## Why Politics?

## In politics you will be able to study how governing works how political social relations involving authority or power relate to governance. It is also the study of ideology, how people think politically.

## Course outline:

## The course is made up of three main units:

## You will learn how to use a variety of information resources such as libraries, documents, statistical evidence and computer databases

POLITICS HIGHER

**Details of Course Components**

The course has three compulsory units including an added value unit that assesses your

practical skills.

You will have Politics for 5 periods per week and will share two different teachers. You will

study three different issues:

**Political Theory** – Democracy; Power, Authority & Legitimacy; Political Ideologies

**Political Structures** - The UK and the USA

**Political Parties and Elections** – Party Ideas, Party Campaigns, Voting Behaviour

**1. Political Theory**

Learners will study the key political concepts of democracy, power, authority and legitimacy

with particular reference to the work of Steven Lukes and Max Weber and analyse the

relevance of these concepts today. Learners will study the key ideas of two political ideologies

(from Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism Nationalism, Fascism) including the works of

relevant theorists. Learners will be expected to draw balanced conclusions about the chosen

ideologies.

**2.Political Structures**

Learners will study the constitutional approaches in different political systems. Learners

should be able to describe the nature and status of the different constitutional approaches

within two chosen systems. The detailed study of the constitutional arrangements in the

political systems should focus on the roles of the executive, legislative and judicial branches

within each system. Learners should be able to compare and contrast the respective powers of

the individual branches of government within the two political systems. In this unit we study

the UK and the USA.

**3. Political parties and elections**

Learners will study the dominant ideas within a UK political party such as: the Conservative

Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats or Scottish National Party. The dominant ideas within

the political party will then be analysed in terms of their electoral performance. Learners will

also focus on theories of voting behaviour.

**4. Skills Technique**

**Added Value Unit: Politics Assignment**

**In this unit you will:**

The course assessment will be completed as a form of research task and written up in exam

conditions before being sent to the SQA for marking. The assignment will be worth a total of

30 marks in the form of a written report . This will take 1 hour and 30 minutes under exam

conditions.

**ASSESSMENT**

Your work will be assessed by your teacher on an ongoing basis throughout the

course. Items of work might include:

• written work - research assignments, reports and case studies

• class-based exams.

• You will also sit a written exam marked by the

Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA).

The exam will consist of a mixture of knowledge and skill based questions. Paper one

is knowledge based and last for 1 hour 45 minutes. Paper two is skills based and lasts

for 1 hour and 30 minutes



# FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Geography Staff:

Mr Michael Forsyth

Miss Laura Smith

Mrs Shakira Alecio-Allen PT Equity/Skills

History Staff:

Mr George Baird PT Faculty

Mrs Fran Mottashaw

Modern Studies Staff:

Mrs Alison Gray

Mr Matthew Low

RMPS Staff:

Mrs Hannah Barraclough

Courses in Humanities Faculty:

National 3 Geography

National 4 Geography

National 5 Geography

Higher Geography

Advanced Higher Geography

National 3 History

National 4 History

National 5 History

Higher History

Advanced Higher History

National 3 Modern Studies

National 4 Modern Studies

National 5 Modern Studies

Higher Modern Studies

Higher Politics

National 4 RMPS

National 5 RMPS

Higher RMPS

## Useful websites to help you with your choices:

[www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/) [www.skillsdevelopmentscotland](https://ukc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/www.skillsdevelopmentscotland). co.uk

*Further advice and information on these options is available from your subject teacher, guidance teacher and careers adviser.*