

Government & Politics

Note: This course is not currently taught in Foyle, but may be available in another school.

Political issues and events are frequently the main focus of local, national and international news. This is not surprising as government and politics involves the big issues that affect all our lives.

This course will help to develop your knowledge and understanding of political systems and who has the authority and power to make political decisions. You will learn about individual rights and responsibilities and compare how government works in different countries. The AS course can be taken as a final qualification or as the first half of the A Level qualification. If you wish to obtain a full A Level qualification, you must complete the second half of the course referred to as A2.

Why study Government and Politics?

If you have an interest in finding out more about political systems and ideas and how political changes are brought about, then this course can help you achieve this. Through studying Government and Politics you can develop your knowledge and understanding and relate this to current events reported in the media.

Would this course suit me?

You should have obtained at least a Grade C in GCSE English or an equivalent award as this will help you with the extended writing required. You should also have an interest in politics and current affairs and want to understand more about how government works.

This course will be suitable for you if you enjoy analysing and evaluating information, using source material and weighing up arguments.

Unit	Type of Assessment
AS 1: The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland Worth 40% of AS 20% of A-Level	1 hour 15 minutes examination paper. One piece of source material and three questions. <i>Available in the Summer series</i>
AS 2: The British Political Process Worth 60% of AS 30% of A Level	1 hour 45 minutes external examination paper with five questions <i>Available in the Summer series</i>

Unit	Type of Assessment
A2 1: Comparative Government Worth 30% of A Level	2 hours and 15 minutes external examination paper. One piece of source material and five questions on your chosen option. <i>Available in the Summer series</i>
A2 2: Political Power and Political Ideas Worth 20% of A Level	1 hour and 30 minutes external examination paper. One piece of source material and three questions on your chosen option. <i>Available in the Summer series</i>

What can I do with a qualification in Government and Politics?

The study of Government and Politics encourages you to become actively involved as a citizen and helps you to develop your critical thinking and communication skills.

This course can provide a sound foundation for further study of politics and related courses in higher education.

Studying government and politics can help prepare you for a career in a number of fields such as law, business, finance, government services, education, journalism, public relations or political research.