Cornwallis Academy
Ambitions for All

SMILE
SUCCESSFUL | MOTIVATED | INSPIRED | LEARNING | EXCITED & ENGAGED

A Level Politics

Curriculum Intent

In Year 12, the course explores the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK. Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will focus on the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy.

They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. This allows students to understand the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens.

Students will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions. This component will further examine the role of the media in contemporary politics. It gives students an understanding and clear grounding in voting patterns and voting behaviour.

In Year 13, students study the Global Politics Option. We live in a complex world with significant challenges, including global terrorism, poverty, pandemics, economic instability, weapons proliferation, failing states and environmental degradation. These challenges require global co-operation if they are to be resolved.

Global politics gives students an opportunity to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity. It also gives them the opportunity to explore the political issues that affect all of us. Students will gain understanding of abstract political concepts through grounding them in contemporary real-world examples and case studies that will develop an international awareness and knowledge of multiple perspectives.

Global politics encourages discussion and debate and requires students to study and present different global perspectives, as well as interpreting competing and contestable claims. The key mainstream perspectives on global politics are liberalism and realism, and students will be expected to understand how these perspectives are applied throughout all elements of the global politics content.

Assessment, Marking and Feedback

Students are set regular quizzes in order to consolidate their understanding of the topics. They also complete termly essays on the key topics and receive feedback on these which is tailored around the AO1 / AO2 / AO3 learning objectives.

Homework

Students are set regular homework including quizzes, essay planning, and research topics.

Links to National Curriculum / Syllabus Specifications

The full A Level Politics specification, including updates for 2026-27, can be found here....
A level Politics specification - Issue 4

Exam Support & Revision Resources

Online Revision Platforms & Notes

- **Tutor2u:** Provides free topic videos, study notes, digital quizzes, and exam paper trackers tailored for UK specifications.
- **Save My Exams:** Offers concise, syllabus-specific revision notes, illustrations, and examiner tips.
- **Politics Explained:** Features current-affairs-updated revision notes, flashcards, webinars, and essay plan banks.

Checklists & Practice Tools

- **Study Dog:** Supplies free specification-by-specification revision checklists and multi-format learning modules covering core and non-core political ideas.
- **Pearson Revision Guides:** Official physical and online workbooks matching exact exam board requirements with 'now try this' practice questions.

Extracurricular and Enrichment Opportunities

- **Educational trips and visits** – Students have the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in Years 12 and 13, where they will have a guided tour from a local Kent MP. During election years, students have participated in a General Election themed Question Time at Benenden School, most recently in 2024.
- **Assemblies** – All Cornwallis students receive assemblies on 'Politics week' and during election years, extra input in that time.
- **Guest speakers –** Local MP visits will enhance the students' understanding.

Interested to know more?

To read:

- Edexcel Politics A Level textbook
- BBC Politics website articles

To watch:

- Thatcher – the Downing Street Years (YouTube)
- The Rise and Fall of New Labour (YouTube)
- Major – the Downing Street Years (YouTube)

To listen:

- The Rest Is Politics podcast / Rest Is Politics (Leading) podcast.
- The News Agents podcast
- Newscast podcast from BBC news

To visit:

- Houses of Parliament
- UK Supreme Court