

# Government and Politics

## A Level

Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary (AS) | Advanced Level (AS)  
Head of Humanities Department – Lee Goredema

You should do this course if.....

You have a genuine interest in ideas of political participation and democracy and the role of political organisations, the nature and division of power within parliament the executive and the limits placed on power.

A week is a long time in politics' and therefore the area of political and constitutional change is a central part of this course – so you must be prepared to follow political events and discuss them every lesson in class.

Students choosing this course must also be prepared to learn to write clearly and concisely and be prepared to listen without prejudice to the full range of political ideas in the highly contentious topics we study.

Skills you will develop on this course.

The political knowledge base that will allow you to mount coherent political arguments  
Research skills, book, newspapers, journals and internet  
Clarity of oral and written expression  
Critical evaluation skills  
Debating and presentation skills  
Concise and efficient note-taking styles  
Examination skills

Topics studied.

### **UNIT 1 - (AS)**

#### **People and Politics**

In this unit you will learn how government works, the importance of democracy, the ideas of political parties and how elections work in the UK.

### **UNIT 2 - (AS)**

#### **Governing the UK**

In this unit you will learn about how the UK's parliamentary system developed, the role of the Prime Minister, Cabinet, Judges and our democratic freedoms. You will learn to assess possible reforms to the UK's system of government.

### **UNIT 3 – (A2)**

#### **Representative Processes in the USA**

In this unit you will evaluate election and voting in the USA and the importance of race and ethnicity in US politics. The key function of party and pressure groups will be explored, as will the importance of the Constitution and civil liberties.

### **UNIT 4 – (A2)**

#### **Governing the USA**

This unit will give you an understanding of the key functions of the US government including the Presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court.

# Government and Politics

## A Level

### How will you learn?

Highlighting handouts; taking notes from presentations, textbooks, video or dictation; group research and presentations; using pasts A level stimulus-response and essay questions; Library and Internet research; discussion; reading newspapers; exercises / questions set by your teacher; re-reading notes taken in class.

Once per week, two students will be responsible for leading a half-hour discussion on the news of the week, providing photocopied and highlighted handouts from key articles. All students should read a quality newspaper every day

### Where does the course lead?

A Level Government and Politics prepares students for the subjects like Law, Economics and the full range of humanities and social science degrees. Having built up a range of specialist knowledge as well as economic and philosophical insight together with evaluative and analytical skills, students are better prepared to lead a worthwhile life: "An unexamined life is not worth living" (Socrates 470-399 BC)

### Assessment and Exams.

#### Unit 1

Written exam: 1 hour 20 minutes. Students will be required to answer two structured questions from a choice of four

#### Unit 2

AS Written exam: 1 hour 20 minutes  
Students will be required to answer one stimulus based question from a choice of two. Students will then be required to answer one essay question from a choice of three

#### Unit 3

A2 Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes  
For each topic students are required to answer three shorter questions from a choice of five. Students are then required to answer one essay question from a choice of three

#### Unit 4

A2 Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes  
For each topic students are required to answer three shorter answer questions from a choice of five. Students are then required to answer one essay questions from a choice of three

### Entry Requirements.

5C's at GCSE including grade C or above in English Language.

You must be prepared to learn to write clearly and efficiently, but most importantly you must have a general interest in political