



Faculty/Subject: Humanities / Politics

Subject context : Why do we teach it and why now ?

DUE TO THE NATURE OF POLITICS – ALL CONTENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDENT ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS THAT OCCUR

Politics teaching comes in three parts, UK Government and Politics, US Government and Politics and Political Ideologies and our teaching reflects this split as it is taught independently by three different teachers.

In Year 12 students begin learning UK Government which provides the institutional basis on which further political study can be undertaken. Concurrently the three main political ideologies of conservatism, socialism and liberalism are taught; this reflects their importance in political thought and study. Towards the end of the academic year the study of UK Politics can commence and this provides focus on the everyday interactions of the public with politics and the optional unit of feminism is taught alongside. The choice of feminism reflects the student interest and its current prominence in society at the moment.

In Year 12 UK Government and Politics is taught two hours weekly and Political Ideologies three hours weekly and so UK politics teaching continues into Year 13. This is particularly useful as US Government needs to be taught before any comparative work can be undertaken.

US Government and Politics takes a similar direction as the UK starting with the US government which provides the institutional basis before US Politics is taught. Once the first half term and the Constitution unit is taught, then comparative politics is taught and distinct comparisons can be drawn between the two systems.

UK Politics is taught in the following order and each unit builds or follows on from the one previously:

1. Historical Context of the UK Political System – Introduction to show development of the system and its relation to modern day issues.
2. The UK Political System – An introduction to what politics is and the institutions before detailed study is undertaken.
3. The constitution – this forms the basis of all government of the UK.
4. Devolution – this follows from constitution as it is a deviation from the unitary state to a more federal one and underlines the overall governance of the UK.
5. Parliament – a focus is then taken on the main political institution (legislature) of the UK.
6. The Prime Minister and the Executive – this follows from Parliament and looks at the key players within in.
7. The Supreme Court – this triangulates the three branches of government and follows on from the legislative and the executive.
8. The European Union – a look then outside at the Supranational institution that has affected the governance of the UK and its set up.

9. Democracy and political participation – this unit looks at the ideas of democracy and how people are involved through voting and pressure groups and how we can further develop.
10. Electoral system – once we have looked at the idea of democracy, it follows to look at the electoral systems in the UK and how democracy is achieved and can be improved.
11. Voting behaviour and the role of the media in politics – we then move on to look at how people actually exercise their right to vote and the influence the media can have on the decisions they make at the ballot box.
12. Political Parties – A study then on how can be voted for and how political parties are funded in the UK.

Political Ideologies is taught in the following order. Each ideology is independent of the other but we start with the main three before looking at our optional unit.

1. Liberalism.
2. Conservatism.
3. Socialism.
4. Feminism.

US Politics is taught in the following order and each unit builds or follows on from the one previously:

1. US Politics an Overview – An introduction to the institutions before detailed study is undertaken.
2. The constitution – this forms the basis of all government of the USA.
3. Congress – a focus is then taken on the main political institution (legislature) of the USA.
4. The Presidency – this follows from Congress and looks at the executive branch.
5. The Supreme Court and Civil Rights – this triangulates the three branches of government and follows on from the legislative and the executive. There is also a study of the key issue of civil rights that plays a key role in US politics.
6. Elections – a move now to look at how the electorate interacts with the US political system.
7. Parties and Pressure Groups – A study then of who can be voted for and how pressure groups influence the system in a significant way.

