



The Cardinal Wiseman Sixth Form **A Level course 2017-19**

Politics

Entry Requirements:

Students wishing to study Politics at A Level need to have 6 GCSEs A*- C, including a grade 6 in GCSE English Language. A GCSE grade C in History is desirable but not essential.

Students must have an interest in current political affairs in Britain and the USA. They will be expected to supplement learning in class with independent research and wider reading. Students will also attend compulsory university-style tutorial sessions at school. A rich variety of extra-curricular activities and trips will be arranged. Political issues will be discussed at the school's Debating Club, at which attendance by Politics students is strongly encouraged.

What will I study?

Politics is a reformed subject from September 2017. We will choose from either the AQA or Edexcel Exam Board. The subject content will cover: Government in the UK, Political participation in the UK, The European Union, Political ideas, and *either* Comparative politics: government and politics of the USA *or* global politics.

Politics A Level provides students with enhanced writing, research and communication skills, while allowing them to develop and challenge arguments logically and coherently. The development of these essential life skills makes Politics an excellent choice for those seeking an academic KS5 subject.

Above all, an interest in current affairs and issues of political significance is essential. Politics affects every aspect of our daily lives and also the future of our country and the world. Among other topics, students taking the new Politics A Level will learn about the key ideologies underpinning British politics. Politics is a well-respected academic subject and for the right student, with an enquiring mind, it will allow you to expand your learning experience and prepare you for university study.

What are the examination/coursework requirements?

This is a two year linear course and students will be externally examined on the units.

What skills will I develop?

- The ability to articulate and explain an advanced level political argument
- Opportunities to become an independent learner through research, wider reading of the subject and written work.

- The abilities to argue and debate in a sophisticated and learned manner. These skills will then translate into written work, where a judgement may need to be made.
- Learn how to analyse the changing dynamics of modern politics
- Develop the ability to interpret, evaluate and comment.
- Develop critical thinking skills.
- Develop the ability to use the media to broaden knowledge of current affairs.

Careers

Politics is suitable for students wishing to pursue a wide range of social science courses at university, including Politics, International Relations, History, Law and American Studies. Students intending to embark on a career in politics, law, journalism, local and national government, the civil service and social research will be well suited to this course.

How will this subject help me with my future career?

An A Level in Politics will be regarded with great respect by academic institutions. Skills are learnt within the two years of study that can translate into any further study including analysis, critical thinking, in-depth reading and research. The teachers involved in running the course have academic awards in Politics.

Students who take up an A Level in Politics often combine it with History or English or one of the other humanities subjects. The skills learnt in Politics are transferable to other subjects including Law and can lead to pursuing a variety of careers including working for a political party or think tank, civil service and local government positions, teaching or journalism.

To achieve a place at a prestigious university, A Levels in more academic subjects are often sought as entry criteria. Politics is undoubtedly one of those subjects.