RGS
NEWCASTLE

INTRODUCTION TO

POLITICS

at RGS











Politics is the study of power, governance, and decision-making. It examines how societies are organised, how laws are made, and how governments respond to challenges. From local issues to global diplomacy, Politics gives students insight into the forces shaping our world today.

At RGS, Politics is taught as a vibrant and forward-thinking subject that brings big ideas to life through real-world events and current affairs.



WHY STUDY POLITICS?

Every day, political decisions influence laws, rights, international relations, and even global stability. Studying Politics gives you the tools to make sense of these changes and to think critically about solutions. By exploring political systems, ideologies, and institutions, students learn to analyse debates, interpret policies, and evaluate competing arguments. You'll develop skills in logical reasoning, critical analysis, and persuasive communication, all while engaging with real-world issues such as democracy, human rights, global security, and climate policy.

Politics is not just theory—it's about applying ideas to current affairs. Whether it's understanding the impact of elections on government policy or debating responses to international crises, this subject keeps you connected to what's happening now. If you enjoy following the news, exploring contemporary issues, and asking big questions about power and society, Politics is the perfect choice.

















A-Level Politics

Politics is offered at A-Level only at RGS. The course is divided into three papers, each exploring a different dimension of political life:

Paper 1 - UK Politics

- Democracy & Participation
- Political Parties
- Electoral Systems
- Voting Behaviour & the Media
- Core ideas: liberalism, conservatism, and socialism

Paper 2 - UK Government

- The Constitution
- Parliament
- The Prime Minister & Cabinet
- Interactions between the branches
- Non-core idea: Feminism

Paper 3 - Global Politics

- The State & Globalisation
- Global Governance – Political, Economic, Human Rights and the Environment
- Power and its developments
- The EU and Regionalism
- Comparative Theories

Assessment is through written exams that require analysis, evaluation, and argumentation based on contemporary political developments.



SKILLS

Choosing a Politics course will develop a range of transferable skills that are highly valued by universities and employers.

These include:

- Critical Thinking and Analysis
- Students learn to evaluate complex issues, weigh evidence, and assess competing viewpoints.
- Research and Interpretation
- Politics involves engaging with texts, data, and case studies, helping students develop confidence in handling diverse sources.
- Communication and Argumentation
- Students learn to present ideas clearly and persuasively, both in writing and discussion, using evidence to support their views.
- Understanding of Governance and Global Affairs
- Politics fosters an appreciation of how governments operate, how policies are made, and how international relations shape the modern world.
- Decision-Making Under Pressure

By analysing real-world scenarios, students develop the ability to make informed judgments when outcomes are uncertain.

These skills act as a stepping stone to careers in the City, the civil service, journalism, law, business, and a wide range of other professions.





















POLITICS BEYOND RGS

Politics is a versatile and highly respected qualification that opens doors to a wide range of degree options, including:

- Politics and International Relations – for those who wish to explore governance and diplomacy.
- Law – where political understanding supports legal reasoning and advocacy.
- Economics and Business – connecting political decisions with economic outcomes.
- History and Philosophy – for students interested in the ideas and events that shape societies.

Graduates in Politics pursue careers in government, civil service, law, journalism, consultancy, and international organisations. Many RGS students progress to top universities, including Oxbridge, and secure positions in influential roles across public and private sectors.

The subject's emphasis on critical thinking and communication ensures that students are well-prepared for leadership in an increasingly interconnected world.





CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Politics at RGS thrives beyond the classroom through a rich programme of activities that deepen understanding and broaden horizons. Students can:

- Join PolSoc and Junior PolSoc, where they debate current affairs, share insights, and develop leadership skills.
- Take part in Model United Nations, gaining experience in diplomacy and negotiation.
- Compete in the European Youth Parliament, engaging with peers from across the continent.
- Enjoy the annual trip to London, which offers exclusive access to political institutions and first-hand insight into the workings of government.

Through these opportunities, students gain practical exposure, network with professionals, and develop the confidence to apply their knowledge beyond the classroom.

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From political theory to comparative analysis of global systems, Politics at RGS offers an intellectually stimulating journey into the ideas and institutions shaping our world. We look forward to welcoming you to explore it further at RGS.

If you would like further information about Politics at RGS please contact Ms Lucy Burn, Subject Lead for Politics via l.burn@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

