



Xaverian College

Business and Professional Studies Faculty



A Level Politics Y11 Transition to Y12

THE COLLEGE'S MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic College dedicated to the development of the whole person.

To achieve our mission we will:

- Maintain a Christian environment which is purposeful and fulfilling
- Value all members of the College Community equally
- Promote excellence in teaching and learning
- Have the very highest expectations of all our students
- Offer appropriate choices, guidance, support, and facilities
- Help students to develop as people who strive for the highest possible standards in all aspects of their lives as happy, useful, and successful members of society, and who combine success with service to others in both their personal and working lives.

A grey Tuesday morning, 'neath Lancastrian skies
We wake once again to wipe tears from our eyes.
Forced to wear robes of weakness and pity,
As cowards attack the very heart of our city.

Like always, we'll comfort and hold one another,
A Mancunian family of sisters and brothers.
For a time our strut is reduced to a stagger,
But make no mistake, we'll rekindle our swagger.

We'll learn how to live with another deep scar.
If you think you can beat us, you don't know who we are!

We're Collyhurst, Ancoats, Moston and Sale.
We're Oldham and Bury; Ashton; Rochdale.

We're Pankhurst and Turing, the Gallagher Brothers,
We're Morrissey, Marr and a million others!

We're a City of workers, a City of shirkers,
A City of tracksuits, and bibles and burkas.

Vegetarian, Rastafarian, Atheist, Jew.
100% Red! 100% Blue!

We're each of us different but never alone.
In this Cosmopolitopia, we get to call 'home'.

So, come at us again, and again if you must.
Time after time we'll rise from the dust.
You'll never prevail – not against us...
This is MANCHESTER, our MANCHESTER

and the bees still Buzz!



We are a Catholic College dedicated to the development of the whole person.



XavsPoliticalScience
@XavSocialAnimal

@Afzal4Gorton pledging support to #raisetherate of per student funding in sixth forms @xaveriansfc



If you don't believe us, then listen to past students. At the end of the year, we asked our students what advice they would give you as you embark upon the Politics course...

Commit and make sure you're interested.

Listen to your teacher - you get much more out of the subject than just a grade!

Don't give up if you find a topic hard and READ! If you struggle, ask for help and just keep going - you'll survive!

If you are unsure about the slightest thing, seek subject support straight away.

Take lots of notes (you'll need them!) and do more independent study on the topics

Appreciate the political ideas even if they are not to your personal taste.

Read a quality newspaper, it helps with improving your essay writing

Independent learning is essential.



INTRODUCTION TO YOUR COURSE

A' level in Politics

LOWER SIXTH	Year 1
	Intro to Politics Concepts & Skills
	Political Ideas: Liberalism/ Conservatism/ Socialism/ Feminism
	Global Politics: The State & Globalisation/ Global Governance/ Power & Development/Regionalism & EU
	Comparative Theories: Liberalism and Realism
	END OF YEAR EXAMS



UPPER SIXTH	Year 2
	UK Government: UK Constitution/ Parliament/
	UK: Government: PM & Executive/ Relations between branches
	UK Politics: Democracy & Participation/Political Parties
	UK Politics: Electoral Systems/ Voting Behaviour & Media
	REVISION
	MAY / JUNE EXAMINATIONS



HOW TO GET OUTSTANDING GRADES IN POLITICS

You need to develop your skills!

There are 3 key Assessment Objectives

AO1 – Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories & issues. **This is the ‘in theory’ element of the course.**

So, we will learn about the Prime Ministers’ power, and you will know & understand each power the PM has, both formal and informal.

AO2 – Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities & differences. **This is the ‘in practice’ element of the course, where we compare what *actually* happens to what should happen (AO1).**

Then, we will look at how different PM’s have used their powers, and we will compare and contrast them, both to each other and to the theory.

AO3 – Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgments & draw conclusions. **This is the ‘judgments’ element of the course, which is primarily addressed in essays, both throughout the essay and in the conclusion, where you decide which side of the debate your essay falls on.**

Finally, you will make a judgment on an aspect of PM powers, such as whether personality contributes to a more powerful PM. If your essay overall suggests it does, then that is your judgment, substantiated by evidence (examples) throughout.

These are the habits we want you to form while you are with us.

