A LEVEL POLITICS

Studying A-level Politics will give you an enhanced understanding of the world around you and who shapes the structures and manifestations of power. This course is perfect if you have a desire to learn the why and how of real-world events.

Level 3 · A Level (or equivalent) · Penwith College

TOP COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

RELEVANT, TOPICAL ISSUES AND CONTENT | SMALL CLASS SIZES | GAIN A GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING | EXPERT GUEST SPEAKERS

POLITICAL EXPLORATION

You will have the opportunity to understand different political philosophies and explore your own political view, and what you think about human nature, society, the economy, and the role of the state in your life and other people's lives.

STUDY TOPICAL ISSUES

You will be looking at topical issues from a range of viewpoints, sharing and debating those views with your classmates, some of whom you will agree with, and some you will not. A Level Politics is a constantly changing subject that will help you to understand what is going on behind the headlines both in the UK and globally.

POLITICAL COMPARISON

Politics draws on a variety of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. It helps students to understand abstract political concepts by grounding them in real world examples and case studies, and also invites comparison between such examples and case studies to ensure a transnational perspective.

WHY CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

The course gives you an understanding of British politics to begin with and an introduction to the key ideologies in politics. In the 2nd year you study global politics and so examine the key concepts of the course focusing on how they operate on the macro level between states and intergovernmental organisations. Politics is constantly changing, and you will be required to keep abreast of those changes; this makes politics a dynamic and interesting subject. This, combined with the course content, will enable you to reflect on your own political beliefs in a structured and rigorous way.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

UK Politics - We start by discussing what democracy means and assessing whether it could be improved and reformed. You will learn many new concepts as you progress such as the meaning of direct democracy, liberal democracy, power and participation and whether voting really counts! From this introduction you will move to analysing political parties' ideals and policies and why parties differ from each other in their approaches. You will also study the election systems used in the UK and find out why there are debates about reforming the election system for Parliament. As the number of voters is falling over time you will look at alternative forms of political activity such as pressure groups, direct action and discuss whether there is a participation crisis in Britain. Once you have completed the first unit of study regarding participation in democracy you will be introduced to how government operates in Britain and how well it performs. This involves debates about the 'presidential' approach taken by Prime Ministers and an analysis of whether Parliament

performs its functions adequately. We then turn our attention to the role of the courts and how well judges uphold civil liberties and discuss the nature of the UK Constitution.

WHERE WILL IT TAKE ME?

A qualification in Politics is highly valued by many universities and employers alike. The subject is also an excellent complement to many courses, such as History, Sociology, Law, Philosophy, Medicine, Economics and English. Many careers value experience in Politics, from the broadcast media to the diplomatic service. Furthermore, the civil service, local councils, legal firms, armed forces, and other employers welcome those with an A-level in Politics direct from college.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language/Literature or a Grade 6 in a Humanities subject. We have noticed that students who get a Grade 5 or above in Maths tend to do better on the course. Even more significant is a desire to inform yourself about political issues, as is a willingness to discuss, debate and examine current events in detail and also to be able to write quickly and concisely.

IMPORTANT

Course information can change. Please use the QR code below for the current assessment arrangements, entry requirements and start dates.