



A level

Politics

### What will I learn?

A-level Politics enables students to develop their critical thinking skills and enhance their ability to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics.  
Don't be fooled into thinking that its only about *how* politics works – it's also about questioning beliefs and making judgement. Is politics fair? Is it just? Is democracy actually a 'good' thing?

### What could this course lead on to?

This course is particularly suitable for students who have studied English, History, Business, Economics and Sociology. It may also appeal to students who wish to study Politics, History or any Arts and Humanities subject at a higher level.

### Entry Requirements:

5 in English or Humanities

### Key content and assessment (Each component represents one 2-hour exam paper and are equally weighted)

Component	Description
<b>1: UK Politics</b> There are four content areas in UK Politics: 1. Democracy and participation 2. Political parties 3. Electoral systems 4. Voting behaviour and the media.	Students will investigate how people and politics interact. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties. 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. 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.
<b>1: Core Political Ideas</b> There are three content areas in Core Political Ideas: 1. Liberalism 2. Conservatism 3. Socialism.	This section allows students to explore the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.
<b>2: UK Government</b> There are four content areas: 1. The constitution 2. Parliament 3. Prime Minister and executive 4. Relationships between the branches.	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.
<b>2: Political Ideas - Anarchism</b> There are three content areas: 1. Anarchism: core ideas and principles 2. Different types of anarchism 3. Anarchist thinkers and their ideas.	Anarchism is an ideology, which has at its heart the aim of liberating people from political domination and economic exploitation. Anarchism is defined by its rejection of the state and all forms of political authority. We question key ideas of 'fairness'. The fundamentals of political thinking are questioned and nothing is off limits. Is democracy even that 'good' an idea?
<b>3: Global Politics</b> There are six content areas: 1. The US Constitution and federalism 2. US Congress 3. US presidency 4. US Supreme Court 5. US Democracy and participation 6. US Civil rights.	Students will gain understanding of abstract political concepts through grounding them in contemporary real world examples and case studies that will develop an international awareness and knowledge of multiple perspectives. Global politics encourages discussion and debate and requires students to study and present different global perspectives, as well as interpreting competing and contestable claims. The key mainstream perspectives on global politics are liberalism and realism, and students will be expected to understand how these perspectives are applied throughout all elements of the qualification.

### Course Details

**Awarding Body:** Edexcel

**Website Specific Number:** <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

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