

POLITICS Y12 CURRICULUM

Autumn term 1	Autumn term 2	Spring term 1	Spring term 2	Summer term 1	Summer term 2
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UK Politics

To allow students to explore the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK. To ensure students understand the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens through examination of electoral systems, voting behaviour and political actions as well as the role of the media in contemporary politics.

Democracy and Participation	Voting Behaviour and the Media	Electoral Systems	Political Parties
Direct and representative democracy – which is the best system? Political participation does the UK have a participation crisis? History of the franchise – does the UK need further reform? How democratic is the UK? Rights in context The role of Pressure groups and whether they enhance democracy The influence of the lobbying industry in the UK The role of think tanks in the UK	The role of sociological factors in determining voting behaviour e.g. class, age, gender, ethnicity, region Short term voting behaviour factors and the rational choice model of voting behaviour e.g. issue voting, valence voting Case studies on 3 elections, 1997 and one before and after Impact of the media on voting behaviour and politics Impact of opinion polls	Different Electoral systems Referendums and how used Electoral System Analysis	Political Parties Established political parties Emerging and minor UK political parties UK political parties in context
apathy democratic deficit direct democracy disillusionment franchise lobbyists participation crisis pluralist democracy pressure groups representative democracy suffrage think tanks	class dealignment partisan dealignment opinion poll rational choice salient issues valence voting	Alternative Member System coalition government First Past the Post marginal seat minority government safe seat Single Transferable Vote Supplementary Vote	Classical Liberals Left-wing Modern Liberals New Labour New Right Old Labour One Nation Right-wing

Formative assessment through practice essays with students able to submit practice paragraphs for feedback and to make improvements. Summative assessment through the examination of Component 1 (UK Politics) in the Year 12 Summer mock exam.

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UK Government

To enable students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made in the UK so they have a base of comparison to other political systems. Allows students to explore the set of rules governing politics in the UK, the UK constitution, the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of the government – legislative, executive, and judiciary – as well as the relationships and balance of power between them, in order to consider where sovereignty now lies.

Parliament	Prime Minister and Executive	Relations between branches	UK Constitution	Human Rights and the UK Supreme Court continued
Structure and role Comparative Powers House of Commons & House of Lords Legislative process Interaction with Executive	Structure, role and powers of the Executive Ministerial Responsibility PM and Cabinet	Executive and Parliament The EU Location of Sovereignty in the UK political system	History of the UK Constitution and its development over time Sources of the UK Constitution Key features of UK Constitution e.g. Parliamentary sovereignty, rule of law, unitary, fusion of powers, constitutional monarchy Constitutional Reform under Labour, Coalition and Conservative governments Case study on devolution Evaluation of codified versus uncodified constitutions for the UK Human Rights and the UK Supreme Court Role of the UK judiciary What is the UK Supreme Court	Key Supreme Court Cases The relationship between the UK Supreme Court, Parliament and the Executive Is the UK judiciary independent and neutral? How effective is the UK judiciary at protecting civil rights and liberties?
backbenchers confidence and supply frontbenchers House of Commons House of Lords Legislative bills opposition parliament parliamentary privilege Public Bill Committees Salisbury Convention select committees	Cabinet collective responsibility Executive government department individual responsibility minister Presidential government Royal prerogative secondary legislation	elective dictatorship European Union Four Freedoms (EU) legal sovereignty political sovereignty ultra vires	authoritative works codified constitution conventions devolution entrenched fusion of powers Parliamentary sovereignty Royal prerogative rule of law uncodified unentrenched unitary	judicial independence judicial neutrality judicial review Supreme Court ultra vires

Formative assessment through practice essays with students able to submit practice paragraphs for feedback and to make improvements. Summative assessment through the examination of Component 2 (UK Government) in the January Y13 mock exam.

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Core and non-core ideologies

To allow students to explore the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism and learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers. To be able to discuss and analyse the extent to which advocates of a particular ideology agree on key issues and principles or whether there are tensions and issues that divide them.

<p>Introduction to ideologies: What are ideas and ideologies and why are they important Understanding the 4 key themes – human nature, society, state and the economy</p> <p>Liberalism: Core ideas and principles</p>	<p>Liberalism: Differing views and tensions within liberalism</p> <p>Liberal thinkers and their key ideas: John Locke Mary Wollstonecraft John Stuart Mill John Rawls Betty Friedan</p>	<p>Conservatism: Core ideas and principles</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within conservatism</p> <p>Conservative thinkers and their key ideas: Thomas Hobbes Edmund Burke Michael Oakeshott Ayn Rand Robert Nozick</p>	<p>Complete Conservatism</p> <p>Socialism: Differing views and tensions within socialism</p> <p>Socialist thinkers and their key ideas: Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels Rosa Luxemburg Beatrice Webb Anthony Crosland Anthony Giddens</p>	<p>Complete Socialism</p> <p>Feminism: Differing views and tensions within feminism</p> <p>Feminist thinkers and their key ideas: Charlotte Perkins Gilman Simone de Beauvoir Kate Millett Sheila Rowbotham bell hooks</p>	<p>Complete Feminism</p> <p>Revision for end of Year 12 exams</p>
<p>classical economy equality of opportunity formal equality Enlightenment human nature individualism liberty limited government meritocracy neo-liberal rationalism social contract society state tolerance</p>	<p>classical enabling state harm principle laissez-faire minimal state modern negative liberty neo-liberal positive liberty tyranny of the majority veil of ignorance</p>	<p>atomism authority change to conserve empiricism hierarchy human imperfection libertarianism minarchist objectivism neo-conservative New Right One Nation organic paternalism pragmatism status quo traditional</p>	<p>bourgeoisie class collectivism common ownership communist dictatorship of the proletariat equality of outcome evolutionary exploitation fraternal fundamentalist inevitability of gradualism mixed economy revisionist revolutionary social democracy socialist state ownership Third Way</p>	<p>cultural feminism difference feminism equality feminism essentialism gender intersectionality otherness patriarchy post-modern feminism private sphere public sphere radical feminism sex stereotypes</p>	

