

Curriculum Overview: Politics

Rationale: Students 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 Constitution. 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: USA 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>UK Politics: Section 2 Political Parties 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p>UK Government: Section 1 The constitution 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>30 mark Essay on Party systems</p> <p>30 mark Essay on Conservate party</p> <p>30 mark Essay on Devolution</p> <p>Various 10 mark questions</p> <p>Knowledge checker mini tests</p>	<p>Summer project work prior to course on Lab/Con Party and 2 Party System</p> <p>Home learning based on extension work from lessons and prep for assessment.</p> <p>Home learning extended writing essays</p>	<p>Pearson textbook</p> <p>PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme</p> <p>BBC website</p> <p>Various media websites</p> <p>Department workbooks</p>	<p>Political parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The functions and features of political parties in the UK's representative democracy. <p>Established political parties.</p> <p>Emerging and minor UK political parties.</p> <p>UK political parties in context.</p> <p>The nature and sources of the UK Constitution</p> <p>The nature of the UK Constitution: unentrenched, uncoded and unitary, and the 'twin pillars' of parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law</p>
Autumn term 2 Y12	<p>UK Politics: Section 3 Electoral Systems 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p>UK Government: Section 2 Parliament 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>30 mark Essay on advantages and disadvantages of FPTP</p> <p>Exam style Q3 assessment on other election systems</p> <p>30 mark essay on functions of parliament</p> <p>Various 10 mark questions</p>	<p>Home learning based on extension work from lessons and prep for assessment.</p> <p>Home learning extended writing essays</p>	<p>Pearson textbook</p> <p>PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme</p> <p>BBC website</p> <p>Various media websites</p> <p>Department workbooks</p> <p>Dept Trip to Houses of Parliament</p> <p>Visit by Local MP to speak to class</p>	<p>Different electoral systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-past-the-post (FPTP), Additional Member System (AMS), Single Transferable Vote (STV), and Supplementary Vote (SV). <p>Referendums and how they are used.</p> <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.</p> <p>The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive.</p>

		Knowledge checker mini tests			
Spring term 1 Y12	<p>UK Politics: Section 4 Voting Behaviour and the Media 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p>UK Government: Section 3 The PM and the Executive 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>PPE full paper for Government and full paper for Politics</p> <p>Various 10 mark questions</p> <p>Knowledge checker mini tests</p>	<p>Revision in preparation for PPE</p> <p>Home learning based on extension work from lessons and prep for assessment.</p>	<p>Pearson textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p>Case studies of three key general elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The influence of the media.</p> <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>UK Politics: Section 1 Democracy and Participation 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p>UK Government: Section 4 Relationship between the branches 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>30 mark Essay on Pressure groups</p> <p>30 mark essay on US Supreme court</p> <p>Practice exam questions for AS</p> <p>Various 10 mark questions</p> <p>Knowledge checker mini tests</p>	<p>Home learning based on extension work from lessons and prep for assessment.</p> <p>Revision for AS exams</p>	<p>Pearson textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p>Current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy.</p> <p>Advantages and disadvantages of direct democracy and representative democracy and consideration of the case for reform.</p> <p>The work of a current movement to extend the franchise.</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>
Summer term 1 Y12	<p>Preparation for AS exam in May</p> <p>UK Politics 5 hours per fortnight</p> <p>UK Government 5 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Practice papers for Paper 1 and 2</p>	<p>Revision for AS exams</p>	<p>Pearson textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks Past exam papers</p>	

