

# POLITICS

COURSE GUIDE 2018

Politics is the art of looking for trouble,  
finding it, misdiagnosing it, and then  
misapplying the wrong remedies.

MICHAEL PALIN

# POLITICS

Linear A Level  
Exam Board AQA



## OUR STUDENTS SAY...

*I enjoy day to day life at Carmel College, I love the atmosphere and interacting with my fellow pupils and teachers. I enjoy Politics as it is a subject that draws you in and is constantly interesting.*

I feel like I learn so much every single lesson without a doubt. It is also really relevant and has helped me with my other subjects such as Economics as well. I would recommend this subject if you enjoy debating and exploring other people's views as well as expressing your own. The support from tutors at Carmel College is outstanding, it is like nothing I have ever seen before. After Carmel I hope to go on to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at university.

**Sophia Mohammed**  
Great Sankey High  
Studying - Politics, Economics, Statistics



### What will the course involve?

You will study the following modules:

**Paper 1** – Government and Politics of the UK. This includes the following areas of study: Political Participation and Voting Behaviour; Electoral Systems; Political Parties; Pressure Groups and Protest movements; The British Constitution; Parliament; The Core Executive (Government); Multi-level Governance (including Devolution and Brexit from the European Union!).

In year 1 (Lower 6th) the focus is very much on the UK and our political system, but we will also do some work on the government and politics of the USA too. Students are also introduced to politics in the wider political and social context, within which we explore the effect of social class, gender, ethnicity etc on the political system.

**Paper 2** - The Government and Politics of the USA. In this unit the areas of study are: The Constitutional Framework of US Government; The Legislative Branch of Government - US Congress; The Executive Branch of Government - The Office of President; The Judicial Branch of Government - The Supreme Court. In addition, we study American Elections, Parties, Pressure Groups and Voting Behaviour too. We also explore the synoptic relationship between the US and UK forms of government, including political ideology in some depth.

**Please note** that Paper 2 and its study areas are split over the end of the first year and the beginning of the second year.

**Paper 3** – Political Ideas and Beliefs. The areas of study include: Liberalism; Conservation; Socialism; Fascism; Feminism; Anarchism; Environmentalism and Multiculturalism.

This year the emphasis is still on acquiring political knowledge, but equal emphasis is now devoted to the development of more sophisticated critical evaluation skills. Our studies will have a more international flavour, with obvious emphasis on the USA (paper 2) and our "special relationship" with them.



A visit from Lord Storey



Students enjoy the annual trip to London

## OUR STUDENTS SAY...

*Carmel is an education centre like no other, both on an achievement level and a personal level.*

Every tutor is always available, if not directly, through an email and they are always there to support you if you need help in any subject. Also, with the many tutorials put on by departments, there is guided support available every week.

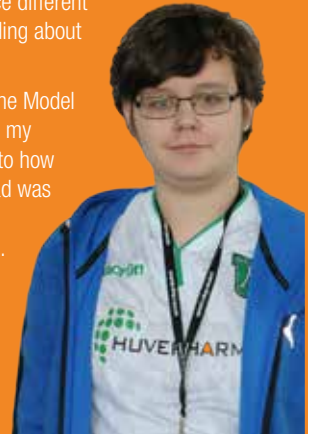
Personally, Politics is one of my favourite subjects because of the way it engages me in discussion and allows me to experience different ways of thinking while giving me a greater understanding about how our democracy works.

Through Politics I was lucky enough to participate in the Model UN at Liverpool Town Hall where I was able to develop my public speaking skills and gain an insight first hand into how international policy is formed. Another opportunity I had was to visit Washington DC and this was one of the year's highlights, creating lasting memories and experiences.

### Tommy Hanmer

De La Salle

Studying - Politics, English Language & Literature,  
History



### JOIN THE CONVERSATION:

@carmelpolitics1



#### How will I be taught?

The teaching and learning that occurs in the classroom is very wide-ranging and consists of PowerPoint presentations, handouts, exam question practice, group quizzes, watching relevant DVDs, student presentations, the analysis of quality newspaper stories, using websites and research activities, discussion and debates, and textbook based activities. Students will also be issued with a textbook for home study and homework purposes.

In addition you will have all of the facilities available to you in our Library, which includes additional textbooks, use of computers for politics websites, political journals, DVDs, and quality newspapers.

Indeed the nature of this topic is such that 'compulsory' viewing of selected TV programmes about politics is an absolute necessity to keep abreast of contemporary political issues, for example 'Sunday Politics' on BBC1.

There will also be plenty of opportunity to research your own particular political interests and issues, and to present your findings to the class initiating discussion and debate too!