We believe that everyone is capable of improving themselves and achieving excellence. However, there are no shortcuts. Research has shown that the only difference between those who are ‘good’ and those who are ‘excellent’ is the amount of independent practice an individual puts in. We expect students to work independently. We are here to guide you and help you adopt the Xaverian Mindset on your journey to excellence. It all starts with forming good habits:

Good time management	Using time inside & outside of the class room effectively
Engagement in classes	Taking an active part in learning in the classroom
Using available resources	Using books, the library, intranet and internet etc.
Responsiveness to teacher feedback	Using feedback to improve your next piece of work
Organisation of work	Planning your independent study times and exam preparation from September – June

GETTING YOU READY FOR POLITICS A' LEVEL @ XAVS

Become a news hound

Task 1: Watch or read or listen to the news. Create a 10 question politics related quiz to test other new students – local, regional, national or global stories! *E.G. Who is the PM's chief of staff?*

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2	
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10	

What are the Politics of your local area?

Task 2 - Using Wikipedia and www.theyworkforyou.com complete the following research task on the politics that make up your local area.

What constituency do you live in?

Is your constituency a safe or marginal seat?

What is the demography of the constituency?

Who is your constituency MP?

What party and how long have they been an MP?

What faction or wing of their political party do they belong?

What values/ policies does this MP advocate?

Is your MP part of the Government or Shadow Cabinet?

Has your MP served on any select committees? If so what?

What issues does your MP have a special interest in?

What issues concern the voters in your constituency?

What has your MP done to support one of these issues?

Have a go at being an MP – click on this link <https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/mp-for-a-week/>

Having researched the work of your MP, can you explain what you think the role of an MP is?

What objective judgement would you make of your constituency MP and back it up.

Campaigning Does Count!

Task 3: Research a 'pressure group' that currently exists in the UK. Who are they? Who do they represent? Do they have lots of members? What are they campaigning for and why? What methods have they used to campaign? Do you think they have been successful so far? *E.G. Extinction Rebellion or Mind UK or National Union of Teachers or Shelter or Age UK*



@FIAFdn Happy to support This is my Street campaign for safer journeys to school. Thanks for hosting us + for sharing with students the work you do @xaveriansfc



Is Parliament just a talking shop?

Task 4: Click onto the link below and research the work of Parliament, create a mind map of the role and functions of our primary legislator - <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/>



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@XavSocialAnimal

It's only lunch time + we've toured Parliament, chatted with @Afzal4Gorton , watched the new team at Dept of Industry at Ministers QT + then Urgent Q's on Coronavirus + violence in India @xaveriansfc



What gets you on your political soap box?

Task 5: Research and writing are key skills for Politics A Level. Use the space below to tell us about an issue which you are passionate about or interested in learning more about. See if you can hit all the aspects of a written brief: set out the issue, key people or organisations what are the pros and cons of the issue, what competing views exist, who has more power and influence over issue and why, what solutions or resolutions could be reached. *E.G. Global Warming or Toxic Masculinity*

POLITICS RESOURCES

Typical resources used in this subject

These are some of the key text book resources you should be looking at independently in the college library or even better put one on your present list:

- Pearson Edexcel A Level Politics text book
- Global Politics for A Level text book Eric Magee
- UK Government & Politics for A Level text book Lynch at al
- Edexcel UK Government & Politics for A Level text book Neil McNaughton
- Global Politics Andrew Heywood
- Political Ideas Andrew Heywood
- Politics Review magazine

To do well in Politics, it is imperative that you do extra reading and research outside of the classroom. You need to keep up to date with current affairs in order to have examples to use in your work to illustrate the theoretical points you make. You also need to have a more in-depth understanding of the ideas we discuss in class in order to achieve the A/A* grade in your exams. The lists below are of resources that you can use in your own time and in your study periods to increase your knowledge of political theory, ideas and examples. It is strongly recommended that you access some of these resources on a regular basis during your two-year Politics A-level.

Online

- BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>
- The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>
- The Times <https://www.thetimes.co.uk>
- FT <https://www.ft.com>
- Huffington Post blogs <http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/politics/the-blog/>
- BuzzFeed <https://www.buzzfeed.com/news>
- Conservative Home (right wing) <http://www.conservativehome.com/>
- Left Foot Forward (left wing) <http://leftfootforward.org/>
- UK Polling Report <http://ukpollingreport.co.uk/>
- Radio Four <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/category/factual-politics>
- Guardian podcasts <https://www.theguardian.com/audio>
- Oxford Uni politics podcasts <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/politics-and-international-relations-podcasts>
- The Economist podcasts <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-economist-all-audio/id151230264>
- House of Comments <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/house-of-comments-podcast/id579577529>
- BBC Five Live https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_five_live

