

Global Politics

I. Course description and aims

The DP Global Politics course explores fundamental political concepts such as power, equality, sustainability and peace in a range of contexts. It allows students to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity and processes, as well as to explore political issues affecting their own lives. The course helps students to understand abstract political concepts by grounding them in real-world examples and case studies. It also invites comparison between such examples and case studies to ensure a wider and transnational perspective.

Teachers explicitly teach thinking and research skills such as comprehension, text analysis, transfer, and use of primary sources. The study of global politics enables students to critically engage with different and new perspectives and approaches to politics in order to comprehend the challenges of the changing world and become aware of their role in it as active global citizens.

The aims of the Global Politics course are to enable students to:

1. understand key political concepts and contemporary political issues in a range of contexts
2. develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity
3. understand, appreciate and critically engage with a variety of perspectives and approaches in global politics
4. appreciate the complex and interconnected nature of many political issues, and develop the capacity to interpret competing and contestable claims regarding those issues.

II. Curriculum model overview

Core units: People, power and politics

Four compulsory units:

- Power, sovereignty and international relations
- Human rights
- Development
- Peace and conflict

Engagement activity

An engagement on a political issue of personal interest, complemented with research.

Higher Level extension: Global political challenges

Political issues in two of the following six global political challenges are researched and presented through a case study approach.

- Environment
- Poverty
- Health
- Identity
- Borders
- Security