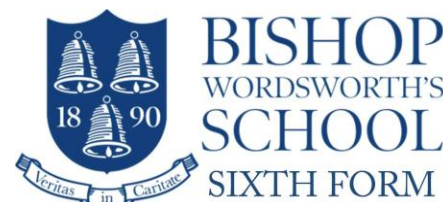


Government & Politics

Edexcel Specification



General information:

What an exciting time to study Politics! After 14 years of Conservative governments Keir Starmer became prime minister in a landslide election giving Labour the biggest majority since 1997. However, one year in and the project is struggling whilst polls show the appeal of an insurgent Reform Party. Could the political landscape of the UK be fundamentally changing? Meanwhile in the US, Trump's return to the presidency for his second term has been even more dramatic than his first. From Westminster to the White House, A level Government and Politics will help you understand how government works, why elections matter, and where power lies. Along the way you will develop skills in debate, analysis and critical thinking to help explore the people, institutions and ideas shaping our world.

Course content:

Component 1: The Politics of the UK: students will study democracy and political participation including political parties, pressure groups, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. We also study political ideas of liberalism, conservatism socialism and feminism.

Component 2: The Government of the UK: students will study the Constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and Executive.

Component 3: The Government & Politics of the USA including a comparison of the UK and US systems.

How is the course taught and assessed?

Politics is taught by two teachers using a variety of methods ranging from teacher led discussion to student led debate and research. Students are expected to keep abreast of developments in the news to enhance their understanding of the topics covered in class. At the end of each topic students are expected to submit an essay. Students are also expected to complete routine homework and independent study work outside of the classroom. Assessment is by three papers each contributing to a third of the final mark. The format of these papers is largely essay based.

Entry requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements for BWS, a grade 6 in History (if taken) or grade 6 in English Language.

Results information:

Politics is a high performing department within the school. In 2025 90% of students secured A*- B grades at A level.

Top destinations for students:

Undergraduate study of Politics related courses is one of the top destinations for students, including PPE and Politics and International Relations. A variety of careers can follow; previous students are now BBC journalists, a Member of the London Assembly and economics editor of The Economist.

Beyond the curriculum:

All Politics students are expected to join the schools thriving Politics Society. This is a student run society which attracts a variety of speakers from the world of politics and has included MPs, peers, journalists and academics. In 2016 the Society hosted the largest Brexit debate in the South West. In 2019 we held hustings for the unanticipated EU Parliament elections which attracted considerable interest from the public, protesters and press. In 2024 we hosted the largest General Election hustings in Salisbury. We routinely make a visit to the Houses of Parliament during the course and, in 2018, we made a visit to the EU Parliament in Brussels.