

# Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

## *Subject Information*

## Politics

### Entry Requirement:

*Grade 6 in GCSE English.*

**Awarding body:** Edexcel

**About the subject:** The study of Government and Politics in the Sixth Form attracts those who have an enquiring mind, an intense interest in current affairs, party politics and the constitution of the UK, plus the confidence to debate both sides of topical issues and the ability to communicate ideas effectively.

The course is designed to enable students to develop an insight into the way in which politics is central to an understanding of modern Britain and America. In addition, the course examines the key political principles, ideologies and institutions of both the UK and USA.

Those who choose this subject will develop a wider knowledge and understanding of the UK, its constitutional arrangements and its party politics. They will also acquire the necessary skills in analysis, synthesis and communication which will allow access to a wide range of higher education opportunities and will provide a firm foundation for many popular and rewarding careers including journalism, law, the civil service, local government, the heritage and leisure industry, new media, education and the world of business.

### Content:

There are three units of study:

- **Unit 1 - People and Politics** (two hour written exam at the end of year 13, 33% of A Level): The importance of democracy and participation; electoral systems, referenda, the role of political parties and pressure groups. This unit introduces students to the key channels of communication between government and the people. It encourages students to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and participation.
- **Unit 2 - Governing the UK** (two hour written exam at the end of year 13, 33% of A Level): The changing nature of the UK constitution; the importance of Parliament; the power of Prime Ministers, ministers, civil servants and judges. This unit introduces students to the major governmental processes within the UK. It encourages students to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions, and of the relationship amongst them in the context of multi-level governance
- **Unit 3 - Comparative Politics** (two hour written exam at the end of year 13, 33% of A Level): The US Constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation, civil rights. This unit introduces students to the way in which the American political system operates and will allow students to assess the similarities and differences between politics in the UK and the USA.