



GCSE

Citizenship Studies

The Brunts Academy

Key features of the course:

This course gives students opportunities to:

- Play a positive role in public and democratic life as informed and active citizens.
- Plan their own citizenship actions on an issue about which they are passionate.
- Engage with topics close to their hearts while they develop skills in research and investigation, problem solving, advocacy and campaigning.
- Practise a range of citizenship skills including: research and enquiry, interpretation of evidence, including primary and secondary sources, planning, collaboration, problem solving, advocacy, campaigning and evaluation.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the role of citizenship in relation to current issues that impact on modern society, engaging with what it means to be an active citizen and preparing for their next steps in a globalised world.

What type of student is this suitable for?

This course is ideal for students who want to have an impact on their community on a local, regional, or national level. For anyone who finds politics interesting, Citizenship is an excellent first step to understanding and engaging with political processes. Students who care passionately about social issues would benefit hugely from this course, as it offers excellent guidance on how to use formal and informal types of power and influence in order to achieve your goals.

What could this course lead on to?

This course provides an excellent pathway to the A Level Politics course, and future careers in law, politics, the media, public service and more. Taking this course will result in students being more engaged with the world, and better placed to make an impact on issues they care about.

THEME A: LIVING TOGETHER IN THE UK

Students are introduced to the idea that the UK is a diverse society of many different communities and groups who live together. They explore the nature of identity as well as how and why communities are changing. They consider our shared democratic rights, freedoms and values, including human rights and the challenge of balancing competing rights.

Paper 1: Written exam (1 hour 45 minutes)

THEME C: LAW AND JUSTICE

Students explore why we need laws and how they affect our lives. They consider how the justice system in England works in practice including the roles of the police and the courts. They also learn about the features of the criminal, civil and youth justice systems and the different approaches to addressing inequality, changing behaviour and tackling crime.

Paper 1: Written exam (1 hour 45 minutes)

THEME B: DEMOCRACY AT WORK IN THE UK

Students explore the idea of representative democracy in the UK including the voting and electoral system, the roles and responsibilities of MPs and how government is organised and kept in check. They will also consider the role of parliament in making and shaping law; managing public money; and how power is organised across the UK.

Paper 1: Written exam (1 hour 45 minutes)

THEME D: POWER AND INFLUENCE

In this section students explore ideas about power. In particular the ways in which citizens, governments and the media exercise power and influence in a range of local to global situations. They contrast representative democracy in the UK with a non-democratic political system and the limits this places on the rights and freedoms of their citizens.

Paper 2: Written Exam (1 hour 45 minutes)

THEME E: TAKING CITIZENSHIP ACTION

Students must carry out an in-depth, critical investigation leading to citizenship action as described above. The investigation and action can be based on any aspect or issue arising from the course content and should be designed to have an impact locally, nationally or globally. There are many types of investigation and action that students can take that use different methods and citizenship skills. The choice of action will depend on the issue or challenge they are addressing and what they intend their action to achieve.

Paper 2: Written Exam (1 hour 45 minutes)

Course Details: Pearson Edexcel Citizenship Studies (9-1 GCSE)

Website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Citizenship%20Studies/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/Specification_GCSE_L1-L2_in_Citizenship.pdf

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