

6th Government & Politics

Course Level

A Level

Awarding Body

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE History or English Literature

Assessment

Units are all assessed with a written exam, each of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Course Description

Students will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the political systems of Britain and the USA, vital for helping to understand the world in which we live, and ideologies in action.

Students will also develop a wide range of skills including the ability to comprehend and interpret political information. They will have to think for themselves, form judgements and evaluate and analyse political issues, through reasoned argument, using appropriate political vocabulary.

A Level Government and Politics is currently being reformed and the proposed new courses are out for consultation. At first draft, the content appears broadly similar to the current syllabus below.

GOVP1

People, Politics and Participation

This unit focuses on political behaviour in Britain, exploring patterns of participation and the importance of voting behaviour. How political parties and pressure groups shape people's political ideas is considered.

GOVP2

This unit focuses on how Britain is governed, from local to European levels. The extent to which Britain regulates government and maintains the balance between individual rights and the power of the state is explored.

GOV3B

Ideologies

In this unit the key concepts, origins and differing natures of Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism and Facism are studied. Students consider and compare how these ideologies form a part of the political views of parties over the years and how they are used in modern politics.

GOV4A

The Government of the USA

In this unit students study the constitutional, legislative, executive and judicial frameworks of the US government. They will learn to debate the power and influence of these branches of government and make comparisons with their counterparts in the UK government.

Special Requirements

In the assessment of all units credit is given for appropriate references to contemporary developments, issues and debates in the areas covered. Therefore, it is an expectation that students will carry out substantial and varied wider reading around the topics being studied. It will be necessary for students to keep up to date with current affairs and contemporary issues of politics, both British and American.

Career and Progression Opportunities

A Level Government and Politics can lead to a wide range of career and university education possibilities including Politics, Law, Teaching, Journalism, Media, Broadcasting, Research and Advertising.

Link to current syllabus

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/government-and-politics/a-level/government-and-politics-2150>