



Course Outline: A Level Politics Year 12

Rationale – In Year 12 Politics, UK Politics (C1) and UK Government (C2) will be taught by separate teachers. In C1 Section A, we begin with a key foundation of the political system, namely Democracy and Participation: the different types of democracy, the ways citizens participate and the context of UK rights. We then turn to Political Parties, exploring their functions and funding before considering the ideas and policies of the three main UK parties as well as the fortunes of some emerging parties. Building on our knowledge of parties, we then look at workings, impact and arguments surrounding the different electoral systems used in the UK. Lastly, we look at Voting Behaviour and the Media and consider reasons why people vote in certain ways before looking at the influence of the press, TV and social media on voters. All the topics are inter-linked, but we teach them in the most logical order where one topic builds on another. In C2 Section A, we begin with the nature of the constitution and how it has developed since 1997 because this is essential in understanding how UK government works. You will then look at the legislature (i.e. Parliament), exploring the powers of the Commons and Lords and how laws are made. This leads onto the Executive and the role of the PM and Cabinet. The last element of UK government is to look at the role played by the judiciary. C2 Section A is tied together, finally, by looking at relations between the three branches of government plus the impact of the EU. When we have completed Section A, your C1 teacher will teach Core Political Ideas in Section B. We begin with Liberalism because it is the oldest ideology. We can then trace its influence on the other core ideas of Conservatism and Socialism. Meanwhile, your C2 teacher will begin work on C3 starting with the US Constitution, fundamental to an understanding of the US political system.

	COMP*	CONTENT	KEY/FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS	ASSESSMENT	
Autumn Term	1	Democracy & Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative & direct democracy Wider franchise Pressure groups Rights in context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legitimacy Democratic deficit Participation Crisis Franchise / suffrage Think Tanks 	30-mark essay planned for homework and written in class	
	2	UK Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature of the constitution Development since 1997 Further reform? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codified / uncodified Parliamentary sovereignty Rule of Law Conventions Devolution 	30-mark essay planned for homework and written timed in class (45 mins)	
	Half-term				
	1	Political Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functions & funding Major parties Minor parties Party systems & success factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old / New Labour One Nation New Right / Thatcherism Classical / Modern Liberals Left / Right wing 	30-mark essay planned for homework and written timed in class (45 mins)	
	2	Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origins & development Commons and Lords Comparative powers Legislative process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidence and supply Salisbury Convention Parliamentary privilege Select committees Backbenchers 	30-mark essay planned for homework and written timed in class (45 mins)	
	Christmas Holiday				
Spring Term	1	Electoral Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of UK electoral systems Referendums Analysis of electoral systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Past the Post Additional Member System Single Transferable Vote Supplementary Vote Safe / Marginal seat 	30-mark source planned for homework and written timed in class (45 mins)	
	2	PM and Executive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure, role & powers Ministerial responsibility PM and Cabinet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Royal Prerogative Secondary legislation Collective responsibility Presidential government 	30-mark source planned for homework and written timed in class (45 mins)	
	Half-term				

	COMP	CONTENT	KEY/FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS	ASSESSMENT	
Spring Term	1	Voting Behaviour and the media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections case studies • Factors explaining the electoral outcomes • Analysis of voting behaviour • Media influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class dealignment • Partisan dealignment • Governing competency • Disillusion / apathy • Manifesto / mandate 	30-mark source planned for homework and written timed in class (45 mins)	
	2	Judiciary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Supreme Court on legislative and policy-making process • Executive & Parliament • Sovereignty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial neutrality • Judicial review • Elective dictatorship • Ultra vires 	30-mark source planned for homework and written timed in class (45 mins)	
Easter Holiday					
Summer Term	1	<i>Complete unfinished work</i> Liberalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core principles & ideas • Tensions (classical v modern liberals) • Key thinkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundational equality • Social contract • Positive / negative freedom • Individualism • Minimal / enabling state 	End of year exam Q1 source (C1) Q2 essay (C2) 90 mins	
	2	Impact of EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims • Institutions • Impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Freedoms • Legal sovereignty • Political sovereignty • Supranationalism 		
	Half-term				
	1	<i>Finish Liberalism</i> Conservatism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core principles & ideas • Tensions (Traditional, One-Nation, New Right) • Key thinkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to conserve • Noblesse oblige • Empiricism • Human imperfection • Hierarchy 	24-mark essay planned for homework and written timed in class (30 mins)	
3	US Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US history / culture • Current issues • Compare / contrast with UK • US Constitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks and balances • Entrenchment • Federalism • Limited government • Separation of powers 	Summer workbook preparing for Y13 work on C3		



Course Outline: A Level Politics Year 13

Rationale – In Year 13 Politics, one teacher will finish the work on Core Political Ideas before starting work on Component 3. Both teachers will teach topics from this component alongside each other. Students benefit from the more intensive focus on the political system of the USA. Your Component 1 teacher will focus on Democracy and Participation, which includes presidential elections, political parties and pressure groups. The Component 2 teacher will complete work on the Constitution, Congress, Presidency and Supreme Court. There is a comparative element to this component, so similarities and differences between the UK and US systems will be drawn out during your studies. This has the incidental advantage of reviewing work completed in Year 12. On completing Democracy and Participation, your Component 1 teacher will return to finish Component 2 Section B – Feminism. Studying this topic towards the end of the course has the benefit of reviewing techniques needed for all ideology questions. Greater academic maturity also helps understand the concepts and ideas. The final weeks of the course will be spent on revision.

	COMP	CONTENT	KEY/FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS	ASSESSMENT	
Autumn Term	1	Socialism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core principles & ideas Tensions Key thinkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fraternity Communism Social democracy Class consciousness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-mark essay: unseen and written in class (30 mins) 	
	3	T1 – Democracy & Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidential elections T2 – US Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of key concepts / features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invisible primary Political Action Committees Bipartisanship Codification Enumerated powers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-mark essay on Constitution planned for homework; written timed (45 mins) 12-mark comparative question: planned in class, timed (15 mins) 	
	Half-term				
	3	T1 – Democracy & Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish presidential elections Congressional elections T2 – US Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislature Checks & balances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign finance Soft / hard money Incumbency Filibuster Divided government Oversight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-mark essay timed & unseen on Democracy (45 mins) 30-mark essay timed & unseen on Congress (45 mins) 12-mark Comparative question timed & unseen (15 mins) Y13 Mock Exam 	
Christmas Holiday					
Spring Term	1	T1 – Democracy & Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political parties Pressure groups T2 – US Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive branch Limits of presidential power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factions Religious right Single-interest group Executive orders Imperial presidency Powers of persuasion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-mark essay timed & unseen on Democracy (45 mins) 30-mark essay timed & unseen on Presidency (45 mins) 12-mark Comparative question timed & unseen (15 mins) 	
	Half-term				
Spring Term	2	Feminism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core principles & ideas Tensions Key thinkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve army of labour Cultural feminism Otherness Equality / difference feminism Intersectionality 	24-mark essay: unseen and written timed in class (30 mins)	
	3	T2 – US Supreme Court <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checks and balances Judicial overreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial neutrality Judicial review Elective dictatorship Ultra vires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-mark essay timed & unseen on Supreme Court (45 mins) 12-mark Comparative question timed & unseen (15 mins) 	
	Easter Holiday				
Summer Term	All	Complete any outstanding work and begin programme of revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise key concepts including fact tests 	Timed mock exams for C1, C2 and C3	
	Study Leave				

