

Other information

Varndean has a weekly Politics Society where you can hear a wide range of speakers, from MPs from all parties to pressure group activists. The department also has links to the two local universities and organises lectures from subject experts. Trips are organised to the US, Edinburgh, London and party conferences.

For more information

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A Level Politics

The decisions politicians make affect every aspect of our lives; from the subjects we study at school, to the way our health service is run. From tuition fees to rubbish collections; from immigration to transport – whatever the issue, politics is about real life. Politics is at the heart of everything we do – it is inspiring, exciting and relevant. It is never dull or predictable.

As a Politics student you will have the opportunity to study and debate some of the key issues of our day. You will learn to identify and analyse the language of Politics, weigh evidence against opinion and come to understand how your life is affected by political activity. You will soon find out that Politics is not just about men in grey suits!

What Will I Study?

Year 1

You will focus on UK Politics and Government exploring topics such as why people vote for particular parties – is it the media, their class or the appeal of leaders. Turnout in General Elections in recent years has been in decline but was very high in the Scottish Referendum – what does that tell us about participation in politics? Following the EU referendum, you'll debate the merits of this form of direct democracy and evaluate the arguments for and against more referendums.

The course could hardly be more relevant as you find out what the political parties stand for and their role in the political system and, as more citizens take to the streets, you will consider whether protest is effective and how pressure groups can influence policy. You will also examine the nuts and bolts of our political system; the power of the Prime Minister, the role of Parliament and the judiciary and the impact of the European Union over time.



Year 2

This year will build on your understanding of the UK political system as you study the politics and government of the United States exploring how the US Constitution impacts on US Government and the implications of that for the President, Congress and the Supreme Court as well as political parties, elections and civil rights. This unit also includes the opportunity to use what you have learned about the UK system to complete a comparative study.

You will also explore the main ideological traditions in British Politics, Liberalism, Socialism and Conservatism and gain an understanding of how these ideas shape modern political parties and the decisions they make in government. You will also study Nationalism and assess its impact in the world today.

A Level

Paper 1 (33.3% of the A Level, essays and source analysis)

- UK Politics
- Core Political ideas

Paper 2 (33.3% of the A Level, essays and source analysis)

- UK Government
- Optional political idea

Paper 3 (33.3% of the A Level, shorter answers and essays)

- Comparative US Politics

Exam Board

Edexcel