Summer term 2 Y12	US Government and Politics: Section 1 US Constitution and Federalism 10 hours per fortnight	30 mark Essay on strengths and weaknesses of US Constitution Knowledge checker mini tests	Home learning based on extension work from lessons and prep for assessment.	Pearson textbook McNaughton USA Textbook Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks	The nature of the US Constitution. The amendment process, including advantages and disadvantages of the formal process. The main characteristics of US federalism. The nature of the federal system of government and its relationship with the states. The debates around the extent to which the USA remain federal today.
Autumn term 1 Y13	Core Political ideas: Liberalism 3 hours per fortnight US Government and Politics: Section 2 US Congress 7 hours per fortnight	24 mark Essay comparing types of Liberalism Exam style practice question on Liberalism 30 mark essay – Functions of Congress Knowledge checker mini tests	Home learning based on extension work from lessons and prep for assessment.	Pearson textbook McNaughton USA Textbook Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks	Core ideas and principles of liberalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy: individualism • freedom/liberty • state • rationalism • liberal democracy The differing views and tensions within liberalism: • classical liberalism • modern liberalism The structure of Congress. Powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress. Factors that affect voting behaviour within Congress: The legislative process, including the strengths and weaknesses of this process. Factors that influence the relationship between Congress and the presidency.
Autumn term 2 Y13	Core Political ideas: Liberalism 3 hours per fortnight US Government and Politics Section 5 US Democracy and Participation	24 mark Exam style question on Key values of Liberalism 30 mark Essay on the Presidential Election process 30 mark essay on the US Government	Use Mc Noughton Chapter 3 to complement Pearson book	Pearson textbook McNaughton USA Textbook Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks	Core ideas and principles of liberalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy: individualism • freedom/liberty • state • rationalism • liberal democracy The differing views and tensions within liberalism: • classical liberalism • modern liberalism Electoral systems in the USA. Presidential elections and their significance. Campaign finance.

	Section 3 US Presidency 7 hours per fortnight				<p>The role of campaign finance and the current legislation on campaign finance The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties.</p> <p>The current conflicts and tendencies and the changing power and influence that exist within the parties.</p> <p>Coalition of supporters for each party.</p> <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>Interpretations and debates of the US presidency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effectively they have achieved their aims. • The imperial presidency. • The extent of presidential accountability to Congress. • The role and power of the president in foreign policy. <p>With reference to presidents since 1992</p>
Spring term 1 Y13	<p>Core Political ideas: Socialism 3 hours per fortnight</p> <p>US Government and Politics: Section 4: US Supreme Court and rights 7 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Full PPE for Y13 all 3 papers</p> <p>Knowledge checker mini tests</p>	<p>Complete course notes and exercises from Socialism section of Pearson Textbook Use Heywood to complement Pearson book</p> <p>Use McNoughton Chapter 4 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>Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy: collectivism common humanity equality social class workers' control The differing views and tensions within socialism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revolutionary socialism • social democracy • Third Way <p>The nature and role of the Supreme Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current composition and ideological balance of the Court. <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>

Spring term 2 Y13	<p>Core Political ideas: Socialism 3 hours per fortnight</p> <p>Conservatism 4 Hours per fortnight</p> <p>Non- Core Political ideas: Nationalism 3 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>24 mark Essay on Inclusive vs Exclusive Nationalism</p> <p>24 mark essay on socialism and the state 24 mark essay on Values of Conservatism</p>	<p>Complete course notes and exercises from Nationalism section of Pearson Textbook Use Heywood to complement Pearson book</p> <p>Use McNoughton Chapter 5 to complement Pearson book</p>	<p>Heywood 'Ideologies' Textbook PPTs as specified in Implementation scheme BBC website Various media websites Department workbooks</p>	<p>Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy: collectivism common humanity equality social class workers' control The differing views and tensions within socialism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revolutionary socialism • social democracy • Third Way <p>Core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pragmatism • tradition • human imperfection • organic society/state • paternalism • libertarianism <p>The differing views and tensions within conservatism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional conservative • one-nation conservative • New Right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o neo-liberal o neo-conservative <p>Core ideas and principles of nationalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nations • self-determination • nation-state • culturalism • racialism • internationalism <p>The different types of nationalism and the extent to which they vary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • liberal nationalism • conservative nationalism

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anti/post-colonialism – • expansionist nationalism
Summer term 1 Y13	US Government and Politics: US/UK Comparative approaches 5 hours per fortnight Revision Revision	Practice exam questions at home and lessons	Revision Crammer PowerPoints Home learning revision and practice questions	Revision Crammer PowerPoints Tutor 2 U activities Past exam papers	Theoretical approaches – understanding of these three approaches and the different ways they explain similarities and differences between the government and politics of different countries. Rational Cultural Structural