#### How will I be assessed?

You will sit three exams at the end of the second year in the summer. The exams are two hours duration each and have equal weighting. Mock exams will be taken at the end of the first year too.

You will also be marked regularly on mostly written assignments and given a progress grade with which you will be able to monitor yourself. This will be reviewed on a regular basis between you and your tutor. As an individual, you are only judged against your own minimum expected grade (MEG) and this determines your rate of progress on the course.

#### What will this course prepare me for?

The course will prepare you for continued study at university degree level and various possible career pathways thereafter. The study of Politics is very useful for a number of careers and is a well-established subject at the most prestigious universities in the UK.

#### What is the department like?

The Politics department works very closely with all Social Sciences departments in the college. We have access to computers and all rooms are equipped with multi-media projectors and interactive white boards. Course textbooks are complemented by our own college library and their numerous politics texts too. The department has an innovative and dynamic approach, which promotes the pursuit of excellence in all of the teaching and learning elements of the course. The department

also actively attempts to cater for all learning styles with up-to-date teaching methods and resources.

Finally, the department will encourage a healthy sense of humour in its work too, with the odd touch of satire!

**100%**  
of our students passed  
in 2017.



Washington Trip

## OUR STUDENTS SAY...

*Carmel College has a welcoming environment and is the perfect place to make new friends, become more independent and challenge yourself in lots of new ways.*

I took Politics because I had an interest in what was happening in the world and have always wanted to make things in the world better. Politics has strengthened my ability to voice my opinion and has also increased by tolerance of other opinions that widely differ to my own. Through Politics, I have also had the opportunity to be a part of the Student Council, the European Youth Parliament Debate, and the Model United Nations Assembly, as well as taking a trip to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. After college, I would like to go on to study a Media and Social Policy degree, or a Media and Cultural Studies degree, in the hope of a future career in political campaign or political journalism.

**Abigail Bryan**  
Studying: Politics, English Literature,  
Media Studies



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the entry requirements for this course?

You will need **GCSE grade 5 in English Language**.

### What support will I receive?

There will be the opportunity to book regular support/extension tutorials, with email back up and regular communication with your tutor. You will also be encouraged to actively develop and contribute to the development of course materials and resources.

There will also be relevant DVDs for you to watch on your own or with fellow students as part of your wider study and research commitments. You will be guided to relevant websites and encouraged to discover additional ones too! The information and materials on politics continue to grow at an amazing rate.

### What other opportunities will studying Politics offer me?

We invite visiting speakers into the classroom to talk with students. These visitors have included ex-local MP Dave Watts, European MPs, Officers from the local council, and even ex-Government Minister, Andy Burnham. The annual trip to London in the first year is a great opportunity for you to visit Parliament and the US Embassy. As we also study US Politics, in the second year there is the possibility of a trip to Washington DC and other East Coast cities.

In addition, there are local trips to the Slavery Museum in Liverpool, and to relevant lectures at the Philharmonic Hall and Edge Hill University. As part of the Enrichment Programme, students can get involved in the Mock United Nations General Assembly (MUNGA) which takes place at Liverpool Town Hall every November.

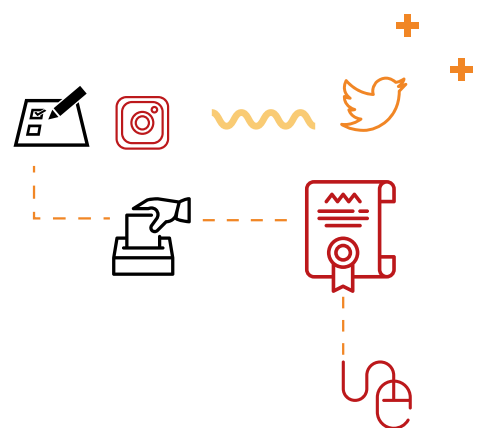
Finally, students are also encouraged to take an interest in Carmel's Student Council body, which is elected on an annual basis and works on behalf of all the students at Carmel.

### How successful are Carmel's Politics students?

|      | A*-B | A*-C | Overall Pass Rate |
|------|------|------|-------------------|
| 2014 | 50%  | 67%  | 100%              |
| 2015 | 71%  | 83%  | 100%              |
| 2016 | 43%  | 76%  | 100%              |
| 2017 | 42%  | 85%  | 100%              |

### Meet the Tutor

**Mike McLoughlin MA**  
Head of Department and  
AQA Examiner for Politics



**carmel**  
college

Prescot Road, St Helens  
Merseyside WA10 3AG  
[www.carmel.ac.uk](http://www.carmel.ac.uk)

### More Information

For details of the course specification visit: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)