Formative assessment through practice essays with students able to submit practice paragraphs for feedback and to make improvements. Summative assessment through the examination of core ideologies in the end of Y12 exam and feminism in the January Y13 mock exam.

POLITICS Y13 CURRICULUM

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US Government and US/UK comparative study

To allow students to explore the nature of US democracy, and the debates surrounding it to fully understand the considerable impact that the USA has on UK, European and global politics. In learning about the key institutions of government in the USA and analysing the manner in which they achieve this power and exercise it over their citizens, students will judge ultimately whether ‘liberty and justice for all’ has been achieved in the USA. Students will explore the debates on the nature of democracy in the USA and evaluate the extent to which it remains an issue. Students will begin to compare and contrast politics and institutions in the US with those in the UK. This will enable them to develop a wider understanding of politics as a discipline, underpinned by the theoretical concepts of comparative politics.

US democracy and participation	US democracy and participation	US democracy and participation	US democracy and participation	Revision	
Elections in the USA – presidential and congressional elections	The Presidency – formal powers, vice president, cabinet, Executive Office, relations with Congress, direct authority, theories of presidential power, limits on presidential power, US president vs UK Prime Minister	Democratic and Republican parties – the two-party system, party organisation, party ideology, party policies. Role of third parties Comparing US and UK parties – finance and funding Current conflicts within the parties Coalition of supporters for each party	Interest/pressure groups – theory, types, functions, methods used, powers of, impact of Comparing US and UK pressure groups Interpretations and debates	- Revision powerpoints and lessons covering content. Reinforcement of key words and ideas. - Revision powerpoints and lessons covering skills. Skills practice sessions – evaluate essays, extract essays and 12-mark questions	
balanced ticket caucuses Congress electoral college front loading incumbent invisible primary midterms October surprise national party convention Political Action Committee primaries soft money split-ticket straight-ticket Super Tuesday Super PAC	Cabinet executive agreement Executive Office of the President [EXOP] Executive Order imperial presidency imperilled presidency National Security Council PotUS recess appointment signing statement	Democrat gender gap ideology polarisation Reagan Democrats Republican Tea Party two-party system	causal groups electioneering elitism endorsing grassroots iron-triangle syndrome lobbying participation pluralism pressure group revolving-door syndrome sectional groups		

Formative assessment through practice essays with students able to submit practice paragraphs for feedback and to make improvements.

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<p>US Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to the US Constitution and History of the US - Articles of Confederation and why they failed - The Amendment process - Separation of Powers - Checks and Balances <p>Federalism (AEK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changing nature of federalism - Federalism today 	<p>Congress (AEK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Congress - Law making process - Representative function and resemblance model - Composition of Congress - Scrutiny function and effectiveness of Congress in holding the executive to account - Voting in Congress - Congressional Elections 	<p>Supreme Court (AEK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to the Supreme Court - Composition of the Supreme Court - Appointment process - Landmark cases where the Supreme Court has shaped public policy - Protection of civil liberties - Supreme Court and the power of the President - Is the Supreme Court too powerful and too political? 	<p>Race and Rights in US Politics (AEK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Race Relations in current day, racial bias - Affirmative Action - Supreme Court and voting rights - Supreme Court and immigration rights <p>Comparative Politics (AEK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Comparative theories - Comparison of - UK/US Constitution - UK/US Legislatures - UK/US Judiciary - UK /US Executive - UK/UK democracy and participation 	<p>Revision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revision powerpoints and lessons covering content. - Reinforcement of key words and ideas. - Revision powerpoints and lessons covering skills. - Skills practice sessions – evaluate essays, extract essays and 12-mark questions 	
<p>Bipartisanship checks and balances codification constitution divided government entrenchment enumerated powers federalism gridlock limited government separation of power unified government</p>	<p>Congressional Committee filibuster legislation oversight partisanship representation scrutiny</p>	<p>conservative justice constitutional rights imperial judiciary judicial activism judicial restraint judicial review liberal justice living constitution originalism public policy stare decisis strict/loose constructionist swing justice</p>	<p>affirmative action analyse compare cultural examine racial equality rational</p>		

Formative assessment through practice essays with students able to submit practice paragraphs for feedback and to make improvements.