Comparative Politics is taught in the following order; each unit is independent but they are studied in the order they were originally taught for continuity:

1. Structural, Rational and Cultural theories for comparison are introduced.
2. Constitution.
3. The Executives.

4. The Judiciaries.
5. Electoral and Party Systems.
6. Pressure Groups.
7. Civil Rights.

Exam Board	Recommended Reading	Recommended Textbooks / Revision Guide:
AQA	Please see attached reading list found at: https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/government-and-politics/as-and-a-level/government-and-politics/a-level/teach/resource-list	UK Government and Politics for AS/A Level Phillip Lynch, Paul Fairclough, Toby Cooper US Government and Politics for A Level Anthony J. Bennett Political Ideas for A Level: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Feminism, Anarchism Neil McNaughton, Richard Kelly My Revision Notes: AQA AS/A-level Politics: UK Politics Rowena Hammal and Simon Lemineux My Revision Notes: AQA A-level Politics: US and Comparative Politics Rowena Hammal and Simon Lemineux My Revision Notes: AQA A-level Politics: Political Ideas Adam Tomes and Simon Lemineux

Year 12	Autumn 1 UK Politics	Autumn 1 Political Ideologies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a working knowledge of the development of the UK political system. • To define the nature of politics • Understand the key features of the Westminster model. • Understand majoritarian and consensual democracy. • To have a knowledge of the parliamentary system, executive, legislature and judiciary. • To have an understanding of what has changed and what has stayed the same in British politics. • What is a constitution? • What do we mean by uncodified and uncodified constitutions? • What are the sources of the UK Constitution? • Understand how to answer a nine mark question. • What key principles underpin the UK constitution? • What constitutional reform has taken place since 1997 and how significant has it been. • Understand how to answer a twenty-five mark essay question. • What could happen next in the constitutional story of the UK? • Has Brexit won the case for codifying the constitution? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will studying political ideologies look like? • What are the origins of liberalism? • What are the Core Principles of Liberalism? • What is Liberalism's view of Human Nature and Society? • How does Liberalism view the State? • How does a Liberal State function? • What are the key features of early classical liberalism? (late 17th to early 18th century) • What are the key features of later classical liberalism? (early-mid 19th century) • How does modern liberalism differ from classical liberalism? • How does modern liberalism differ from classical liberalism? • How does modern liberalism differ from classical liberalism? • How did modern liberal collectivism develop? • 25 mark question practise – follow up • What is the position of liberalism today? • Was Fukuyama accurate in describing 1991 as the 'end of history'? • Liberalism assessment preparation.

Year 12	Autumn 2 UK Politics	Autumn 2 Political Ideologies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is devolution and its origins? • What are the roles, powers and responsibilities of each of the devolved institutions? • What is the 'English Question', and how might it be answered? • Understand how to answer a twenty-five mark extract question. • What have been the implications of devolution for UK politics? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the origins of conservatism? • What are the core principles of conservatism? • What is conservatism's view of human nature? • How does conservatism view society? • How do conservatives view the state? • Why have conservatives been described as 'reluctant supporters of capitalism'? • How did different strands of conservatism develop? • How did one nation conservatism develop? • How is Christian democracy similar/different other forms of traditional conservatism? • How does the New Right differ from traditional conservatism? • Essay practise – What is the meaning of conservatism? • What is the position of conservatism today? • Overview of Conservatism

Year 12	Spring 1 UK Politics	Spring 1 Political Ideologies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the origins of socialism? • What are the core principles of socialism? • How does socialism view human nature and society? • How do socialists view the state? • How do socialists view the economy? • What is fundamentalist socialism? • What is orthodox communism? • Is Marxism redundant? • What is democratic socialism? • What is euro-communism and neo-Marxism? • Must socialism be achieved through revolution? • How does revisionist socialism differ from fundamentalist socialism? • How did the Third Way adapt? • Overview of the types of socialism. • Is socialism irrelevant in the 21st century?

Year 12	Spring 2 UK Politics	Spring 2 Political Ideologies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the origins of feminism?• Does feminism have core principles?• What does feminism suggest about human nature?• How do feminists view the state and the economy?• How do we link feminism and society?• What stands in the way of women being equal to men?• What do liberal feminists believe?• To what extent do radical feminists have a unified view of feminism?• What do post-modern and socialist feminists believe?• Feminism case study: Greenham Common and Women's Peace Camp.• What does feminism look like today?

