



Coloma Sixth Form

POLITICS A-LEVEL



“Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians”



Specification

Content and assessment overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics consists of three externally-examined papers.

Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

<p>Component 1: UK Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/01)</p> <p>Written examination: 2 hours 33% of the qualification 84 marks</p> <p>Content overview</p> <p>1. Political Participation, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. <p>2. Core Political Ideas, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conservatism, liberalism, socialism. <p>Assessment overview</p> <p>Section A: Political Participation</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.</p> <p>Section B: Core Political Ideas</p> <p>One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.</p>
<p>Component 2: UK Government (*Component code: 9PL0/02)</p> <p>Written examination: 2 hours 33% of the qualification 84 marks</p> <p>Content overview</p> <p>1. UK Government, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches. <p>2. Non-core political ideas, students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism. <p>Assessment overview</p> <p>Section A: UK Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Section B: Non-core Political Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.



Component 3: Comparative Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/3A or 3B)
<p>Written examination: 2 hours</p> <p>33½% of the qualification</p> <p>84 marks</p> <p>Students study either USA (9PL0/3A) or Global (9PL0/3B)</p>
<p>Content overview</p> <p>For USA (3A), students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories. <p>OR</p> <p>For Global (3B) students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.
<p>Assessment overview for 3A and 3B</p> <p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 12-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1 and AO2. <p>Section B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories, which assesses AO1 and AO2. <p>Section C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three, which assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

What could this qualification lead to?

Many students who have taken A-level Politics go on to study Politics at university. From there you might become a researcher, join local or national government or even start on the path to become a future Prime Minister! But there are other job options too. If you fancy a career in Journalism or the Media, this course is very useful. Students also go on to become teachers or work in the legal profession.

The most obvious career path for Politics students would be a role within the government, for example as a member of parliament (MP). MPs represent the residents of their local community in national affairs, and must first campaign to be elected, either as a member of a political party or as an independent candidate. Other political careers include:

Politician's assistant: Political assistants are employed by elected MPs to help with campaigning, research and publicity, responding to enquiries from the media, assisting with election campaigns and writing speeches.



Government social research officer: Government research officers help to inform the policy decisions of ministers by conducting research and gathering the evidence required for the government to prepare, implement and change policies. It's very helpful to have studied Sociology too, as you'll need a strong knowledge of social research.

Roles within the civil service: Civil servants help government departments or agencies to develop and implement policies on a daily basis by contributing to policy development, answering requests for information from other government departments or members of the public, generating analysis and reports, and managing resources.

Diplomatic service officer: This political career is ideal for those who are interested in foreign affairs and suits those who also study languages. As a diplomatic service officer, you'd live in another country, representing the interests of your home nation and its citizens. You'd also provide advice and support to ministers developing foreign policy.

Public affairs consultant: This role is often referred to as a 'lobbyist.' Public affairs consultants offer valuable political and public policy guidance to clients using their knowledge of the political system, as well as media resources and personal contacts. They can be employed by both public and private sector organizations, such as charities, governments and international bodies such as the UN.

Political journalist: If you've got a keen interest in political affairs, and want to be involved in providing in-depth news and analysis on the latest political events, this political career could be for you. You'll cover campaigns and debates, and offer insights on possible outcomes, incentives and trends. You might work in just one field of journalism (print, online, TV, radio), or across a combination of these.

PR Executive: As a PR account executive, you'll use various forms of media to build and sustain a good profile and reputation for your employer (an individual or organization) and their intended audience. Among other tasks, you'll plan publicity strategies and campaigns, monitor and analyse media coverage, and commission market research.

Careers in human rights and charities: If you're interested in ways to make a difference (possibly on an international level), there are a huge variety of roles available within the human rights and charity sectors: central and local government bodies; worldwide governmental and non-governmental organizations; charities, pressure groups and campaigning organizations; academia and law. You could work in communications and campaigns, helping to raise awareness about human rights issues and abuses. Or perhaps you'll be involved in managing projects designed to improve conditions for different groups of people. Other charity jobs you might be interested in include roles in policy development, public relations and fundraising.



POLITICS AT COLOMA SIXTH FORM

The subject is suitable for those who enjoy current affairs, debating and independent thought and who like an informal atmosphere in the classroom. Politics blends well with subjects such as English, History, RS, Business or Economics. It is also a good fourth choice for science students.

A Year 12 Politics Student: “Taking politics was an excellent decision. There is a really good atmosphere in the classroom and the standard of teaching means that all students are able to achieve their potential. There is discussion and debate and it encourages an interest in current affairs which is really beneficial.”

A Year 13 Politics Student: “It’s been a wonderful two years, not just because of the teaching but because we have lots of debates and share all of our different political views. It has been fascinating learning about American Politics and inspired me to do a year studying in the USA as part of my degree course.”

