

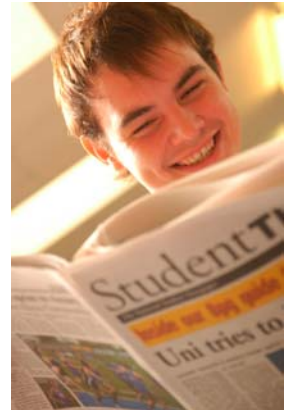
ST MARY'S COLLEGE



INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wanted to know whether Gordon Brown is different from Tony Blair? Or why Europe is a subject of such intense disagreement? Or exactly what is happening to the NHS? Or how Greenpeace decides to get its message across?

If you are interested in any of these questions – or any others about the great disputes of the day and about who should run the country – then Government and Politics is the subject you should be studying next year at St Mary's College.



AS LEVEL

Content

The AS course focuses on British government and politics, and is made up of two modules:

- People, Politics and Participation.
- Governing Modern Britain.

How is the course delivered?

Government and Politics at St Mary's is taught by an enthusiastic team who are also experienced in teaching both Law and History.

Classes will be lively and argumentative, but this is a serious academic discipline. The skills you will use are those of information collection, analysis and presentation.

You will look at a variety of ideas and consider them from a number of different points of view. Above all, you will be encouraged to present clear and well thought out arguments.

Entry requirements

You should have at least a Grade C in English Language. The entry requirements for an AS programme depend upon the number of AS courses you intend to take.

What skills and interests do I need?

The course will appeal particularly to students with an interest in politics, current affairs or who want to “change the world”. However, it deals with governmental systems and political issues which affect all of us, so everybody will have something to offer and something to learn from the course. You need to be open-minded, willing to discuss and analyse information, and be capable of constructing clear, written arguments.

How does it build upon studies in Key Stage 4?

You will find that Government and Politics is different from GCSE in a number of ways:

- the subject matter is very much concerned with current political issues about which there is often deep disagreement
- you will gather information from sources such as the Internet, magazines, newspapers and television as well as from more traditional text books
- you will be required to interpret evidence, explain different points of view and justify your opinions.



How is the course assessed?

The two modules are assessed by two written examinations of 1 hour 30 minutes each. You will be able to re-sit modules to improve your marks if you wish. There is no coursework available.

A2 LEVEL

Content

The course at A2 mainly focuses on American politics, but with links and comparisons to what you have learned about British politics:

- Comparisons of UK and US constitutions, legislatures, executives and judiciaries.
- American political parties, pressure groups, electoral system and voting behaviour.
- Participation and representation in Britain and the US.

How is the course delivered?

The teaching methods used will be similar to those employed in the AS. However, it is expected that students will have developed as independent learners and will be able to take more responsibility for their own learning.

Entry requirements

A pass grade in AS Government and Politics.

How is the course assessed?

The two modules are assessed by two written examinations of 1 hour 30 mins. Marks from these exams will be combined with your AS marks to give you the full A-level qualification. You will be able to re-sit modules if you wish to improve your marks.

Progression routes

Government and Politics goes well with a whole range of other subjects in the humanities and the social sciences – for example, history, law and sociology – or as a contrast to science subjects.

It is accepted by all universities and is a sound basis for careers in journalism, the law, business, the civil service, local government – and even in politics itself.

Further Information

For further information please contact Anne Wells

Full specifications can be found at www.aqa.org.uk

NOTES:

**St Mary's College
Saltersgill Avenue
Middlesbrough
TS4 3JP**

Tel: (01642) 814680

www.stmarys-sfc.ac.uk

Fax: (01642) 819624