POLITICS WEBSITE RATIONALE

A clear overview of the purpose, content and delivery of Politics at Hasmonean.

What is Politics?

Politics is the study of power, governance, constitutional frameworks, and civic participation. It explores how decisions are made, how public policy is shaped, and how government institutions interact with the citizen and wider society.

Why do we teach Politics at Hasmonean?

Politics is taught to foster informed, articulate, and critically engaged citizens while developing high-level academic skills valued in higher education and professional career paths. A Level Politics serves as the best formal avenue for students to learn about the democratic mechanisms that govern society.

Students learn to construct structured, evidence-backed arguments and synthesise real-world examples under time-limited examination conditions. Evidence-based essay writing is a highly sought-after skill across university disciplines and workplace environments.

Politics is widely recognized by universities and employers for its academic rigour. It fulfills requirements for essay-based subjects needed for competitive degree programmes such as History, Politics, Law, and Economics.

The subject enhances general knowledge and enables students to understand multi-sided political arguments. It equips individuals with the insight required to evaluate contemporary events critically and participate meaningfully at local, national, and global scales.

How do we teach Politics at Hasmonean?

At Key Stage 5, students study Pearson Edexcel A level in Politics. It is a popular A Level option as it is a broad based, engaging curriculum that challenges learners. Politics is taught through a structured modular curriculum, combined with active continuous engagement with current affairs, theoretical study, and formal written assessments at the end of Year 13. In Year 12, component one and two cover UK democracy and participation, how the UK is governed and core and non core political ideologies. In Year 13, component three covers democracy, participation and governance in the USA and this includes comparisons with the UK.

As well as building an in-depth knowledge and understanding of political systems and ideologies, students grow their skills to analyse source information and write well supported analytical and evaluative essays.

Teaching includes regular pre-learning, retrieval practice, explicit explanation, modelling, questioning, low-stakes testing, discussion, debates, presentations and structured examination practice. Digital resources and opportunities to hear from people working in relevant fields help students connect theory to contemporary practice. Resources are adapted and scaffolded where appropriate, with extension and further reading used to stretch higher-attaining students.

Alongside the formal teaching in school, students are expected to develop active study habits. This means a willingness to read daily newspapers and follow current events in order to understand both sides of political arguments (UK and USA context) to support assessment essays with concrete examples.

Formative assessment is embedded in lessons and is supported by scheduled summative assessment, detailed feedback and targeted intervention. This allows students to identify gaps, improve their responses and develop the independence, accuracy and critical judgement required for success at A Level and beyond.

Trips to Parliament engage students beyond the classroom.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/9781446933602-gce2017-al-politics-issue4.pdf