

# GCSE Citizenship

## What will I learn?

The new GCSE Citizenship Studies specification will motivate and educate students to become thoughtful and active citizens who engage intelligently and enthusiastically with public life. Students will gain knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop the ability to create sustained, well balanced arguments. They will plan and carry out practical citizenship action that delivers benefits for society and this will be examined in Paper 1. They'll also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh up evidence, and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence. Higher education and employers value all of these essential skills.

## What do I need to know before I can start the course?

You need have no specific prior knowledge before you start the course, but some general citizenship knowledge is preferable. You do need to consider your commitment to the subject and the fact that the course relies on reading and writing.

## What does the course involve?

The overarching theme of this course is 'How citizens can try to make a difference'. This aim is supported by three content themes examined in two exam papers of 1 hour and 45 minutes each.

The first theme, Life in Modern Britain, looks at the make-up and dynamics of modern society, what it means to be British, as well as the role of the media and the UK's role on the world stage. The second theme, Rights and Responsibilities, looks at the nature of laws, rights and responsibilities within the UK and has a global aspect due to the nature of international laws, treaties and agreements the UK is signed up to. The third theme, Politics and Participation, aims to give the student, through an understanding of the political process, the knowledge and skills necessary to understand how to resolve issues, bring about change, and how the empowered citizen is at the heart of our society.

## What can I do after the course? What careers will this course be useful for?

Citizenship provides a good basis for many careers and further study because of the skills and practical knowledge it teaches you. You could use your study of Citizenship to study A levels in Citizenship, History, Sociology and Law. The subject is highly thought of by employers and has links to careers in teaching, law, journalism, TV and film research, the travel industry or public services like the police.

## Who can I talk to for more information?

Please see any of the Citizenship teachers in the department.

## What websites can I check out?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wTkPgCRzqk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XfPdtXSLBk>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/citizenship/gcse/citizenship-studies-8100/subject-content>

