Politics and Law is a study of the processes of decision-making concerning societies collective future. It aims to develop knowledge of the principles, structures, institutions and processes of political and legal systems primarily in Australia.

Politics & Law 2AB
This is a semesterised Politics & Law course for students to develop strong analytical skills and awareness for further training or employment. It is highly valuable for students who are seeking university entrance, with excellent application towards management or commerce.

Recommended Background
To be successful in this course, students should have obtained:
B grade or above for Year 10 Society & Environment and English.

Commitment
Students will be required to:
∞ Complete 2 - 3 hours of study per week; and
∞ Undertake daily viewing of news programs and printed media.

Course Content (2A)
The focus for this unit is political and legal systems. Students critically examine the legislative, executive and judicial structures and processes of political and legal systems, the principles that underpin these structures and processes and the values and events that influence them.

In this course students will:
∞ Describe the roles of the legislative, executive and judicial arms of government;
∞ Describe the structure of Australia’s political and legal system;
∞ Explain the key external influences on the structure of Australia’s political and legal system; The Westminster system of government; English Common Law; and the American, Canadian and Swiss Federal Systems; and
∞ Evaluate at least one contemporary issue involving the judicial process.

Politics & Law 3AB
This is a single year long Politics & Law course for students to develop strong analytical skills and awareness for further training or employment. It is highly valuable for students who are seeking university entrance. In particular, this subject is excellent if seeking employment in the management or commerce fields.

Recommended Background
To be successful in this course, students should have attained the minimum requirement of:
C grade or above in Politics & Law 2AB and English 2AB.
If a student has not completed a Politics and Law course then a B grade in English 2AB is the minimum requirement.

Commitment
Students will be required to:
∞ Complete 3 hours of study per week; and
∞ Undertake daily viewing of news programs and printed media.

Course Content (3A)
The focus for this unit is political and legal power. Students are to consider the influence of individuals, pressure groups, political parties, public opinion, the media and internal and external factors on law making. In this course students will:
∞ Discuss the principles of
executive, legislative and judicial power in theory and in practice in Australia and at least one other political and legal system;
∞ Define federalism in Australia;
∞ Outline the constitutional powers of state and commonwealth parliaments;
∞ Explain the functions of the commonwealth parliament in theory and in practice; and
∞ Evaluate at least one contemporary issue relating to legal power.

Course Content (3B)
The focus for this unit is rights and governance. Students examine the ways political and legal systems respond to contemporary civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights issues. In this course students will:
∞ Explain the accountability of the executive with reference to:
  • Elected leaders; and
  • Government bodies.
∞ Explain the accountability in theory and in practice of:
  • Parliaments;
  • The executive including tribunals; and
  • The courts.
∞ Discuss the types of rights:
  • Civil;
  • Political;
  • Economic;
  • Social;
  • Cultural; and
∞ Evaluate the experience of rights and citizenship in terms of the access and equity of at least one individual or group in at least one other country.