Political TV programmes

- Daily Politics and Sunday Politics
- BBC Parliament channel
- Channel Four News
- House of Cards
- Yes Minister
- Newsnight
- Dispatches
- Question Time
- Panorama

Political books

- "Democracy's Beginning: The Athenian Story" by Thomas Mitchell – a look at the first democracy
- "Democracy in America" by Alexis de Tocqueville – the origins of the American state
- "Cameron at 10: The Inside Story 2010-2015" by Seldon and Snowden – the coalition government
- "Politics: Between The Extremes" by Nick Clegg – progressive politics
- "All Out War: The Full Story of How Brexit Sank Britain's Political Class" by Tim Shipman – the surprise result of the EU referendum
- "Nineteen Eighty-Four" by George Orwell – an exploration of totalitarianism
- "White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America" by Nancy Isenberg – the treatment of the white working class by the liberal elite
- "Political Turbulence: How Social Media Shape Collective Action" by Helen Margetts, Peter John, Scott Hale and Taha Yasseri – the impact of technology on NSMs
- "What We Do Now" edited by Dennis Johnson and Valerie Merians – opposition to Trump's presidency
- "The Populist Explosion" by John Judis – exploring the rise of populism as a political movement
- "Adults In The Room: My Battle With Europe's Deep Establishment" by Yanis Varoufakis – an inside look at the EU
- "Dangerous" by Milo Yiannopoulos – a look into the alt-right perspective
- "Post-Capitalist Society" by Peter Drucker – a look at how knowledge rather than capital now affects political decision-making
- "The Establishment: And How They Get Away with it" by Owen Jones – a look at the location of power within British politics
- "Parliament of Men" by Paul Kennedy – a history of the development of the United Nations

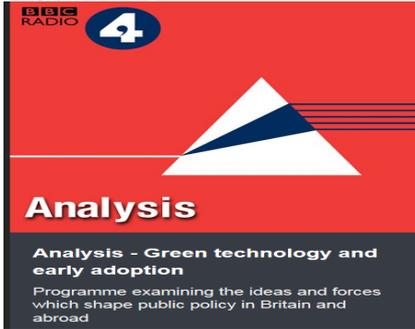
Politics Podcasts



BBC RADIO 4

Week in Westminster

The Week in Westminster - 15/06/2019
Radio 4's weekly assessment of developments at Westminster



BBC RADIO 4

Analysis

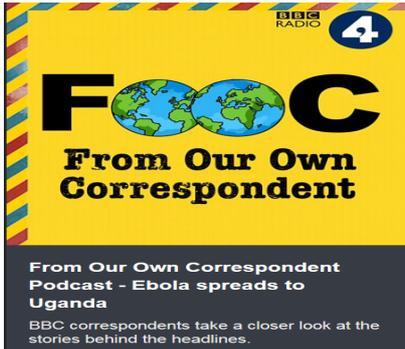
Analysis - Green technology and early adoption
Programme examining the ideas and forces which shape public policy in Britain and abroad



BBC RADIO 4

Any Questions? & Any Answers?

Any Questions? and Any Answers? - AA: Tory leadership election, TV licence



BBC RADIO 4

FOC From Our Own Correspondent

From Our Own Correspondent Podcast - Ebola spreads to Uganda
BBC correspondents take a closer look at the stories behind the headlines.



BBC RADIO 4

More or Less: Behind the Statistics

More or Less: Behind the Stats - WS More or Less: Dealing with the Numbers of Cancer
Tim Harford investigates numbers in the news: are they always reliable?



Political Thinking with Nick Robinson

UK Politics & Government on YouTube



Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain

Public Added 2 weeks ago Freeview Planet eStream Connect

4/5. Revolution: Andrew Marr revisits the Britain of Margaret Thatcher and comes to some surprising conclusions



Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain

Public Added 2 weeks ago Freeview Planet eStream Connect

5/5. New Britannia: In the final part of Andrew Marr's national saga, Britain enters the post-Thatcher era. Many ha



Meet the Lords

Public Added 2 weeks ago Freeview Planet eStream Connect

1/3. Joining the Club: A look at the larger-than-life characters that populate the House of Lords



Exploring the House of Commons

Public Added 2 weeks ago Freeview Planet eStream C

Michael Cockerell presents a programme of educational short films, taking us behind th



Inside the Foreign Office

Public Added 2 weeks ago Freeview Planet eStream C

1/3. Keeping Power and Influence: How can the UK maintain its influence on the world

Global Politics on You Tube

Globalization I – The Upside: Crash Course World History #41

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SnR-e0S6lc&t=12s>

Globalisation II – Good or bad?: Crash Course World History #42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_iwrt7D50A&t=177s

