



A Level Politics

What will I study?

Politics is the study of power, decision-making and the structures that shape our society, and this course gives you a deep understanding of political systems in the UK and globally, and the ideologies that underpin them, as you explore how people participate in politics, how governments function, and how political ideas influence policy and society. In Year 1, you'll study UK Politics and UK Government, including topics such as democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour, the UK constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and the judiciary, as well as the core political ideologies of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. In Year 2, you'll deepen your understanding by studying a non-core ideology (such as feminism or nationalism) and undertake a comparative study of either US Politics or Global Politics, covering topics such as the US Constitution, Congress, Presidency and Supreme Court, or global governance, international relations, and the role of the EU, while throughout the course you'll develop critical thinking, analytical and evaluative skills and gain insight into current political debates and institutions.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through three written examinations at the end of the two-year course:

- Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas. Topics include democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media, plus the ideologies of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.
- Paper 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas. Topics include the UK constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and executive, and the judiciary, plus one non-core ideology (e.g. feminism, nationalism).
- Paper 3: Comparative Politics. You will choose between studying either US Politics or Global Politics, comparing political systems and ideologies.

Each paper is 2 hours long and equally weighted. Questions include source-based analysis and extended essays.

What are the entry requirements?

You must have five GCSEs at grade 5 or above (including English Language at grade 5 and Maths at grade 4) to meet the general Sixth Form entry requirements at MK College, and while there are no subject-specific requirements for Politics and no prior study is needed, you should have a strong interest in current affairs, political debate, and global issues.

Where will this course lead?

A Level Politics is highly regarded by universities and employers. It provides a strong foundation for degrees in Politics, International Relations, PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics), History, Law, and related disciplines. Career paths include journalism, the civil service, teaching, political research, think tanks, and law. The analytical and evaluative skills developed are valuable in many professional fields.

What combines well with this subject?

Politics complements a wide range of humanities and social science subjects. It pairs particularly well with: History, Law, Philosophy, Sociology, Geography, and Economics.