

## Curriculum Overview: Politics

**Rationale:** Student begin course with little formal prior learning. The teaching is structured to initially build upon the existing understanding of the majority of students, starting with UK political parties and the UK Executive. Future learning then builds on the key concepts developed through the Autumn term of Y12

Course content is primarily outlined by the exam board, Pearson.

Optional Unit chosen: US and UK comparative government. This is chosen to complement student understanding of UK Government and Politics and due to the vast amount of media resource available.

Non-core Political ideology: Optional unit chosen is Nationalism. This is chosen due to its links with the Core Ideology of Conservatism and as many students study others such as feminism in their other courses.

Term / Length of Unit	Outline	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Knowledge/Skills End Points
Autumn term 1 Y12	<p><b>UK Politics:</b> Section 2 Political Parties 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>UK Government:</b> Section 1 The constitution 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Essay on Party systems Essay on New vs Old Labour</p> <p>Essay on 'Is the Constitution fit for purpose?</p>	<p>Summer project work prior top course on Lab/Con Party and 2 Party System</p> <p>Complete course notes and exercises from Chapter 2 of Pearson Textbook</p>	<p>Pearson textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p><b>Political parties.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The functions and features of political parties in the UK's representative democracy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Established political parties.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The origins and historical development of the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and Liberal Democrat Party,</li> </ul> <p><b>Emerging and minor UK political parties.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The importance of other parties in the UK.</li> </ul> <p><b>UK political parties in context.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of a multi-party system and its implications for government.</li> </ul> <p>The nature and sources of the UK Constitution, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an overview of the development of the Constitution through key historical documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magna Carta (1215); Bill of Rights (1689); Act of Settlement (1701); Acts of Union (1707); Parliament Acts (1911 and 1949); European Communities Act (1972)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The nature of the UK Constitution: unentrenched, uncodified and unitary, and the 'twin pillars' of parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law</p>
Autumn term 2 Y12	<p><b>UK Politics:</b> Section 3 Electoral Systems 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>UK Government:</b> Section 2 Parliament 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Essay on advantages and disadvantages of FPTP Exam style Q3 assessment on other election systems</p>	<p>Complete course notes and exercises from Chapter 3 of Pearson Textbook</p>	<p>Pearson textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p><b>Different electoral systems.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First-past-the-post (FPTP), Additional Member System (AMS), Single Transferable Vote (STV), and Supplementary Vote (SV).</li> </ul> <p><b>Referendums and how they are used.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How referendums have been used in the UK and their impact on UK political life since 1997.</li> <li>The case for and against referendums in a representative democracy.</li> </ul> <p>The structure and role of the House of Commons and House of Lords.</p>

					<p>The main functions of the House of Commons and House</p> <p>Debates about the relative power of the two Houses. The legislative process. The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive.</p>
Spring term 1 Y12	<p><b>UK Politics:</b> Section 4 Voting Behaviour and the Media 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>UK Government:</b> Section 3 The PM and the Executive 5 hours per fortnight</p>	PPE full paper for Government and full paper for Politics	Complete course notes and exercises from Chapter 4 of Pearson Textbook Revise in preparation for PPE	<p>Pearson textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p><b>Case studies of three key general elections.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case studies of three elections (one from the period 1945–92, the 1997 election, and one since 1997), the results and their impact on parties and government.</li> </ul> <p><b>The influence of the media.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Assessment of the role and impact of the media on politics – both during and between key general elections, including the importance and relevance of opinion polls, media bias and persuasion.</li> </ul> <p>The structure, role, and powers of the Executive. Prerogative powers, initiation of legislation and secondary legislative power.</p> <p>The power of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The factors that affect the relationship between the Cabinet and the Prime Minister</p>
Spring term 2 Y12	<p><b>UK Politics:</b> Section 1 Democracy and Participation 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>UK Government:</b> Section 4 Relationship between the branches 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Essay on Pressure groups Practice exam questions for AS</p>	Complete course notes and exercises from Chapter 1 of Pearson Textbook	<p>Pearson textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p><b>Current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy.</b> The features of direct democracy and representative democracy.</p> <p><b>Advantages and disadvantages of direct democracy and representative democracy and consideration of the case for reform.</b></p> <p><b>The work of a current movement to extend the franchise.</b> Case studies of two different pressure groups, highlighting examples of how their methods and influence vary.</p> <p>The Supreme Court and its interactions with, and influence over, the legislative and policy-making processes.</p> <p>The relationship between the Executive and Parliament.</p> <p>The extent to which the balance of power between Parliament and the Executive has changed.</p> <p>The location of sovereignty in the UK political system.</p>