Imports, Exports and Exchange Rates: Crash Course Economics #15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geoe-6NBy10>

Globalization and Trade and Poverty: Crash Course Economics #16

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MpVjxxpExM&t=357s>

Capitalism and Socialism: Crash Course World History #33

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3u4EFTwprM&t=374s>

What is One China Policy? CNBC Explains <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZHljhwzIXA>

9/11 Timeline: The Attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York City – History Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmedslmeiUc&t=83s>

The Rise of Nationalism in 2017 – NowThis World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH3l8nFyp6g>

Why democracy is failing (Paddy Ashdown TED talk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TABVtTnBQA8&t=862s>

American Decline: Global Power in the 21st Century

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_Eh_QXuw3A

School Strike for Climate – save the world by changing the rules (Greta's first TED talk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAmUIEsN9A>

Environmental Governance (Ben Bradshaw TED talk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBFUWpNsfGU&t=85s>

Sudan: Silencing Women Rights Defenders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMkaYvUJJLk&t=114s>

East Timor: 12 Years on from Independence

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL3LF_LZWbw&t=131s

The Butcher of Bosnia – BBC Newsnight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwChX2lh91c&t=66s>

Understanding the Financial Crisis in Greece <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tigaryz-1y4>

Sustainable Development Goals – a new social construct

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJJDadfkEo&t=102s>

Behind the Scenes of the UN General Assembly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvKpnRPOSEk>

Mobile money revolution in Africa – AP Archive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6VoSJPPf7g&t=106s>

How do tariffs work? – CNBC Explains <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKCMnCZyxiQ>

Johan Norberg Globalism is Good (there are 4 episodes, these are brilliant; also included the longer link, just in case)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbF2l5t25s0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsOpaA0ygQY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dVHICJbfqc&t=512s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7P_1-etevrQ&t=5s

SUBJECT ENRICHMENT @ XAVERIAN 2020/21

Political Extra-Curricular Activities to do whilst at Sixth Form

- Join student run FEMSOC or Global Politics debate groups
- Enter the Orwell Youth writing Prize
- Join a political party and/or pressure group
- Do voluntary work for a political party and/or pressure group
- Enter political essay writing competitions
- Go on Politics open days at universities
- Attend Politics summer schools at universities
- Help out the Politics department at college open days and taster days
- Start a Politics blog
- Write letters/emails to your local MP or councillor about political issues
- Join the Public Speaking society
- Enter a debating competition
- Go on trips organised by the Politics department
- Stand for the Manchester Youth Parliament
- Go on protest marches or demonstrations
- Read political blogs, journals, newspapers (many can be found in the college library)
- Watch BBC News and BBC Parliament regularly
- Read books on politics and current affairs (many can be found in the college library)

“The books that help you most are those which make you think the most.”



CAREERS

This section explains what you can do with your new qualification when you pass.

Progression and Career Possibilities

Knowing the value of your qualification is important so here it is again!

- progression to Degrees – 80% of Politics students opt for this route
- progression to employment – local council or civil service
- progression to apprenticeships – BBC, KPMG, Civil Service

Politics at university

Many of our students go on to study Politics at university or degrees related to Politics (such as International Relations, Global Security, History, Social and Political Sciences). This document outlines the best universities to study Politics at, the skills you need for a Politics degree, the extra-curricular activities that will help you prepare for a Politics degree, and what you can do after you graduate with a degree in Politics.

Skills required for a Politics degree that universities will be looking for:

- An interest in current affairs and political news
- The ability to read, understand and deconstruct complex texts, journals and books
- The ability to evaluate and criticise ideas, examples and theories
- The ability to fuse together theory with real life examples
- Essay writing skills – both for short essays (2000 words) and dissertations (10000-15000 words)
- Source analysis skills
- The ability to work independently on academic work
- Personal research skills from a variety of sources e.g. websites, journals, books
- Numerical skills for analysing political data e.g. election results
- If you are thinking of PPE, some degrees require Maths AS or A Level
- Strong verbal communication skills for debates, discussions and presentations
- A knowledge of political history both in the UK and abroad e.g. Communism in Russia and Cuba, authoritarianism in North Korea, Fascism in Germany and Italy.
- Strong recall and memory skills for exams
- A well-developed political vocabulary
- A clear working knowledge of the political spectrum and ideologies e.g. right and left wing, conservatism, liberalism, feminism, Third Way, etc
- A desire to learn about political theory e.g. Rousseau and Machiavelli

