A LEVEL

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Government and Politics is the study of ideas and beliefs of people; it focuses on the origins and development of political beliefs and how these have affected the ways in which countries are governed. This subject helps to understand the motivations behind differing political beliefs and also the approaches of different forms of government and other organisations in tackling the challenges faced by every society. At its heart Government and Politics is about understanding different ideas, the reasoning behind them, and the solutions they offer. Government and Politics provides you with the opportunity to understand how the UK and USA are governed, developing an understanding of the world around you. You will also develop your own personal skills in research, constructing arguments and reaching and evaluating judgements.

Level: Level 3

Specific Course Entry Requirements
College entry (please refer to the Entry Requirements section page 24 for further details).

Exam Board: AQA

What will I study?
During the course you will study the political ideas that exist in the UK as well as the way in which the country is governed. You will examine the philosophies of the main political parties, and the way in which democracy works in the UK and how citizens can participate in it. You will also investigate the strengths and weaknesses of the system of government in the UK by studying the working of Parliament, the office of Prime Minister and the role of the Courts.

In the second year you will widen your understanding of government and politics by studying the political system of the USA. You will be able to draw on your first year experience to advance your understanding by examining topics such as minority rights and diversity, US elections and the political parties of America. You will also examine the system of government in the USA and be able to compare it to that of the UK.

How will I be assessed?
100% examination

Where will this course lead me?
Government and Politics will provide you with a range of skills which are highly sought after by employers and universities. You will learn how to use information you are provided with, to construct and challenge arguments. You will be able analyse politics in the UK and USA and make judgements about them in response to questions and areas of debate. In addition you will be able to debate objectively, and with confidence, in evaluating ideas about government and politics. These skills can be applied to a number of careers in the Civil Service, Law, as well as Business and Project Management.

What support will I receive?
Students will have regular sessions and be able to use online revision materials. There are also a number of workshops and the opportunity to benefit from 1:1 support should students require it, both from tutors in the department and from the Learning Support Team.

What is the department like?
The subject is based in the Social Studies department, which is fully equipped for the needs of learners. There are a range of resources and materials available for students from specific course texts, to more general books about the nature of government and politics, both in department classrooms and in the Learning Resource Centre. In addition there are computer suites and iPads available for use in lessons, and the department uses social media in order to engage in on-going political issues and to support students outside of normal College hours.

Enrichment Opportunities?
There are a range of opportunities to develop your understanding of government and politics, including visits to and from universities, guest speakers, visits from local MPs and a trip to Berlin in partnership with History. Students can get involved in a History & Politics society.

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St John Rigby College reserves the right to make changes including courses offered, course content and entry requirements at any time.