



Politics Curriculum Overview

Our Politics curriculum is designed to develop knowledge and understanding of the ideas, organisations and institutions that comprise the UK and US political systems. The curriculum is ambitious because it studies the politics of two different countries; encourages critical thinking in relation to a wide range of current political debates and develops detailed political knowledge as well as transferable skills.

In Year 12 we study two units: UK Politics and UK Government. The UK Politics course begins by looking at democracy & participation, which sees students assess the strengths and weaknesses of the UK's democratic processes. We then move on to the topic of political parties, which covers the history, leadership and policies of the major UK parties. Electoral systems is the next topic and here we study the pros and cons of the First past the Post system and analyse the alternatives that are in use across the UK. Finally, we look at voting behaviour & the media and consider the extent to which newspapers, social media and TV & radio affect the political process. Meanwhile, the UK Government course begins by looking at the UK constitution, which sees students debate the arguments for and against codifying the UK's 'unwritten' constitution. Next, we move on to Parliament, and evaluate its ability to carry out its representative and scrutiny functions. The prime minister & cabinet is the next topic, and here we study Finally we look at the links between the different branches of government.

In Year 13 we study two more units: Political ideas and US Politics. The Political Ideas course looks at conservatism, socialism, liberalism and feminism through four themes: human nature, the state, economy and society. Meanwhile, the US Politics course starts with the US Constitution, in which students study its origins, development and impact today. We then cover the US Congress and the legislative process. Next, we look at the US Presidency and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the US President in comparison with the UK Prime Minister. Finally we cover the US Supreme Court and analyse some of its major judgements.

Detailed knowledge is encouraged by the use of case studies across a range of topics e.g. pressure groups, elections and leaders. Self-belief is developed by providing students with the opportunity to develop or evolve their political opinions in a non-judgemental environment. The curriculum aims to develop the ability to critically assess a range of public policies as well as hone key transferable skills such as critical thinking; independent learning and written communication that will remain useful throughout our students' lives.

KS5 Politics Curriculum

	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn Term 1	UK Politics - Democracy / UK Government - Constitution	Political Ideas - Liberalism / US Politics - US Constitution
Autumn Term 2	UK Politics - Political Parties / UK Government - Parliament	Political Ideas - Conservatism / US Politics - US Congress
Spring Term 1	UK Politics - Electoral Systems / UK Government - Prime Minister & Cabinet	Political Ideas - Socialism / US Politics - US Presidency
Spring Term 2	UK Politics - Voting Behaviours / UK Government - Links between the branches	Political Ideas - Feminism / US Politics - US Supreme Court
Summer Term 1	UK Politics - Revision / UK Government - Revision	Political Ideas - Revision / US Politics - Revision
Summer Term 2	Exam feedback and review. Consolidation of identified knowledge gaps. Teacher directed and supported project work and/or progressing to learn new material. 6th Form Progression Programme.	