Year 12	Summer 1 UK Politics	Summer 1 Political Ideologies

Year 12	Summer 2 UK Politics	Summer 2 Political Ideologies

Year 13	Autumn 1 UK Politics	Autumn 1 USA Politics
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and Background to US Politics. • To understand how the USA was created. • To begin to understand the Constitution of the USA. • Understand how the US Constitution was created. • Identify the key features of the US Constitution. • Assess the advantage and disadvantages of the key features. • Identify the arguments surrounding the Constitution as a beacon of democracy. • Identify the key principals of the US Constitution: Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances. • Assess the advantage and disadvantages of the key principals. • What is Federalism? • Understand the various stages and developments of Federalism. • How amendments can be made to the US Constitution. • Assess the arguments for and against the amendment process. • Identify and judge the arguments surrounding amendments and the issue of democracy. • What is the Bill of Rights? • Assess the reasons behind the Bill of Rights creation. • Identify and judge the arguments surrounding the modern usefulness of the Bill of Rights. • Know the arguments for and against in several key debates. • Ability to convert these arguments into an essay response. • Judge which debates are most important and state why. • Know the arguments for and against in several key debates. • Ability to convert these arguments into an essay response. • Judge which debates are most important and state why.

Year 13	Autumn 2 Comparative Politics	Autumn 2 USA Politics
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the structure, role and power of U Congress. • To examine the checks and balances that Congress has on the other branches of government. • To identify the most significant powers of Congress. • To analyse the evidence as to which chamber is the most powerful. • To identify key positions in Congress. • To understand the legislative process within Congress and understand why so few bills are passed. • To be able to identify and make judgements about Congressional Committees. • To analyse the current makeup of the US Congress. • To be able to identify key requirements for membership / election to Congress. • To debate the reflectiveness of the makeup of the US Congress V wider society. • To be able to identify the key influences on voting in Congress. • To judge how important political parties are in Congress. • Analyse the issues surrounding gridlock. • To define the roles of the Executive and Legislature in Foreign Policy. • Be able to judge how important the role of Congress is in Foreign Policy. • Judge how and why the role of the President and Congress Foreign Policy has changed. • To debate if Congress is the broken branch.

Year 13	Spring 1 Comparative Politics	Spring 1 USA Politics
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the constitutional rules concerning the President of the USA. • Be able to distinguish the formal and informal powers of the President of the USA. • Be able to judge if the power of the President has increased or decreased. • Be able to define the roles of the Executive in foreign policy. • Be able to judge how important the role of the President is in foreign policy. • Be able to judge how and why the role of the President in foreign policy has changed. • To understand the relationship between the presidency and other institutions – The Vice Presidency. • To understand the relationship between the Presidency and other institutions – The Cabinet. • Relationship between the Presidency and other institutions – Executive Office of the President of the USA. • To understand and assess the effectiveness of the Federal bureaucracy. • To identify and make judgements on the waxing and waning presidential power.

Year 13	Spring 2 Comparative Politics	Spring 2 USA Politics
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the electoral process and direct democracy. • To be able to explain Primaries / Caucus. • To be able to judge the advantages and disadvantages of the above. • To understand the electoral process and direct democracy. • To identify the key purpose of National Conventions. • To understand the electoral process and direct democracy. • To understand the reasons behind and operating procedures of the Electoral College. • To reach a judgement on the advantages and disadvantages of the Electoral College. • To understand the electoral process and direct democracy. • To understand the process and importance of Congressional Elections (inc. most recent mid-term). • What other types of elections take place in the USA. • The electoral process and direct democracy. • To understand factors determining electoral outcomes: money, media, issues, leadership, the significance of incumbency, debates about campaign finance. • The electoral process and direct democracy. • To understand voting behaviour and the main variables affecting the way people vote in the USA. • To identify links between parties and their core voting coalitions. • To understand recent factors in voting behaviour: issues, candidates, significance of recent (post 1932 and 1968) re-aligning election and the factors that influenced voting. • Split-ticket voting and high levels of abstention in US elections. • To understand the most recent two elections – who won and why?

Year 13	Summer 1 Revision	Summer 2 USA Politics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision