A LEVEL POLITICS
Exam Board: Edexcel

Where do I start from?
For this subject you must have a Grade 6 GCSE in a Humanities subject due to the nature of political concepts and the significant amount of specialist reading and essay writing that you will need to do. You will also require a Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature. Grade 4 in Mathematics is acceptable.

What will I study?
What a time to be alive! The study of Politics has never been more exciting. The decisions of politicians and the Government have a profound effect on all our lives. We have seen the UK vote for Brexit, we have seen Donald Trump defy the odds to become the President of the USA, we have seen challenge after challenge to the existing political establishment. Politics is the study of these and other issues and the institutions that deal with them.

The course is divided into three modules. The first, 'UK Politics', looks at political parties, voting behavior and the media, elections and electoral systems, democracy and participation and core political ideologies of Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism.

The second module, 'UK Government', looks at the role of Parliament, the Cabinet, the Prime Minister, the constitution. There is also an optional political ideology which will need to be studied from Anarchism Nationalism, Ecologism, Feminism or Multiculturalism.

The third module deals with the politics of the USA and includes the US Constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation, and civil rights.

How will I be assessed?
There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course. All students sit all three modules at the end of Year 13.

The first module is two hours in length and consists of three extended essay style questions based around quotes. Module two is also two hours long and again consists of three extended style essay questions. Module three is two hours long and includes a comparative section, stimulus questions and two extended essays on US Politics.

Literacy
Politics includes a wide range of subject specific terms that you will be expected to learn and use in both written assessment and oral work. You will therefore need to develop a glossary of key terms to use in your written work throughout the course. A successful Politics student is a student with highly developed literacy skills.

How will I study?
Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic being studied and will involve class discussion, videos, making notes, supported self-study and detailed examination preparation. Home learning will reflect the wide range of learning opportunities set on a regular basis and is used, in addition to tests, to monitor your progress.

You will be expected to make full use of your non-contact time. Politics is a highly fluid subject, and you will be expected to show a full and up to date understanding of current political developments. You will need to read journal articles and keep abreast of developments through websites such as Politico.

What does it combine well with?
Most obviously with other Social Science subjects. It also combines well with History, Geography, Religious Studies, English Literature and Drama. Indeed, there are few A Levels that this does not combine well with.

Many students studying Politics go on to study the subject at University.

Politics is a challenging A Level, best suited to students with an interest in the area and a disciplined and organised attitude to study.