

What are the aims and intentions of this curriculum?

The two-year A-level course is designed for students to learn progressively. In politics the aim is to enable students to write discursively, appreciating the importance of different interpretations. Students will understand that there are seldom 'simple answers'.

The intention is that they will complete the course with an understanding of politics in the 21st century. Any account of UK politics must be placed in a global perspective.

On the second year, for A-level Politics, there is new content (**Global Politics** and **Political Ideas**) and also the repetition of content from the AS Politics course, with **UK Politics and Government** now studied at a higher level.

Global Politics includes the changing world order; the nation state and state sovereignty; globalisation and global governance; development; human rights; power; regionalism and the European Union. From the start of the course, students will get used to using case studies (for example, development in India; or women's rights in different countries) to explore connections between topics.

Political Ideas continues work introduced on the AS course, where Ideas were related to different political parties. On the A-level course, the study of Ideas adopts a more explicitly philosophical dimension and students will study different approaches to **Core Ideas** (conservatism, liberalism, socialism) and **Non-Core Ideas** (feminism and anarchism).

Term	Topics	Knowledge and key terms	Skills developed	Assessment
Autumn 1	<p>In class: an introduction to Global Politics</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The changing world order The nation state and globalisation Human rights Development Introduction to political theory Case studies to encourage synopticism <p>Homework assignments (following a brief introduction in class):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source-based essay questions for UK Politics and Government 	<p>For Global Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multipolar world; bipolar world; unipolar world State classification, for example democratic state or rogue state, great power or superpower Cold War State sovereignty: internal and external Globalisation and globalism Colonialism and neo-colonialism Human rights and humanitarian intervention Power: hard, soft, smart Political theory: realism(s) and liberalism(s) <p>For UK Politics and Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and key terms from the AS course as appropriate 	<p>An appreciation of contested knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no 'right' answer: students must discuss what academic commentators have written from different perspectives. <p>Revision and retrieval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work here on UK Politics and Government is designed to support and ingrain this important study habit. Lessons will often start with discussion of a topical news story somehow related to some part of the course. <p>Global Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making connections between different topics: the first stage in learning the importance of synopticism for this part of the course. Writing for assessment: an understanding of 12-mark ('examine') questions. Example: 'Examine the implications, for global politics, of state sovereignty' – students can write responses based on their work in this half-term but will subsequently be able to write better responses based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Politics, the AS course has already given students experience of writing essays at the required level. Consequently, students can start writing essays from the start of term in September. Assessment of essay-writing: homework essays for UK Politics and UK Government. Assessment for Global Politics: for 12-mark questions, students should avoid making the mistake of thinking

		<p>(sources are produced with a view to topicality and are seldom recycled after first use).</p>	<p>on work over the course as a whole; they will therefore understand the importance of making connections across the entire course to access higher marks.</p> <p>UK Politics and Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework assignments on the A-level course will often be based on content that is no longer studied in class: this policy helps students revise content they might otherwise be tempted to put to one side. Here, in the first half-term, Politics students will start to practise writing the higher-level source questions that, in contrast to the AS course, are now essay-based. Reading sources (the selection and application of knowledge; analysis and evaluation) is now related to the writing of full-length essays. 	<p>these ('examine') questions are 'the same' as the 10-mark ('describe') questions on AS examination papers.</p>
<p>Autumn 2</p>	<p>Global Politics continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global governance (political and economic) International law Environment Regionalism and the European Union To continue synopticism and ongoing revision: topics studied in the first half-term are revisited as and when appropriate. <p>Preparation for the November Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study of global politics now includes preparation for one examination paper. This paper will have been produced to focus on strengths and weaknesses that have emerged in this term. <p>At the end of term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the November Assessment, an introduction to Political Ideas 	<p>For Global Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global governance: institutions (UN, NATO, IMF, World Bank, G7/8, G20) Structural Adjustment Programmes International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice Global warming and climate change Sustainable development Tragedy of the commons Reformism vs radicalism Regionalism: economic, political, security Federalism Intergovernmentality and supranationality Subsidiarity 	<p>An appreciation of contested knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can now move to a more sophisticated understanding of different interpretations in relation to global power They should now see the importance of considering material from any part of the course when drafting responses to examination questions Work in class will include, for example, discussion of a range of examination questions on one topic: what are the requirements of questions worded slightly differently? This work will help students refine their application of knowledge. <p>Revision and retrieval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synopticism: each part of the course recalls what has gone before and necessitates ongoing revision <p>Examination preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students should distinguish ongoing revision of work done in class from focused examination preparation. The latter requires students to address not just assessment objectives (how to gain good marks) but the need to practise writing in an examination setting. A-level students will approach examination preparation step-by-step: one examination paper in November and two papers in February. 	<p>The November Assessment: a formal examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One paper: length to be confirmed (at least one hour 30 minutes, likely longer). This examination will be discussed in class and objectives for individual students outlined.

Spring 1	<p>Core Political Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservatism • Liberalism • Socialism <p>Non-Core Political Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anarchism • Feminism <p>Preparation for the February Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In class: Ideas • Homework: Global Politics 	<p>For Political Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional and modern conservatisms • Classical and modern liberalisms • Neoliberalism • Socialism and social democracy • Individualist and collectivist anarchisms • First wave and second wave feminisms 	<p>An appreciation of contested knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding different explanations and interpretations now includes work on different theories <p>Revision and retrieval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be opportunities to consider the significance of these theories to Global Politics (eg SAPs as an illustration of neoliberalism). • Homework assignments mean global politics does not fade away. 	<p>February Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For A-level students: two examination papers • Rationale as above for the November Assessment <p>For Political Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays are shorter and therefore have to be planned differently to essays for other topics.
Spring 2	<p>UK Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy • Pressure groups • Political parties • Electoral systems • Voting behaviour • The role of the mass media <p>UK Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The constitution • Parliament (legislature) • Prime Minister and Cabinet (executive) • Judiciary • Relations between branches <p>Homework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Ideas (essays) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As for these topics on the AS Politics course 	<p>An appreciation of contested knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on theories (above) is now central to topics for UK Politics/Government <p>Revision and retrieval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Ideas remains fresh in class and for homework. <p>Examination preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of these topics must now address synopticism by including relevant content from Political Ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing for assessment now focuses on writing responses in combination, then full papers, always in timed conditions
Summer 1	<p>Final examination preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9PL0/01 includes UK Politics and Core Political Ideas • 9PL0/02 includes UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas • 9PL0/3B 	<p>TBA when we get there: based on the lessons available before examinations start in mid-May</p>	<p>Examination preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students refine pacing in examinations of a particular length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full papers