

# Government and Politics

## About the course

Studying Government and Politics allows you to understand the world around you and the means by which societies function. Do you know who you would vote for in a General Election? Do you think Britain should have voted to leave the European Union? Should Scotland become independent of Britain? Do we still need political parties? Why is Donald Trump President-elect when more people voted for Mrs Clinton? Why did Barack Obama win such a landslide victory in 2006? Why is the gun culture so widespread in the USA? All these questions, which are of vital importance in today's world, are explored as part of the A Level Government and Politics course.

Ultimately, it is about the study of power. In theory, power in democracies such as the UK and USA, lies with the people. This course will allow you to discover how much power the people really have. A fundamental part of the course is a willingness to follow the news, through the TV, internet or newspapers.

There will also be the opportunity to visit the places where the news is made, such as a trip to Parliament in Westminster or there may be a visit to the White House in Washington DC.

Government and Politics is a linear course divided into three units:

**Unit 1:** Government and Politics of the UK

**Unit 2:** Government and politics of the USA

**Unit 3:** Political ideas

The subject works well with others such as History, English and Geography, but equally can offer a breadth of knowledge to those who have chosen a Mathematics and Science route through Sixth Form.

**N.B. The specification is not yet finalised and therefore may be subject to change.**

## How it will be assessed

The course is externally assessed by three examinations of 2 hours each, to be taken in the summer of Year 13, each of equal weighting.

## What it prepares you for

Government and Politics will develop excellent analytical skills and a variety of effective communication techniques as well as an ability to create and sustain a clear and coherent argument. These skills are all highly valued by universities and employers alike.



**Politics isn't only  
about government -  
it's about the people**

**Young Jeezy  
American musician**



**Level 3: A Level**