

## 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 Shakira Alecio

### History Staff:

Mr George Baird PT  
Mrs Fran Mottashaw

### Modern Studies Staff:

Mrs Alison Gray  
Mr Mark Pye  
Ms Samantha Thiel

### RMPS Staff:

Mrs Stephanie Chalmers

### Courses in Turriff Academy

National 4 Geography  
National 5 Geography  
Higher Geography  
Advanced Higher Geography

National 4 History  
National 5 History  
Higher History  
Advanced Higher History

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.co.uk](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk)

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