



Government & Politics Department – Curriculum Intent

KS5 Curriculum Intent – Government & Politics - 2026				
Subject: Government and Politics		Head of Department: Mr P Corrigan		
	Year 12		Year 13	
	Teacher A	Teacher B	Teacher A	Teacher B
Autumn Term	<p>Unit 1 Political Parties – policies and role in democracy. Policies and factions of Conservative Party, Labour Party and Liberal Democrats</p> <p>Voter behaviour – role of the media - (journalism), impact of leadership on GE results. Impact of demographic factors on voter choice.</p>	<p>Unit 1 Democracy – types of democracy, role of an MP (career in Parliament), Think Tanks (researcher) Political participation – pressure groups, protest etc.</p> <p>Electoral systems and referendums - use of different electoral systems and impact on results.</p>	<p>Political Ideologies Liberalism - ideas of classical and modern liberalism – interpretations of freedom and justice, role of the state and the economy.</p> <p>Conservatism - traditional, one nation and new right conservatives – human imperfection, respect for tradition, hierarchy and order.</p>	<p>US Politics Presidential Power</p> <p>Powers and limits of the President, changing role and powers over time, electoral college – relationship with congress and supreme court</p>
Spring Term	<p>Unit 2 Constitution - UK – not codified, parliamentary sovereignty, entrenchment of rights.</p> <p>PM Powers – role of executive, role of civil service and advisers (civil service careers)</p>	<p>US Politics Constitution - codified constitution, bill of rights, natural rights, amendments and the process</p> <p>Supreme Court and Civil Rights - role of supreme court – comparison with UK Appointments process, effectiveness, affirmative action</p>	<p>Political Ideologies Socialism - ideas of fundamentalist and revisionist socialism, community, cooperation, plastic human nature, Marxism and social democracy</p> <p>Anarchism – ideas of individualist and collectivist anarchist, concepts of autonomy, morality, mutualism, libertarianism and different concepts of human nature.</p>	<p>US Politics Democracy and Participation</p> <p>Political parties – Democrats and Republicans Protest/discrimination</p> <p>Pressure groups</p>
Summer Term	<p>Unit 2 Parliament - functions of parliament, relationship with the executive, scrutiny, role of committees (MP career path)</p> <p>Relations between the branches – Role of the judiciary and the Supreme Court (law) Relationship with executive, judicial review, rule of law.</p>	<p>US Politics Congress</p> <p>House of Representatives – elections, mid-terms, powers</p> <p>Senate – comparison to House of Representatives</p> <p>Comparison to UK Parliament</p>	<p>Revision Delivery of course content will be dependent on students’ areas of strengths and misconceptions. This will be determined by individual teacher assessment.</p>	<p>Revision Delivery of course content will be dependent on students’ areas of strengths and misconceptions. This will be determined by individual teacher assessment.</p>
<p>The A Level Government and Politics links with the following career paths: Political Journalism, Civil Service, Political Advisor, Member of Parliament, Election Agent, Election Consultant, Judge, Lawyer, Solicitor, Think Tank Researcher, Local councillor</p>				



Government & Politics Department – Curriculum Intent

Curriculum Rationale:

The aim of the Government and Politics department is to develop students into knowledgeable and politically astute members of society. All students are encouraged and empowered to explore their own political ideas whilst being understanding of contrasting views.

The Unit 1 UK Politics and Political Ideologies are compulsory elements of the course. The only optional units are US Politics and Global Politics. US Politics is an area of particular expertise of members of the department, and there are clear parallels/links to be made with the UK Politics units.

The course is designed to allow students to gradually build their subject knowledge. As this is a 'new subject', not previously taught at GCSE, some of the key concepts are introduced in the earlier Unit 1 topics such as democracy and parliament. These are then covered in greater depth in Unit 2 allow students to demonstrate an understanding of synopticity in exam questions. It is also important to cover UK politics first because part of the US unit is a comparison of similar institutions e.g. Parliament and Congress and identifying similarities and differences between the two.