



Rewarding Learning

# GCSE Government and Politics

STUDENT  
GUIDE



# INTRODUCTION

Studying Government and Politics will help develop your interest in politics and knowledge of how political systems operate. You will be able to relate this knowledge to events reported in the media.

By studying this subject, you will gain a greater understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens and how political decisions affect each one of us.

## WHY STUDY GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?

You will develop your knowledge of government and the policies of the political parties represented. This will help inform your own decision-making about which political party to support in future elections.

The course will also allow you to explore a variety of organisations that operate on a global scale. You will consider important issues such as education, conflict resolution, poverty and immigration.

## UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION?

This is a new qualification at GCSE level. Studying GCSE Government and Politics will enable you to be well prepared for the study of Government and Politics at advanced level.

You can sit Unit 1 at the end of the first year of study if you wish, or you may choose to sit both units at the end of the second year of your study.



# WHAT WILL I STUDY?

UNIT	AREA OF STUDY
<b>Unit 1: Democracy in Action</b>	<p>In this unit, you will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• political ideas and concepts;</li> <li>• decision-making in a democracy;</li> <li>• elections and voting in a democracy;</li> <li>• political parties in a democracy;</li> <li>• political information in a democracy; and</li> <li>• taking action in a democracy.</li> </ul> <p>This unit is assessed in a 1 hour 30 minute written examination paper that is worth 50% of the overall GCSE qualification.</p>
<b>Unit 2: International Politics in Action</b>	<p>In this unit, you will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interdependence;</li> <li>• the European Union;</li> <li>• conflict and its resolution;</li> <li>• conflict resolution in practice – Northern Ireland; and</li> <li>• migration.</li> </ul> <p>This unit is assessed in a 1 hour 30 minute written examination paper that is worth 50% of the overall GCSE qualification.</p>



Unit 1  
**Democracy in Action**

50%



Unit 2  
**International Politics in Action**

50%

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?



This qualification will help you gain valuable skills which will benefit you in everyday life and in any career path that you choose to follow. These include, for example:

- participating in debates and discussions;
- research;
- analysing data and different viewpoints;
- decision-making and problem-solving; and
- assessing the performance of the media and how it reports and influences public opinion.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?

A qualification in Government and Politics can help prepare you for a career in government, law, business, finance, research, journalism, the media, charitable organisations, political research, political campaigning or public service.



