

## The Sheffield College - Politics Pre-induction Summer Project

### Welcome

Welcome to the A Level Politics Pre-induction Summer Project. This guide will help you prepare for your studies with us in September.

A Level Politics is an exciting subject because the vast majority of people do have political opinions. People often have an opinion even if they think that they are “not political”.

Government and politics affect every aspect of our lives; our freedoms, our laws, the opportunities we have to succeed in life. At home in the UK debate continues on immigration, the health services and education. Of course, there are differences of opinion on these matters. This is what actually makes it such an intriguing subject to study.

Government and Politics will appeal to students who have a genuine interest in current affairs, combined with an ability to analyse and evaluate questions logically, using relevant supporting evidence. Students will review government policies at local, regional, national and European Union levels and examine the debates and controversies associated with these policies.

In other countries people are fighting for equal rights for women, access to schooling for children and the abolition of dangerous working conditions. Find out how global politics has developed over the centuries and where we're heading in the future.

You will study the features of government and political systems at local, national and international levels. You do not need to have studied the subject before, but you must have an interest in politics and current affairs.

This A Level will help you develop a number of new skills, including how to research, how to write persuasive arguments and convey your point of view effectively, and how to work as part of a team. You'll also have opportunities to develop your debating and presentation abilities. All of these skills will be beneficial in both further study and employment

This Edexcel A Level Politics can be studied alongside Geography, History, Economics, Law, Sociology, Psychology and Business.

### **About the course**

As a politics student you will develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the UK and globally. You will also develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes, as well as develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics.

The course also develops knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups, the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements and also develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

It will be expected that you will take part in the college's clubs and societies and take a role in either representing your local community and / or college to gain experience as a position of responsibility and further develop your political industrial skills

### **Course content**

You will study 3 different sections within your Politics A Level:

Component 1: UK Politics (\*Component code: 9PL0/01)

Content overview 1. Political Participation, students will study: • democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. 2. Core Political Ideas, students will study: • conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government (\*Component code: 9PL0/02)

Content overview 1. UK Government, students will study: • the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches. 2. Non-core political ideas, students will study: • one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics (\*Component code: 9PL0/3A or 3B)

Content overview For USA (3A), students will study: • the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories. OR For Global (3B) students will study: • sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

### **Where does this lead?**

This A Level will prepare you for continued study at university degree level and various possible career pathways thereafter. The study of politics is very useful for a number of careers and is a well-established subject at the most prestigious universities in the UK. There are a variety of degrees available include specific politics degrees or politics with another subject including Global Development, International Relations, History, Philosophy, Law, Social Sciences.

The Sheffield College offer a variety of Higher Education courses including degree courses. This A Level can lead onto these higher level programmes.

It can also lead you onto Degree Apprenticeships such as Financial services professional, HR Consultant/Partner, Improvement specialist, Improvement leader, Project manager (degree), Senior leader, Senior professional economist

### **Future opportunities**

There are a variety of career opportunities including Politician, local government officer, public relations, human resources, finance, Civil Service Fast Streamer, Government social research officer, Policy officer, Political risk analyst, Politician's assistant, Public affairs consultant, Public relations account executive, Social researcher.

Other popular industries include activists, fundraisers and researchers, marketing and PR, management consultancy, youth and community work, the finance industry and academic research. Politics is a very popular postgraduate subject, and so about one in six politics graduates go on to take another course to get a Masters after they finish their degrees.

## Assessment

---

Assessment overview Section A: Political Participation One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.

Section A: UK Government • One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these. • All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3. Section B: Non-core Political Ideas • One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Assessment overview for 3A and 3B Section A • One 12-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1 and AO2. Section B • One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories, which assesses AO1 and AO2. Section C • Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three, which assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

### How to prepare for joining us in September

The Politics teaching team have developed the following task to help you prepare for joining us in September. It should take you about 15 hours to complete and the hand-in date is the first week of teaching.

#### **TASK 1**

**You work as Marketing and PR consultant for '6<sup>th</sup> Form Reform', a political group who are consulting the UK Government in preparation for Brexit. The group will be presenting information on the comparison of the powers between the UK Government and the Prime minister and the US President and want you to research the following:**

What are the different powers of the President?

Why can someone not be President if they are 30 years old, born in Italy and have lived in the US for 24 years?

What does the Executive Branch of Government do in the USA?

Briefly explain what each Department of the Cabinet do.

**You can present the information in any format – PowerPoint presentation, report, poster, etc. You may wish to use the websites below to help you find information or use your own. You must hand in your information in the first week of teaching in September.**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/the-executive-branch/>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/legislative-powers-of-the-president-3322195>

<https://www.theclassroom.com/six-powers-of-the-us-president-12082603.html>

<http://guierlaw.com/presidency-formal-informal-powers/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-government-and-civics/us-gov-interactions-among-branches/us-gov-roles-and-powers-of-the-president/v/formal-and-informal-powers-of-the-us-president>