

# AS/A2 (A-Level) BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

## GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

### EDEXCEL (London Board)

This course is offered as a two-year course. It is suitable for British or overseas students. It is not required that you have studied Government and Politics previously, although an interest in politics and world affairs would be an advantage. We offer the compulsory AS course on British Politics with the optional A2 on International Politics. This is very similar to the A-level course we have taught since an International Politics option was introduced in 1990.

**British Politics** includes topics on the workings of the British Government and political system. Included are such topics as concepts of government, Parliament, the prime minister and cabinet, political parties, electoral systems, and the protection of civil liberties.

**International Politics** has various thought-provoking topics, including the interaction of the First and Third Worlds and the role and future of such institutions as the United Nations, NATO and the European Union.

#### *Computer and IT-based learning*

- The Politics Department (and Law Department) has made use of the College computer system and the Internet. One lesson per week is timetabled in a computer room to allow internet research.

## AS /A2 specifications

### AS: British Political Institutions and Concepts

#### Unit 1 (6491): People and Politics

This unit has four topics: **concepts of power and citizenship, the electoral system and democracy, political parties and pressure groups**

Examination: 1hr (16.67% of the total). Choose two from four questions.

#### Unit 2 (6492): Governing the UK

This unit has four topics: **the British Constitution, Parliament, the Government and civil liberties and the judiciary**

Examination: 1hr (16.67% of the total). Choose two from four questions.

#### Unit 3 (6493): The Changing UK System

This unit builds on units 1 and 2 and looks at **institutional reform**. This unit has five topics: the **party system and electoral reform, constitutional reform, parliamentary reform, devolution and the European Union**

Examination: 1hr Documentary (stimulus) question (16.67% of the total) Choose one from two questions.

### A2: (Route D) International Politics

#### Unit 4D (6503): Introducing International Politics

This unit includes:

**The changing world order** (The Balance of Power)

**International organizations** (The United Nations)

**European integration** (The European Union)

**The Global economy** (The Three Worlds; the North-South Divide)

Examination: 1hr 15 minutes (15% of the total). Choose two short answer questions from four and one long essay question from three.

#### Unit 5D (6504): Issues in International Politics

This unit includes:

**Developments in international politics** (recent issues)

**Regional conflicts**

**International intervention** (including the role of Nato)

**The impact of international organizations**

Examination: 1hr 15 minutes. (15% of the total) Choose two short answer questions from four and one long essay question from three.

#### Unit 6D (6505): International Politics and the UK (the synoptic paper)

This unit includes:

**International organizations and the UK**

**International events and the UK**

**EU membership and the UK**

**European Intervention and the UK**

Examination: 1hr 30 minutes (20% of the total). Choose two long essay questions from four.