 students follow two components:

1. UK Politics: 50% of the course. This section explores the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK.
2. UK Government: 50% of the course. This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, since it enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. The component also gives students a base of comparison to other political systems.

## Year 13

In Year 13 there are three components.

1. UK Politics and Core Political Ideas: This section allows students to understand the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens. Students will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions. This component will further examine the role of the media in contemporary politics. It will also give students an understanding of voting patterns and voting behaviour.

2. UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas: There are two sections within this component, UK Government and Political Ideas. Students study UK Government and one political idea from a choice of five from the Political Ideas section.

3. Comparative Politics USA: Students will explore the US Constitution and the arguments surrounding this guiding document of US democracy. The impact of the US government on the world beyond its borders is increasingly a feature of international politics. Students will begin to engage with this interaction by comparing politics and institutions in the US with those in the UK. There are three exam papers in Year 13. Each is 2 hours long and worth 84 marks.

## Entry criteria

Students need to have a grade 6 grade as a minimum to study Politics A Level, in either English or History.

## Outside the classroom

Year 12 and 13 have the opportunity to join in department trips linked with History. There will be a chance to visit London to support the learning for both papers 1 & 3.

