**POLITICS HIGHER**

**CONTENT**

**The aim of the course is to provide you with knowledge and understanding of political concepts and principles. The course encourages a comparative approach to politics and uses a wide range of local, national and international examples. The course is split into three sections of knowledge:**

**Political Theory**

* Students will develop an understanding of political concepts and ideologies, including Power, Legitimacy & Authority, Socialism, Liberalism and Conservatism.

**Political Systems**

* Students will develop their ability to compare two different political systems (UK & USA) across their respective Constitutions, Executives, Legislature and Judiciary.

**Political Parties and Voting Behaviour**

* Students will analyse a range of electoral data to evaluate the performances of UK political parties in recent elections.

**EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT**

This takes the form of an examination consisting of two papers. Paper 1 is an Essay based paper and will involve both 12 and 20 mark responses covering the 3 sections of knowledge. This paper is an 1hour 45 minutes and worth 52 marks. Paper 2 is a source skills based paper focusing on two skills; Comparison and the Viewpoint question which requires you to interpret, evaluate and synthesise a number of sources. This paper is 1hour and 15 minutes long and is worth 28 marks.

There is also an assignment aspect to the course which is worth 27% of your overall grade. The assignment is carried out in an 1 hour and 30 minutes in exam conditions. Preparation time for this is given in class also.

**HOMEWORK**

This is issued on a regular basis and consists of either practise essay questions, preparation for class discussions and debates or shorter written activities.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

National 5 Modern Studies or a National 5 pass in any other Humanities subject or English.