

Politics

Make Poverty History and the *Live8 Concert*, the Iraq War and the justification for American and British involvement; charging you for an identity card simply to prove who you are; raising tuition fees so that you now have to pay to go to university. These are some of the issues that Politics AS/A2 addresses.

By studying A level Politics you will develop a clear understanding of British and American Politics and the ideas, concepts and theories that influence such political decisions. In doing so, you will also develop your research and communication skills and your ability to argue convincingly.

Politics is a thriving subject at Reigate Grammar School and there is a lively extra-curricular programme of speaker visits by politicians, political pressure groups and journalists. In the past year, Politics students have had the chance to visit New York and Washington, the Houses of Parliament, and conferences where they have been able to put questions to Cabinet Ministers. Students have also presented news on local radio stations and observed the Channel Four News team as well as doing work experience with *The Economist* newspaper, Conservative Central Office, and various Labour MPs.

At AS the focus will be on British Politics and you will develop a good knowledge of key issues, the factors shaping the political system and understanding of the way government works. You will study parties, pressure groups, elections, the role of the Prime Minister, Parliament and the relationship with Europe.

At A2 we offer two different streams, American Politics and Global Political Issues. These look at political representation in the US, the US system of government, international and regional political co-operation, international conflict (terrorism), climate change, the north-south divide and the energy crisis.

Politics is a strong subject which can be taken successfully with any combination of other A level subjects – most commonly with History and Economics, though many students also take Politics with Maths and Science. It leads naturally to a Politics course, or PPE at Oxford, in addition to being well received by Arts and Science tutors as part of a joint honours programme.

The course assumes no prior knowledge, simply an interest in the subject and a willingness to work and to keep an eye on contemporary developments. For the latter is important to scan a serious daily newspaper each day, look out for relevant TV programmes and perhaps to look at journals in the library such as *The Spectator* or *The Economist*. In order to do well at Politics, students must enjoy thinking creatively both orally and on paper and be up to date with current events.

Exam board: Edexcel

<http://www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/gce/gvmt-pol/adv/9067/>