The Cardinal Wiseman School
A Level courses

POLITICS

Entry Requirements:

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 6 in English Language.

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. 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?

	Teacher 1	Teacher 2
Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK		
Year 12 Autumn term Year 12 Spring term	1. Democracy and participation 2. Elections and referenda 3. Constitution 4. Judiciary	1. Political parties 2. Pressure groups 3. European Union 4. Parliament 5. Prime minister and cabinet 6. Devolution
Paper 2: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics		
Year 12 Summer term Year 13 Autumn term	1. US Constitution 2. Electoral process 3. Congress	1. Political parties 2. Pressure groups 3. President 4. Judiciary 5. Civil rights
Paper 3: Political Ideas		
Year 13 Spring term	1. Socialism 2. Anarchism/ Feminism	1. Liberalism 2. Conservatism
Year 13 Summer term	Revision	Revision

What are the examination/coursework requirements?

- **Paper 1** – Government and Politics of the UK – written exam 2 hours – 77 marks - one third of the overall A Level result. A mixture of medium length "explain" and essay style questions.
- **Paper 2** – Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics– written exam 2 hours – 77 marks - one third of the overall A Level result. A mixture of medium length "explain" and essay style questions.
- **Paper 3** – Political Ideas – written exam 2 hours – 77 marks - one third of the overall A Level result. A mixture of medium length "explain" and essay style questions.

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.

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.

Students who take up A Level in Politics often combine it with History or English or one of the other humanities subjects such as Sociology. 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.