



The Royal School

Wolverhampton

Curriculum 2024

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Curriculum 2024 Politics

Politics curriculum intent

As of September 2024, it has been decided to change examination board from AQA to Edexcel. This will apply only to the incoming Y12; the AQA syllabus will continue for the incoming Y13. The rationale behind the change is the need to ensure curriculum accessibility for MPA and LPA students. Edexcel student material – especially the textbook – is better set out and generally more effective at putting across the more complex concepts.

Whilst following the guidelines of both exam boards, we aim to offer students the skills to analyse current events and to develop research, written communication and debating skills.

Specifically we aim to ensure all students:

- Have good understanding of the political systems, ideologies and processes in the UK and USA.
- Acquire a wide knowledge of current and recent political events.
- Write clearly, accurately, and coherently in order to utilise their knowledge and understanding.
- Have confidence in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating their knowledge to others and participating in debates.

Politics curriculum implementation

In Politics we teach five lessons per week at KS5. Our curriculum is implemented in many ways including taught lessons and out of class experiences such as the visit to the Houses of Parliament. Our curriculum is structured in learning cycles. Each cycle lasts for seven weeks and includes at least one assessment followed by a review where re-teaching or 'stretch and challenge' opportunities, tailored to the needs of the students, can take place. There are five learning cycles per year.

Each lesson follows The Royal lesson structure below:

- Date and learning question.
- Review questions as bell work and answers to be self-assessed or peer assessed.
- Homework set at start of lesson.
- The learning journey shared including lesson objectives and success criteria.
- Challenge tasks set every lesson.
- Review learning objectives at end of lesson.

Politics curriculum impact

The impact of our curriculum can be evaluated in many ways using both quantitative and qualitative data indicating how ready students are for the next stage in their learning. This is applied whether that is the transition between year 12 to 13 or students leaving for universities, apprenticeships, or work at the end of sixth form.

This includes an assessment of:

- The progress of students between individual learning cycle assessments.
- The number of students achieving the national average or higher at the end of their key stage indicating their readiness to move forward with the next stage of their learning journey.
- The number of students opting for Politics or similar subjects at university.

Politics Learning Journey

British political systems
and the British Constitution.

Democracy and
participation in the UK.

Political parties and
pressure groups.

Liberalism

Conservatism

Socialism

MID-SIXTH FORM SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Government and politics of
the USA.

Comparative politics
between UK and USA.

Feminism

Anarchism

Final Exam
Paper One

Final Exam
Paper Two

Final Exam
Paper Three

Politics Curriculum Map 2024-25

	Year 12: Edexcel	Year 13: AQA
Learning Cycle 1	<p>Paper 1 – Democracy and Participation: Current systems of democracy in the UK Widening the franchise Pressure groups and other influences</p> <p>Paper 2 – What are ideologies? Classical Liberalism, Modern Liberalism, Core ideas and principles, Different views and tensions within Liberalism</p>	<p>Paper 1 – British Politics Elections and Referendums: Main UK Electoral Systems, Evaluation of different electoral systems, Factors affecting voting behaviour, Key election case studies, Referendums, their advantages and disadvantages</p> <p>Paper 1 – Political Parties: Origins, development, policies and funding, the relationship between politics and the media.</p> <p>Paper 2 – Revision and review – essay practice</p> <p>Paper 3 - Anarchism</p>
Learning Cycle 2	<p>Paper 1 – Political Parties: The functions and features of political parties, Established political parties, Emerging and minority parties, Political parties in context</p> <p>Paper 2 – Conservatism – Core ideas and principles, Differing views and tensions within conservatism</p>	<p>Paper 1 – Pressure groups – Main categories and functions, Impact of pressure groups on democracy, Relationship between pressure group methods and success</p> <p>Paper 2 – Revision and review – essay practice</p> <p>Paper 3 - Anarchism</p>
Learning Cycle 3	<p>Paper 1 – Electoral systems: Elections in the UK, Different electoral systems, Referendums</p> <p>Paper 2 – Socialism: Revolutionary socialism, Evolutionary socialism, Core ideas and principles, Differing views and tensions in socialism</p>	<p>Paper 2 – Comparison between UK and USA.</p> <p>Paper 3 – Anarchism.</p>