Trips and Extra-Curricular Activities:

Students will visit the UK Parliament and the Supreme Court in the autumn term. The Politics Society is run by year 13 and opportunities for speakers to come into the school are always welcomed. Our local MP, Sarah Jones has visited Coloma and so have members of the House of Lords through the Peers in Schools Programme.

Qualification aims and objectives. This qualification enables students to develop:

Knowledge of contemporary UK political structures & issues in their historical context.

Critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes.

Knowledge and understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on political decisions

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 judgments.

An interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

Synoptic Assessment:

Synoptic assessment requires students to work across different parts of a qualification and to show their accumulated knowledge and understanding of a subject or topic area. It enables students to demonstrate their ability to combine their skills, knowledge &



understanding of the breadth & depth of a subject. Synopticity is assessed in Paper 3 as students are required to draw on relevant knowledge & understanding from components 1 and 2 on UK Government and Politics.

Key Question Stems

- **Evaluate:** Review ideas/ issues/ information, make substantiated judgements & draw conclusions.
- **To what extent?** Weigh up different views, make a substantiated judgement & draw conclusions.
- **Analyse:** Deconstruct ideas, issues or information to find connections, similarities or differences & provide evidence of reasoned thinking.
- **Examine:** Consider an idea or concept carefully to identify why it exists.

Recommended courses for those who want to study Politics at University:

- Oxford University Department of Politics & International Relations
<https://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/>
- UCL Department of Political Science
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/political-science>
- Warwick University Department of Politics & International studies
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/>
- Durham University School of Government and International Affairs
<https://www.dur.ac.uk/sgia/politics/>
- Sheffield University Department of Politics.
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/politics>

It is essential that you read reputable broadsheet newspapers in order to keep up-to date with current affairs. You can look at articles on their websites:

- The Times: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>
- The Independent: <http://www.independent.co.uk>
- The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>
- The Telegraph: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

House of Commons Work Experience Scheme:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/commons/about-the-house-of-commons/careers-and-work-experience/>

House of Lords Work Experience scheme: <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/lords/lordshro/student-placements/>

London Assembly Work Experience Scheme: <https://www.london.gov.uk/motions/work-programme-work-experience>



POLITICS SUMMER WORK

Objective: To help you understand the current key people and issues in British Politics.

Task 1: You can't study politics without understanding the meanings of these words. Write definitions of the following:

Parliament:

Government:

MP:

Political Party:

Legislation:

Bill:

Prime Minister:

Minister:

Queen's speech:

House of Commons:

House of Lords:

Manifesto:

Task 2: The current Conservative government.

- Find out about Boris Johnson's current cabinet members (name, photo & role)
- Find out how many seats the Conservative party won in 2019. Produce a map of Britain with the constituencies they won outlined on it.
- Find newspaper articles either praising or criticising the government's handling of the current Covid 19 virus pandemic.



Task 3: Research on the current issues in UK Politics.

- Write a short biography of the Labour leader Keir Starmer.
- Find out about the policy ideas & the leaders' names of the parties in Parliament but not in government: Labour, Liberal-Democrat & Green. (Look at 2019 manifestos)
- Who are the SNP and to what extent are they a threat to the unity of Great Britain? (Write half a side of A4)
- Find what a by-election is and why two were held in June 2022. Then find out who won the seat & the significance of their victory.
- Why is there a cost of living crisis in the UK? Find out what the Conservative Party is doing to help people cope with rising prices. What does the opposition Labour party argue they should be doing?

Task 4: Keeping up with the news:

It is important that you keep up to date with the news and current affairs over the summer holidays. You should watch high quality programmes such as the *Andrew Marr Show* on BBC1 (Sundays 9.00am) *Sunday Politics* (Sundays 11am) *Question Time* (Thursdays 10.30pm), *Newsnight* on BBC 2 (Weeknights 10.30pm).

Recommended Reading- try to purchase one of these books.

- Marr, Andrew. *A History of Modern Britain*. Macmillan, 2007 (a review of politics in the UK since 1945)
- Crick, Bernard. *Democracy: A Very Short Introduction*. OUP, 2002
- Rawnsley, Andrew. *The End of the Party*. Hodder, 2010

PRESENT THIS INFORMATION IN AN INTERESTING WAY IN A FOLDER AND HAND INTO YOUR TEACHER IN THE FIRST LESSON. THIS WORK IS COMPULSORY!

Extra Suggestions for the Summer

Go to the Houses of Parliament for a tour.

Go to the House of Commons or House of Lords to watch a debate

Go to the Public gallery of the Supreme Court and watch a case hearing.

Find out when BBC Question Time will be in your area & apply to be in the audience.

Write to your local Councillor/ MP/ London Assembly member asking for work experience.

Write to your MP and ask them to raise an issue you feel strongly about in Parliament.

Volunteer with a local political party or pressure group.

Find out if any of the political parties have a youth branch in your area & go along.

Go on the 38 Degrees website & sign a petition.

