

Politics at Samuel Whitbread Academy

Intent

The intention of our Politics curriculum is to empower our students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the dynamic nature of power, governance, democracy and ideology in our societies today. We endeavour to create critical thinkers with advanced skills in analysis and evaluation.

The study of Politics will expose our students the values of democracy, egalitarianism and tolerance that will help develop them as citizens for the future. We analyse and evaluate current affairs and historical connections beyond the curriculum to enrich our students with deep and powerful knowledge. Our students read, analyse and evaluate challenging literature for deeper understanding and to develop communication skills. We offer educational visits, invite outside speakers, and organise a variety of other events to further our students' enjoyment and full engagement in Politics.

Our curriculum is structured, sequenced and resourced to provide our students with maximised opportunity to fulfil their academic potential.

Implementation

Our curriculum is structured, sequenced and resourced to provide our students with maximised opportunity to fulfil their academic potential and wider development.

In Year 12, we study two units; The Politics of the UK and The Government and the UK and Political Ideas.

The Politics of the UK is divided into four units; Democracy and participation, Political parties, Electoral systems and Voting behaviour and the media. The Government of the UK is divided into four sections; the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and Executive and relationships between branches. In Year 13 our students study the Politics of the United States and a comparative study.

The Politics of the United States is divided into six units. Two teachers teach three units each. The six units are; the US constitution and Federalism, US Congress, US Presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation and comparative theories. These are divided into enquiry questions. Each sub-section is driven by an enquiry question to focus learning. There are knowledge tests for each section, a focus on key terms and literacy, and clear and structured development of the analytical and evaluative skills needed to answer examination questions. There are clear points to recap, recall, remember and embed previous learning. A range of assessments are deployed, including knowledge tests and past paper questions.

Implementation

Key Stage 5: Year 12

- The Politics of the United Kingdom
- The Government of the United Kingdom
- Political Ideas

Key Stage 5: Year 13

- Comparative Politics – the Politics of the USA

The Politics course will consistently provide regular assessment and feedback to ensure progress and measure impact. Students will be regularly assessed in each unit ensure the progress in knowledge, understanding and skills.

Assessment

- Knowledge tests for each unit
- A-Level past paper questions are set for completion both in private study and in timed conditions in class. Past paper answers are marked using Edexcel mark schemes and History department feedback sheets. Students use feedback comments and model answers to improve their work.
- Peer and self-assessment of lesson tasks.
- Three IPE examinations are undertaken over the two years of the course. Feedback is given and improvements are made.
- Folder scrutiny

The Politics course is new for 2022/23. The uptake has been excellent, with 15 students choosing the course. We will measure the trend in uptake overtime. We will further measure impact with regular analysis of student and teacher voice.