



AQA 



SHOUT OUT UK
THE VOICE OF THE NEXT GENERATION

POLITICAL LITERARY COURSE INFORMATION PACK

Political Literacy is one of the most valuable gifts we can give the next generation as it bestows upon them the tools needed to build a better society.

Young people have important, inspiring contributions to make to politics and yet their voices are too often ignored. This course can help equip them with the tools to challenge decision makers better.

– Fatima Manji, *Channel 4 News*

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INTRODUCTION

Shout Out UK is a multi-award winning independent news and media network that, via films, journalism, events and education, aims to show young people that political and social issues have a direct impact on their lives. The Political Literacy Course aims to help young people engage with politics, by teaching them about the processes in Politics, as well as public speaking and debating. The skills learnt on the course enhance a student's self-image, confidence, emotional resilience and knowledge of politics.

Is there a need? Young people are the least likely to engage in politics, be it directly or via discussion. We believe this is because of a profound lack of political education in schools. Politics is the one thing that allows us to be who we want to be, gives us a voice and creates a democratic society; yet we give it no time in schools. Our Political Literacy Course gives the next generation a clear understanding of what politics is, how our society works and teaches skills related to politics (debating, public speaking and campaigning), which are relevant and important for anyone's employment opportunities, self-esteem, confidence and resilience.



WHAT STUDENTS GET

After the six week course, successful students will gain a Level 3 award from AQA, which is internationally recognised and highly valued by both employers and higher education institutions.

The top two students will be asked to represent their school at our annual debate in Parliament, entitled The Grand Debate.

UNIT BREAKDOWN AND WHAT WILL BE COVERED

UNIT 1: WEEKS 1-2 (2 HOURS PER WEEK)

What is Politics? The history of politics up to the present day. The student will also gather an understanding of the importance of voting and the process in which to do so. As well as the constitution of the British Parliament, including the House of Lords and House of Commons. What are the local wards, UK constituencies and EU constituency boundaries.

UNIT 2: WEEKS 3-4 (2 HOURS PER WEEK)

Britain and the International Community. What is the EU and UN? The Student will also gain understanding of international trade and economic co-operation. Plus an understanding of Corporate Politics, showing that politics has a direct impact on everyone's life, be it directly or more indirectly.

UNIT 3: WEEKS 5-6 (2 HOURS PER WEEK)

How to campaign for a cause, debate and speak in front of a crowd. The variety of employability routes available in the political industry from MPs offices, lobby groups, charities and political news desks.



ASSESSMENTS

Each unit will be assessed in accordance with AQA regulation. All units have written assignments and the course will end with a verbal examination.

EMPLOYABILITY

Even though not all students will want to go into politics as a career choice, the Political Literacy Course will give students the people skills required in any industry as the six week course will include: debating, speech writing and presentation skills.

VISITING PARLIAMENT

Due to our contacts and partners in Parliament we will be organising a tour in Parliament to students of the completed course for them to see the building 'where it all happens'. This is organised with the Parliament Education Service.



UNIT TITLE: SHOUT OUT UK (UNIT 1)

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS

CURRICULUM AREA(S): POLITICS

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The student will learn through discussions, research and talks on the history of politics to present day. The student will also gather an understanding of the importance of voting and the process in which to do so. This will be learnt through discussions with those who have experienced the process and research.

Understanding politics is part of being an active and engaged citizen - a civic responsibility - and this course will give you the tools necessary to understand and engage in politics.

– Prof. Matthew Flinders,
Sir Bernard Crick Centre for
the Public Understanding
of Politics

LEVEL: 2

WEEK 1-2

In successfully completing this unit the student will have:

Experienced:

1. Taking part in discussions.
2. Taking part in discussion about political systems and political parties in the UK.

Shown knowledge of:

3. The Greek roots of the word 'politics' and the definition of democracy.
4. The concept of state, government and role of the monarchy.
5. Qualification and disqualification for voting in the UK.
6. Local and national political issues.
7. The frequency of national and local elections in the UK.
8. The constitution of British Parliament including the House of Lords and House of Commons.
9. The role of sovereignty and government in the UK.
10. Separation of powers in the UK e.g. legislative, executive and judiciary.
11. Voting for national and local government representatives.
12. Local ward, local UK constituency, local EU constituency boundaries.
13. Objective political publications.

Demonstrated the ability to:

14. Find info about UK government departments online.
15. Find information in Hansard.
16. Identify and show how to contact their MP and MEP.
17. Identify and show how to contact their local councillor.



UNIT TITLE: SHOUT OUT UK (UNIT 2)

CORPORATIONS, IR & POLITICAL THEORY

CURRICULUM AREA(S): POLITICS, BUSINESS STUDIES

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Britain and the International Community. What is the EU and UN? The student will also gain an understanding of international trade and economic co-operation. Plus an understanding of corporate politics, showing that politics has a direct impact on everyone's life, be it directly or indirectly.

I have really enjoyed developing my knowledge of politics, something which people of our age do not usually get exposed to. This course has allowed me to get a better view on the wider worlds and how the country is governed.

– Anisa, Student, Participant in the Political Literacy Course

LEVEL: 2

WEEK 3-4

In successfully completing this unit the student will have:

Acquired an understanding of:


1. Corporate (macro and micro) and family politics.
2. Political theories and ideologies e.g. Communism, Fascism, Socialism, Neoliberalism.
3. Rise and fall of political movements.
4. International competition and conflict.
5. International organisations that promote co-operation e.g. EU and UN.
6. Collaboration between countries e.g. BRICS, NATO.

