

# Politics and Society

## Have your say on this new Leaving Certificate subject

**A new subject!**  
**One of the exciting elements of the senior cycle review which is currently under development is the introduction of a new subject. Politics and Society is an optional, social science subject which will link effectively with Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) in the junior cycle. Now that the subject has been developed in draft format, we would like to hear your opinions on this draft syllabus!**

### What will students learn in Politics and Society?

Politics and Society aims to develop the student's ability to be a reflective and active citizen, in a way that is informed by the insights and skills of social and political sciences. While it will undoubtedly complement a number of existing subjects, it will also bring a social science perspective that is entirely new to senior cycle education.

Teachers and students will work with key themes and ideas in the social sciences. They will apply these to their local environment, as well as explore how they apply in other places. For example, through looking at the changes in their own local community over the last few years, they will have an opportunity to discuss whether or not these changes constitute development, and whether or not they are sustainable. Through making links to the global context, students will be able to identify the roles of groups such as multinational companies, governments and intergovernmental bodies, as well as the role of cultural factors in enabling or preventing development in Ireland and around the world.

### How will students learn Politics and Society in school?

Politics and Society is organised around key ideas in the social and political sciences, including democracy, culture, conflict, globalisation, equality, diversity and sustainable development. Students will come at these ideas in an active way, through applying them to the world they know. They will explore, for example, democracy in their local sports club and in their school, the potential for conflict between part-time employees and their employers, and the global reach of television and of video sharing sites such as YouTube. Through this, they will be exposed to the ideas of key social and political thinkers like Kate Millett, Karl Marx, Milton Friedman, John Locke, and Edward Said. They will also get an opportunity to complete an Active Citizenship project, which will enable them to apply their learning in action. Their report on this Active Citizenship project will account for 20% of the final examination.

You can find out more about this new subject by downloading the [draft Politics and Society syllabus](#). Examples of what Politics and Society classes might look like in practice are also available to download, from [Action](#).

### Time to hear your thoughts!

We would like to invite you to take part in a consultation by completing an [online survey](#) which can be accessed by clicking on the link. Details on the other aspects of the consultation, which include making a written submission, are available to download, along with details regarding consultation meetings that will take place with teachers and other interested groups.

Your input will help to make Politics and Society a better subject. We look forward to hearing from you!

