

# Politics



## A Level Politics at Southborough 6th Form

**'One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.'** - [Plato](#)

**'Politics is the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen.'** - [Winston Churchill](#)

### Why study Politics at A Level?

Political decisions have a major influence on our lives. For that reason, it is important for young people to understand how their system of government operates. They should also be able, as informed citizens, to participate in the democratic process and make a difference when they have left school. A-level Politics is ideal preparation for those very important privileges that we as citizens of the United Kingdom enjoy.

The study of Politics is an exciting intellectual challenge where students can deploy a variety of academic skills. It involves debate and discussion, the ability to create an effective argument, to think and write logically and to make informed judgements about controversial issues. It also involves critical analysis and the ability to explain and express ideas and concepts clearly.

### What can I do with A- level Politics?

The above academic skills will be of benefit in a wide variety of university degrees. The ability to argue well, to use appropriately selected supporting evidence, to analyse sources of information, to write coherently and to reach informed judgements will stand all students in good stead at university. They will also help equip you for a wide variety of careers. In the fields of management, law, administration, accountancy, journalism and marketing, an A-level in Politics is a highly valued asset. Many employers regard A- level Politics as a very good training in the marshalling of arguments and in decision-making. It will also help provide an excellent foundation to those who wish to pursue Politics, Law, Economics, Philosophy or History to degree level.



[www.southborough.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.southborough.kingston.sch.uk)

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## Subject content and assessment information

### Qualification aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups
- develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements
- develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

The two year course is divided into three main components, as follows:

#### Component 1:

UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

#### Component 2:

UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

#### Component 3:

Comparative Politics

#### Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements to study politics at Southborough. However, students will be required to have demonstrated an aptitude for the subject through good GCSE grades in humanities subjects such as History or Geography and/or in English.

### Further information

If you would like further information, please email Mr Needs at [ineeds@southborough.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:ineeds@southborough.kingston.sch.uk) or speak to someone in the Sixth Form Team