<p>Learning Cycle 4</p>	<p>Paper 1 – Voting behaviour and the media: Social and political factors, Media influence, Election case studies</p> <p>The Constitution: The UK constitution and its development since 1997, The impact of devolution on the UK</p>	<p>Revision for all papers, with focus on using examples and exam technique.</p>
<p>Learning Cycle 5</p>	<p>Paper 1 – Parliament: The origin and development of the UK Parliament, composition of the House of Commons and its functions, Composition of the Lords and its functions, Comparative powers of both and how Parliament interacts with the executive.</p> <p>The Prime Minister and the executive: Structure, role and powers of the executive, Ministerial responsibility, Prime Minister and the Cabinet</p>	<p>A level/BTEC exams followed by University bridging work.</p>

Politics Assessment Calendar 2024-25

	Year 12	Year 13
Learning Cycle 1	<p>Learning Cycle Assessment: Week Beginning 5th October British Constitution and Liberalism</p> <p>Data Drop 7 October</p>	<p>LC Assessment: WK Begin 5th October: USA Constitution and Feminism</p> <p>Data Drop 19th October</p>
Learning Cycle 2	<p>LC Assessment: WK begins 20th November UK Politics and Conservatism</p> <p>Data Drop 7th December</p>	<p>LC Assessment: WK begins 13th November Comparative USA and UK; Anarchism</p> <p>Data Drop 30th November</p>
Learning Cycle 3	<p>Mock Exams: WK Begin 22nd February UK Democracy and Participation and Neo-Conservatism</p>	<p>Full Report 1st February</p> <p>Full Mock Exam TBC</p>
Learning Cycle 4	<p>LC Assessment: WK Begin 15th March: UK case studies and Classical Socialism</p> <p>Data Drop 22nd March</p>	<p>Revision exam questions.</p>
Learning Cycle 5	<p>WK Begin 7th June: Full Mock Papers One and Two</p> <p>Full Report 28th June</p>	<p>Final A level exams</p>

KS5 Assessment Criteria

AQA A-level exams in Politics include questions that allow students to demonstrate their ability to:

- Recall information.
- Draw together information from different areas of the specification.
- Apply their knowledge and understanding in practical and theoretical contexts.
- Our A-level exams in politics include three broad question types.

12 mark questions require students to explain and analyse different political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues prescribed in the specification. Students are required to develop and substantiate at least three points in a structured, analytical answer, making use of appropriate political vocabulary and examples to substantiate their answer.

25 mark extract based questions require students to comprehend and interpret the argument(s) contained in political information, using their knowledge and understanding of the issue to analyse and evaluate the argument(s) put forward. The answer should be balanced, maintain a sustained line of reasoning and lead to a reasoned conclusion, communicated with relevance, clarity and coherence. The political information used in exams may take the form of political publications, government publications, newspaper extracts, manifestos, visual material and data.

30 mark essay questions require students to analyse and evaluate a given statement using their knowledge and understanding of the issue under discussion. The question may draw from different sections of the specification, requiring students to identify and substantiate parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics studied. The answer should take the form of a structured and balanced argument, maintaining a sustained line of reasoning, communicated with relevance, clarity and coherence and leading to a reasoned conclusion. The 25 mark essay questions for comparative politics (component 2, section C), will require students to make explicit comparisons between UK and US government and politics.

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all A-level Politics specifications and all exam boards. The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.
- AO2: Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.
- AO3: Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx %)			Overall weighting (approx %)
	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	
AO1	30-40	30-40	30-40	30-40
AO2	35-45	35-45	35-45	35-45
AO3	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35
Overall weighting of components	33⅓	33⅓	33⅓	100