TOPIC OF THE WEEK

IS POLITICS A SET OF BELIEFS

Politics = a set of beliefs?

Yes, but with an important qualification: politics is more than a set of beliefs.
Politics concerns the beliefs, values, ideas and principles through which individuals and societies organise, govern and regulate their collective lives.

We can break it down:
Beliefs – What do we believe about people, society and the world?
Values – What do we consider important, fair or worthwhile?
Ideologies – How do we think society should be organised?
Principles – What standards should guide political decisions?
Power – Who makes decisions, who holds authority, and how is power distributed?
Policies – How are beliefs translated into practical action?
An interesting distinction

Politics is the activity and process of governing and exercising power.

Political ideology is a structured set of beliefs about how society should be organised.

Political philosophy examines the fundamental ideas behind political life.
A deeper question

If politics is influenced by our beliefs, values and principles, then:
Are our political beliefs a reflection of who we are, or do our political beliefs help determine who we become?

And perhaps another question:

Is politics a system of beliefs, or is it a system through which beliefs compete for power?