Southend High School for Girls
Sixth FORM

Course outline

Head of subject:
Mrs J Binns

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and a Humanities subject

Government and Politics

What will you study in Year 12?

In Year 12 you will be studying towards both Papers 1 and 2 taken at the end of Year 13. You will be focussing on the study of the British Political system and also introduced to Political ideas.

Paper 1 – UK Politics and Core Political ideas 1/3 of course

1. Democracy and participation
2. Political parties
3. Electoral systems
4. Voting behaviour and the media

You will also be introduced to the Core Political Ideas of Liberalism, Socialism and Conservatism.

Paper 2 – UK Government and Non-core political ideas 1/3 of course

1. The Constitution
2. Parliament
3. Prime Minister and the Executive
4. Relationships between the branches of government

You will also study Nationalism as your Non-core Political Idea.

What will you study in Year 13?

Year 13 focuses on Global Politics and global political issues which will involve a broader understanding of the world and current affairs.

Paper 3 – Comparative Politics 1/3 of course

Option selected: Global Politics

1. Sovereignty and globalisation
2. Global governance: political and economic
3. Global governance: human rights and environmental
4. Power and developments
5. Regionalism and the European Union
6. Realism and Liberalism

You will complete your study of Core and Non-core Political ideas in addition to Paper 3.

How will you be assessed during the course?

There is no coursework element in this subject. All three examination papers are two hours long and are sat at the end of the two-year course. During the two years of study there will be various in school assessments using past papers and mock examinations to allow you to monitor your progress on this course. You will also have regular end of topic tests and currents affairs quizzes to ensure you are comfortable with the course content and staying up-to-date with current affairs.

Where could this course lead?

Politics is an academic A-level, widely respected by employers and universities. The course gives students an understanding of the contemporary world and so is relevant to careers in journalism, law, the civil service, finance, marketing, management consultancy, think tanks, lobbyists, non-governmental organisations, international relations, and politics itself. This subject compliments a wide range of other A level subjects including Geography, History, Media Studies, Economics and Languages. Some of these subjects have considerable content and skill set overlap.

Further information

In Year 12 we visit the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court. The department runs lunchtime revision sessions to ensure students are well prepared for the linear examinations. It is essential to have enthusiasm for the subject. You must follow the news and be interested in it. All the examination questions involve essay style written answers so you must feel comfortable writing at length. The subject welcomes lively conversation and debate which leads to an enjoyable classroom and learning environment for all students.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments