

Government & Politics



EDEXCEL Specification

General information:

What an exciting time to study Politics! In 2016 we saw the transformative Brexit Referendum in the UK and the USA elected its first non-politician as president. We are now on the brink of another US presidential election but this time framed by a global pandemic. What might this mean for Trump's chances this time? In the UK the selection of Boris Johnson as Prime Minister reflected that same desire to challenge the status quo but what are his chances for achieving anything during this turbulent time? A level Government and Politics will help you understand the context and consequences of these momentous changes.

Course content:

Component 1: The Politics of the UK: students will study democracy and political participation including political parties, pressure groups, electoral systems, voting behavior and the media. We also study political ideas of liberalism, conservatism socialism and feminism.

Component 2: The Government of the UK: students will study the Constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and Executive.

Component 3: The Government and Politics of the USA including a comparison of the UK and US systems.

How is the course taught and assessed?

Politics is taught by two teachers using a variety of methods ranging from teacher led discussion to student led debate and research. Students are expected to keep abreast of developments in the news to enhance their understanding of the topics covered in class. At the end of each topic students are expected to submit an essay which is completed at home. Students are also expected to complete routine homework and independent study work outside of the classroom. Assessment is by three papers each contributing to a third of the final mark. The format of these papers is largely essay based.

Entry requirements: General entry requirements to BWS apply, and in addition a grade 6 in history (if taken) or grade 6 in English Language.	Results information: Politics is a high performing department within the school. In 2020 80% of students secured A* /B	Top destinations for students: Undergraduate study of Politics related courses is one of the top destinations for Bishops students. This year, 3 students have applied to study PPE at Oxford. Ex-students have pursued a variety of career choices including BBC journalists, Member of the London Assembly and economics editor of The Economist.
--	---	---

Beyond the curriculum:

All Politics students are expected to join the schools thriving Politics Society. This is a student run society which attracts a variety of speakers from the world of politics and has included MPs, peers, journalists and academics. In 2016 the society hosted the largest Brexit debate in the South West. In 2019 we held hustings for the unanticipated EU Parliament elections which attracted considerable interest from the public, protesters and press. In 2019 we hosted yet another General Election husting. We routinely make a visit to the Houses of Parliament during the course and, in 2018, we made a visit to the EU Parliament in Brussels. In 2020/2021 we planned to visit the USA with Year 13 but greater events have intervened.