



Government & Politics Department – Curriculum Intent

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



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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. This 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.