



# GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



**Exam Board: Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)**

**Staff: Kevin Morgan**

**Summary of course: A modular course (two years) with two units examined at the end of Year 12 and two units examined at the end of Year 13.**

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking Government and Politics? There is no requirement to have studied the subject before but students are expected to have at least a B grade or equivalent in English Language GCSE. The examination papers are designed to test knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories and issues; interpretation and application of political information to identify and explain relevant similarities; analysis and evaluation of the areas of government and politics studied to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.

The WJEC AS and A level in Government and Politics encourages learners to develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of contemporary political structures and issues within Wales and United Kingdom (UK).
- Knowledge and understanding of broader global political structures and issues.
- Knowledge and understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics.
- Knowledge and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups.
- An awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes.
- The ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgments.
- An interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.



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## Assessment

**AS Level Unit 1** – ‘Government in Wales and the United Kingdom’ (20%)

1 hour 30-minute examination. This unit serves as an introduction to how Wales and the UK is governed today. Through the study of the constitution; Welsh and UK Government; The Supreme Court and the EU, learners will be able to discuss, analyse and evaluate the key themes, issues and debates surrounding governance in Wales and the UK.

**AS Level Unit 2** – ‘Living and participating in a democracy’ (20%) - 1 hour 30 minute examination. Unit 2 is an introduction to the concept of active citizenship; the rights and responsibilities of citizens, some of the ways in which citizens can participate in a democracy and the importance of citizen engagement.

**A2 Level Unit 3** – ‘Political concepts and theories’ (30%) - 2-hour examination. This module involves the study of political theories and their application. Learners will develop a critical knowledge and understanding of a range of ideological traditions: liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism and nationalism, and their contemporary relevance.

**A2 Level Unit 4** – ‘The government and politics of the USA’ (30%) - 2-hour examination. Learners are introduced to the government and politics of the USA through an examination of three related themes: democracy in America, governance and participation.

## What could I do at the end of my course?

Many students who have studied A Level Government and Politics go on to study the subject at university. From there you might become a researcher; join local or national government or even start the journey to becoming Prime Minister! There are other job options too. The course would be useful for students who wish to pursue a career in journalism or the media. Many graduates of government and politics also become teachers or work in the legal profession.