Citizenship

Edexcel

Penwortham Girls' High School

Introduction: Edexcel GCSE Citizenship Studies is designed for students who are interested in society, current issues, and how people can make a difference in their communities. The course helps students understand how government, law, and democracy work, while developing skills in debate, enquiry, and critical thinking. Students explore real citizenship issues, learn to form balanced arguments, and reflect on the role they can play as active, responsible citizens.

Description of the course: There are 5 themes to be studied over the two years. **Theme A Living together in the UK** which looks at topics including *british values, human rights, migration*. **Theme B Democracy at work in the UK** which looks at the *UK Voting system, how laws are made and the government*. **Theme C How the law works** which looks at how the *criminal and youth justice system works, crime and civil disputes*. **Theme D Power & Influence** which looks at many aspects of society including the *influence of pressure groups, media, the commonwealth, europe and international organisations*. **Theme E Active Citizenship Project** where students pick a cause and bring about a change in the local community.

How you will learn: Students will develop their knowledge and skills through classroom activities, collaborative learning and homework tasks. Weekly theory lessons will be supported by regular examination practice. Students will consolidate some of this learning through the Active Citizenship Project. There will be opportunity to further knowledge and understanding through trips and other out of classroom sessions.

Assessment – There are two exams at the end of the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 – 1hr 45 minutes long – 50% of the qualification

Questions are focused around Theme A, Theme B and Theme C and extended-response questions related to Themes A-C.

Paper 2 – 1hr 45 minutes long – 50% of the qualification

Questions are focused around questions relate to the students' own citizenship action, as specified in specification Theme E: Taking citizenship action, questions on Theme D and One question will also link to content in one of Themes A–C.

Using this qualification: A GCSE Citizenship qualification helps students build strong skills in critical thinking, communication, and understanding how society, law, and government work. It supports progression to post-16 courses such as A-levels in Politics, Law, Sociology, Psychology, History, and Religious Studies, as well as vocational routes like Public Services, Health and Social Care, Business, and Criminology. It also links well to careers in the civil service, policing, law, journalism, youth work, and charitable or community organisations. Most importantly, it provides the knowledge and confidence needed to be an active, informed citizen who can positively participate in their community.

Subject Leader Miss N. Lindsay