The top 20 universities to study Politics at (Guardian League Tables):

1. St Andrew's University
2. University of Oxford
3. University of Warwick
4. University of Cambridge
5. Bristol University
6. King's College London
7. London School of Economics
8. University of Exeter
9. University College London
10. University of Kent
11. University of the West of England Bristol
12. University of East Anglia
13. Coventry University
14. University of Surrey
15. University of Essex
16. York University
17. Durham University
18. School of Oriental and African Studies
19. University of Leeds
20. University of Nottingham

Variety of degrees to study which link to politics

- ✓ Politics
- ✓ Politics, Philosophy & Economics
- ✓ International Relations
- ✓ Politics & History
- ✓ Sociology
- ✓ Social Policy
- ✓ Languages
- ✓ Journalism

What can you do with a politics degree?

The answer is a lot! **Politics graduates are hired by many leading local, national and international public service, media, charity and private sector organisations. Many organisations have fast track graduate programmes.** Both of your politics teachers worked in the private sector before changing careers to become teachers. Our politics related degrees were useful in two ways: we had a broader picture of the state of the nation and how major national and international political, social and economic institutions work and we were able to apply our critical thinking skills to project management.

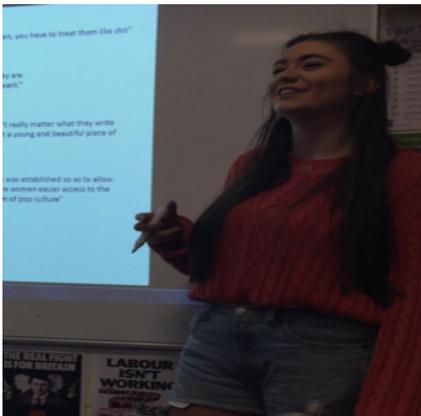
Just some of the jobs that you could do!

- Work for a political party or pressure group
- Become a journalist
- Go into teaching or lecturing
- Do further postgraduate study
- Work for a charity or NGO
- Go into social work
- Work for a bank or international finance organisation
- Civil Service
- Do a law conversion postgraduate qualification
- Go into business or marketing
- Work as a lobbyist or for a lobbying organisation
- Human Rights organisations work
- Public Affairs consultant
- Become an officer in the Armed Forces
- Work for the MOD



Politics success stories

Joe De Paola (left Xavs in 2016) has secured a place on the prestigious Politics & Parliamentary Studies degree at University of Leeds – only 12 places a year! Joe spent his 3rd year working for Rachel Reeves MP in Westminster. During this time he supported constituency work and Ms Reeves role as Chair of the Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Select Committee.



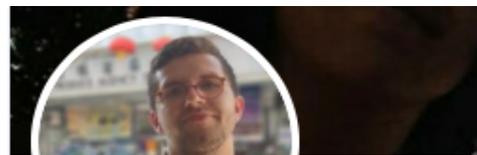
Beth Russell (left Xavs in 2017) secured a place on the highly competitive International Relations course at Bristol University. This year she has spent her 3rd year studying politics at Berkley University in California.



Kate O'Neill (left Xavs in 2003) studied Politics, Philosophy & Economics at Oxford University, and worked as a senior adviser to Nick Clegg, deputy PM. Here she is with Politics students following our Question Time event in November 2012



Aidan Balfe secured a place at Baliol College Oxford to study PPE in Oct 2015. Aiden completed the Civil Service Fast Stream & was working in Dept. for Exiting EU before it was disbanded.



Louis Degenhardt
@LouisDegenhardt Follows you
Political news editor @SkyNews

Louis Degenhardt went onto Politics and International studies (POLIS) at the University of Cambridge. In 2010, he was part of Andy Burnham's campaign for Labour leadership. Louis is currently a political news editor on Sky News.



Noella Kisina (left Xavs in 2013) is studying for a degree in International Relations and is planning to run to be an MP in the Congo. 'My parents were refugees that left a mark on me and made me aware of the situation. Because I was born here, raised in this country with a very democratic society, made me want to be politically active, and to help democracy in the land of my parents.'

Robbie Lee & Ella Parkinson (left Xavs in 2017) have gone on to politics and social policy degrees at Birmingham University and the LSE respectively.

Robbie stood as a prospective parliamentary candidate for The Green Party in the 2017 GE and both students represented Young People in devolution debates and European Youth Parliament debates.

Ella secured summer internships at Dept of Trade and IPPR



**Where will you go? What will you go on to do?
Xaverian Politics students go on to big and bright futures!**