Shown knowledge of:

7. Conflict management and resolution.
8. Concepts of leadership and motivation.
9. Influential writers of political theory e.g. Marx, Keynes, Chomsky.
10. Popular political movements e.g. socialism, conservatism, liberalism.
11. International trade and economic co-operation.
12. International blocks and political allegiances.
13. Historical power blocks e.g. Soviet bloc, British Commonwealth.

Demonstrated the ability to:

14. Understand political affiliation.
15. Identify political view of particular publication.
16. Name characteristics of global north and global south.
17. Name interstate co-operation organisations e.g. Arab League, OIC.



UNIT TITLE: SHOUT OUT UK (UNIT 3) CAMPAIGNING & EMPLOYABILITY

CURRICULUM AREA(S): POLITICS

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The student will learn through discussions and research how to campaign for a cause. The student will also learn the variety of employability routes available in the political industry.

I enjoyed the opportunity to express my views through debate. I also found it interesting learning about government processes as well as how government decisions affect my life.

*– Rebecca, Student,
Participant in the Political
Literacy Course*

LEVEL: 2

WEEK 1-2

In successfully completing this unit the student will have:

An acquired understanding of:

1. Qualifications of employment in politics.
2. Lobbying in politics.
3. Joining political parties.
4. Local and national political issues.
5. Canvassing.

Shown knowledge of:

6. Local political issues.
7. Local lobbying organisations.
8. Debating.
9. Party politics.
10. Single issue groups.

Demonstrated the ability to:

11. Write a short speech.
12. Present a poster to their peer group about a local issue.
13. Identify at least two local lobbyists on social media.
14. Identify an important local issue.



THE GRAND DEBATE

At the end of each six week course the top two students from each school taking part in the course that year will take part in The Grand Debate.

The Topic

The topic will be chosen from what has been in the news during the run up to the debate.

Debate Structure

The Grand Debate will take the form on a traditional professional debate with a motion and a for and against team comprised of students.

How will the victor be chosen?

The students not representing the school will be asked to compose the jury who will vote on a possible winner. The chair will have final say.

The Chair

The chair holding the debate will be a national politician or journalist to ensure a level of realism in the debate.

The Venue

Shout Out UK has a vast network of MPs and Lords, who is in regular contact with and will aim to secure a venue in parliament for the Grand Debate as a first choice each year.



AQA AWARD FOR THE COURSE



At the end of the course, all successful students will receive an AQA Level 3 Unit Award Statement for each successfully completed units.

About the Award

The award is a level 3 Award Statement provided by AQA. The levels are based on the QCF level descriptors, placing level three around AS/A-level, level two around GCSE level. It can be added to a student's CV, it is internationally recognised and highly valued by both employers and higher education institutions.

The award statement will be given to all students who successfully complete the six week course, while the top two students will be asked to represent their school at our annual Debate in Parliament, entitled The Grand Debate.

About AQA

AQA is an independent education charity and the largest provider of academic awards taught in schools and colleges. AQA set and mark the papers for around half of all GCSEs and A-levels taken every year.

All AQA awards are internationally recognised and taught in 30 countries around the world. They are highly valued by employers and universities and enable young people to progress to the next stage of their lives. Their awards suit a range of abilities and include GCSEs, IGCSEs, A levels, Tech-levels, the Extended Project Qualification and the AQA Baccalaureate.

At EEWB we believe that every child, regardless of background or circumstance, deserves a chance to succeed in life. We see the political literacy program as a key intervention program to supporting our belief, whilst educating young people about the laws and structures of a democratic society and engaging them as responsible citizens. This course is most beneficial to our learners and the positive outcomes we have documented are commendable.

– JP Thangavalu, Director at EEWB Reform School (Pupil Referral Unit), Croydon.



ABOUT SHOUT OUT UK

Shout Out UK is a multi-award winning independent news network and course provider that, via journalism, film, events and education, connects one of the largest networks of intelligent, adventurous and career-driven young people with the aim of getting them more active and interested in politics.

Since our launch in 2014, we have become one of Britain's fastest growing alternative and independent news platforms.

Why do we exist?

Readership of the mainstream newspapers is in decline – particularly with young people. The next generation want a network that is more inclusive, creates debate and stimulates thought on a variety of platforms.

Our awards

- **Outstanding Contribution Award for Political Literacy of 2016**, Award by EEWB.
- **Harrow Business Den Winner of 2016**, Awarded by Harrow Council.
- **Youth Friendly Micro-Business of 2014**, Awarded by Youth Employment UK.

What we do

Journalism

Shout Out UK's website is based on edited user-generated content. Our in-house editors check spelling, grammar and fact. We work on a strict Freedom of Speech principle.

We have beaten the mainstream media on a variety of topics; for instance the GoWisely campaign or the Care.data initiative – which we beat *the Guardian* by 1 day.

Film and Video Production


Shout Out UK collaborate with the best young talent in film and television to create films, videos and graphic animations that aim to show all kinds of social issues in an entertaining and enjoyable way.

Our previous work includes '*Anonymous: A Million Men*' which was subsequently sold to Shorts International Ltd for international distribution. The film is now available on iTunes, Amazon Video and Google Play.

Moreover, on the 28th April 2015, Shout Out UK collaborated with Channel 4 and ITN to launch Britain's first ever Youth Leaders' Debate. The programme aired at 8pm GMT and after 10min the #YouthLeaders was trending on Twitter (UK).

Event Planning

We run events on a variety of issues; and in many different forms. Our flexible and creative nature allows us to turn even the most grey of issues interesting, entertaining and accessible to young people.



I am definitely more interested in politics as a result of this course. I am also excited about how I can get involved in politics as I now feel I know what I can do to bring change having found out about how political decisions are made.

– Chineye, Student, participant in the Political Literacy Course



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