

# Politics & Society



The Leaving Cert Politics & Society is a dynamic and thought-provoking subject that consists of 4 strands that define our own world and the world around us. These four strands and what they consist of are as follows;

**Power and decision-making;** Origins of political groups, inspirational figures who came from humble beginnings, how power and responsibility came become corrupted, ideologies, how social causes turn into debates then eventually referendum, where change can arise from.

**Rights and Responsibilities;** The different types of rights, what rights certain people are afforded, rights other people are denied, lack of rights means lack of equality, what defines a right, how rights in Ireland are different abroad, should we be more concerned with our rights or rights of others.

**Active Citizenship;** Get inspired to become more involved, learn and develop traits to better society, have healthy and robust dialogue to challenge other views or perspectives, how stereotypes can blind our opinions, find a passion and strive towards it, We debate and discuss healthy dialogue every class, get as many views as possible, every view is welcome and appreciated, developing your skills as a speaker, opening up your mind to other cultures and opinions.

**Globalisation;** Changing face of Ireland, travel, trade, communication, social media, how globalisation impacts Irish identity, how it impacts our identity, how it impacts culture, what's more important, modernisation or culture? What's more important, progression or history? What's more important, rights of others or our own rights? Populism, cultural hybridisation.

## Objectives of the course

- An understanding of the social systems within which people act: locally, nationally and more widely.
- An understanding of concepts which underpin contemporary systems of government and of the diverse models for making these concepts operational.
- An understanding of and a respect for human rights and responsibilities, for human dignity and for democratic modes of governance.
- An understanding of and a respect for sustainable development.
- A commitment to and a capacity for active participation in the learner's social and political worlds.
- A commitment to and a capacity for critical, discursive and independent thinking.
- A commitment to and a capacity for engagement in peaceful and democratic means of resolving conflicts.
- A sense of care for others and a respect for and a valuing of diversity in all areas of human life within the parameters of human rights principles.

## Links to other subjects

**Religion;** The importance of faith to society, do we need it, the reliance on it, what would happen if religion faltered.

**History;** How political groups were born from political struggle, how treaties originated from violence, the growth of independence in countries grew from desire for change.

**Modern languages;** Languages were spawned from cultures mixing and evolving, the mingling of societies leads to slang, travelling (Globalisation) led to many European languages and regional dialects.

## Assessment

Assessment for certification in Politics and Society will be carried out through two assessment components: 1. Report on a citizenship project (20% of the total marks). 2. Written examination (80% of the total marks).

## Key Skills

- Become self-aware, have high self-efficacy
- Engage with ethics, values and beliefs
- Welcome opportunities, can cope with setbacks
- Can effect positive change,
- Learning by seeking and using knowledge, and understanding how knowledge is created
- Experiencing passion for, rigour in and commitment to learning
- developing intellectual and critical thinking skills, exercising autonomy and independence
- managing their learning and making learning choices
- setting and achieving learning goals

**For further information, see attached PowerPoint or contact the Politics and Society Dept.**

[Politics and Society subject description.pptx](#)