<p>Summer term 1 Y12</p>	<p><b>US Government and Politics:</b> Section 1 US Constitution and Federalism 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Essay on strengths and weaknesses of US Constitution</p>	<p>Complete course notes and exercises from Chapter 5 of Pearson Textbook Use McNoughton to complement Pearson book</p>	<p>Pearson textbook McNaughton USA Textbook Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p>The nature of the US Constitution.</p> <p>The amendment process, including advantages and disadvantages of the formal process.</p> <p>The main characteristics of US federalism. The nature of the federal system of government and its relationship with the states.</p> <p>The debates around the extent to which the USA remain federal today.</p>
<p>Summer term 2 Y12</p>	<p><b>Core Political ideas:</b> Liberalism 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>US Government and Politics:</b> Section 1 US Constitution and Federalism -Continues 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Essay comparing types of Liberalism Exam style practice question on Liberalism</p>	<p>Complete course notes and exercises from Liberalism section of Pearson Textbook Use Heywood to complement Pearson book</p>	<p>Pearson textbook McNaughton USA Textbook Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p><b>Core ideas and principles of liberalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individualism</li> <li>• freedom/liberty</li> <li>• state</li> <li>• rationalism</li> <li>• liberal democracy</li> </ul> <p><b>The differing views and tensions within liberalism:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• classical liberalism</li> <li>• modern liberalism</li> </ul>
<p>Autumn term 1 Y13</p>	<p><b>Core Political ideas:</b> Conservatism 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>US Government and Politics:</b> Section 5 US Democracy and Participation 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Essay on Core Values of Conservatism Exam style question on Types of conservatism Essay – strengths and weaknesses of electoral process</p>	<p>Complete course notes and exercises from Conservatism section of Pearson Textbook Use Heywood to complement Pearson book</p>	<p>Pearson textbook McNaughton USA Textbook Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p><b>Core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pragmatism</li> <li>• tradition</li> <li>• human imperfection</li> <li>• organic society/state</li> <li>• paternalism</li> <li>• libertarianism</li> </ul> <p><b>The differing views and tensions within conservatism:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• traditional conservative</li> <li>• one-nation conservative</li> <li>• New Right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o neo-liberal</li> <li>o neo-conservative</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Electoral systems in the USA.</b> Presidential elections and their significance.</p> <p><b>Campaign finance.</b> The role of campaign finance and the current legislation on campaign finance</p> <p><b>The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties.</b></p> <p><b>The current conflicts and tendencies and the changing power and influence that exist within the parties.</b></p> <p><b>Coalition of supporters for each party.</b></p>

<p>Autumn term 2 Y13</p>	<p><b>Non- Core Political ideas:</b> Nationalism 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p>Section 3 US Presidency 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>US Government and Politics:</b> Section 2 US Congress 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Essay on Inclusive vs Exclusive Nationalism Exam style question on Nationalism</p> <p>Essay – Functions of Congress</p>	<p>Complete course notes and exercises from Nationalism section of Pearson Textbook Use Heywood to complement Pearson book</p>	<p>Pearson textbook McNaughton USA Textbook Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p><b>Core ideas and principles of nationalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nations</li> <li>• self-determination</li> <li>• nation-state</li> <li>• culturalism</li> <li>• racialism</li> <li>• internationalism</li> </ul> <p><b>The different types of nationalism and the extent to which they vary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• liberal nationalism</li> <li>• conservative nationalism</li> <li>• anti/post-colonialism –</li> <li>• expansionist nationalism</li> </ul> <p>Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use.</p> <p>The significance of these powers with reference to presidents since 1992.</p> <p>Relationships between the presidency and the following institutions and why this varies: Congress and the Supreme Court.</p> <p>Constitution</p> <p>Interpretations and debates of the US presidency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effectively they have achieved their aims.</li> <li>• The imperial presidency.</li> <li>• The extent of presidential accountability to Congress.</li> <li>• The role and power of the president in foreign policy.</li> </ul> <p>With reference to presidents since 1992</p> <p>The structure of Congress.</p> <p>Powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress.</p> <p>Factors that affect voting behaviour within Congress:</p> <p>The legislative process, including the strengths and weaknesses of this process.</p> <p>Factors that influence the relationship between Congress and the presidency.</p>
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<p>Spring term 1 Y13</p>	<p><b>Core Political ideas:</b> Socialism 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>US Government and Politics: Section 4:</b> US Supreme Court and rights 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p><b>US Government and Politics:</b> US/UK Comparative approaches 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Full PPE for Y13 all 3 papers</p>	<p>Complete course notes and exercises from Socialism section of Pearson Textbook Use Heywood to complement Pearson book</p>	<p>Pearson textbook McNaughton USA Textbook Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p><b>Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</b> collectivism common humanity equality social class workers' control</p> <p><b>The differing views and tensions within socialism:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revolutionary socialism</li> <li>• social democracy</li> <li>• Third Way</li> </ul> <p>The nature and role of the Supreme Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current composition and ideological balance of the Court.</li> </ul> <p>The protection of civil liberties and rights in the US today.</p> <p>Race and rights in contemporary US politics.</p> <p>Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights.</p> <p>Theoretical approaches – understanding of these three approaches and the different ways they explain similarities and differences between the government and politics of different countries.</p> <p><b>Rational</b></p> <p><b>Cultural</b></p> <p><b>Structural</b></p>
<p>Spring term 2 Y13</p>	<p>Revision Revision</p>	<p>Practice exam questions at home and lessons</p>			
<p>Summer term 1 Y13</p>	<p>Revision Revision</p>	<p>Practice exam questions at home and lessons</p>			

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