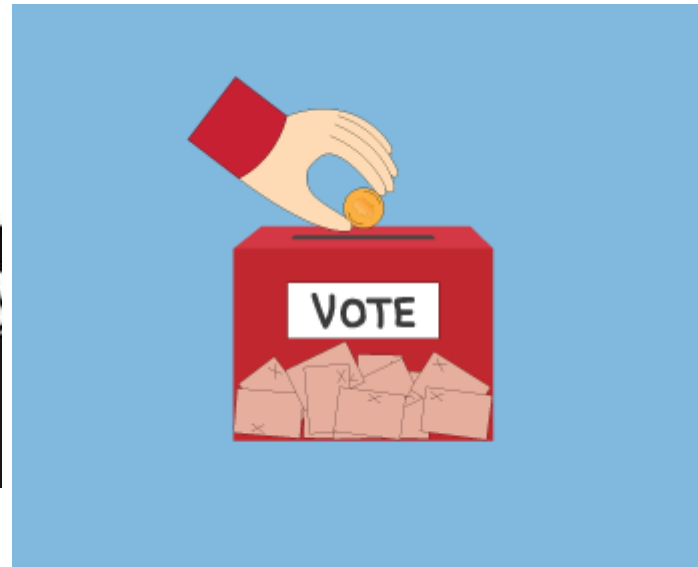




A Level Politics: Curriculum Plan





Overview

Year One: UK Politics and UK Government/Core Ideologies

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Autumn 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democracy and participation• The Constitution |
| Autumn 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electoral systems• Parliament |
| Spring 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UK Political Parties• Prime Minister and Cabinet |
| Spring 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voting behaviour and the media• Relations between institutions, including devolution and Parliament checking the executive |
| Summer 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relations between institutions: the EU• Ideas – Conservatism |
| Summer 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to US Politics• Ideas – Conservatism• Ideas – Liberalism |



Year Two

| | Comparative politics – USA/Ideologies |
|-----------------|--|
| Autumn 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The US Constitution and Federalism• Democracy and Participation• Ideas: Liberalism |
| Autumn 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US Congress• Ideas: Socialism |
| Spring 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US Presidency• Ideas: Socialism |
| Spring 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US Supreme Court and Rights• Ideas: Anarchism |
| Summer 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US Supreme Court and Rights• Ideas: Anarchism• Revision |
| Summer 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination |



Year One - Brief description of what is taught:

| Autumn 1 | Autumn 2 |
|--|---|
| <p>Democracy and participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy• A wider franchise and debates over suffrage• Pressure groups and other influences• Rights in context <p>The Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nature and sources of the UK constitution• How the constitution has changed since 1997• The role and powers of devolved bodies in the UK, and the impact of this devolution on the UK• Debates on further reform• | <p>UK Elections and Voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different electoral systems• Referendums and how they are used• Electoral systems analysis <p>Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structure and role of the House of Commons and House of Lords• The comparative powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords• The legislative process• The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive |



| Spring 1 | Spring 2 |
|--|--|
| <p>Political parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political parties• Established political parties• Emerging and minor UK political parties• UK political parties in context <p>UK Prime Minister and Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structure, role and powers of the Executive• The concept of ministerial responsibility• The Prime Minister and the Cabinet | <p>Voting Behaviour and Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class voting and other social factors influencing voting patterns• Case studies of three key general elections• The influence of the media <p>Relations between Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Supreme Court and its interactions with, and influence over, the legislative and policy-making process• The relationship between the Executive and Parliament• The location of sovereignty within the UK political system |



| Summer 1 | Summer 2 |
|---|--|
| <p>Relations between Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The aims, role and impact of the European Union (EU) on UK government <p>Ideology:</p> <p>Conservatism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core ideas and principles, and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy• Tensions between traditional, one nation and new right | <p>An introduction to US Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief overview of the political system in the US• Explanation of the separation of powers: Executive, Legislature and Judiciary• Case study of an American President and an election <p>Ideology:</p> <p>Conservatism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas of key thinkers - Hobbes, Burke, Rand, Oakenshott, Nozick <p>Liberalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core ideas and principles, and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy |



Year Two – Brief description of what is taught:

Autumn 1 – USA/Ideologies

US Constitution

- The nature of the US Constitution
- The principles of the US Constitution
- Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution

Comparisons to the UK - Similarities and differences between each constitution, their nature, sources, provisions, separation of powers, checks and balances

US Presidency

- Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use.
- Informal sources of presidential power and their use:
- The presidency.
- Interpretations and debates of the US presidency.

Comparisons to the UK – role and power and limitations of the President and Prime Minister, extent of accountability to legislature

Liberalism

- Recap: Core ideas and principles, and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy
- Tensions between classical and modern liberalism
- Ideas of key thinkers - Locke, Wollstonecraft, Mill, Rawls, Friedan



Autumn 2 – USA/Ideologies

US Democracy and participation

Electoral systems in the USA

- Presidential elections and their significance
- Campaign finance
- Debates surrounding elections in the USA including the electoral college and the role of incumbency

The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties

- The distribution of power and changing significance of the parties
- The current conflicts and tendencies and changing power and influence that exist within the parties
- Coalition of supporters for each party
- Debates surrounding party unity, party policy and voting groups

Interest groups in the USA

- Their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy

Comparisons to the UK – nature of the party system, degree of unity within major parties, policy profiles, debates around campaign finance, methods and extent of influence of pressure groups

Ideology: Socialism

- Core ideas and principles, and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy
- Tensions between classical and modern liberalism
- Ideas of key thinkers - Locke, Wollstonecraft, Mill, Rawls, Friedan



Spring 1 – USA/Ideologies

US Supreme Court and civil rights

- Nature and role of the Supreme Court
- The appointment process for the Supreme Court
- The Supreme Court and public policy
- The protection of civil liberties and rights in the US today
- Race and rights in contemporary US politics
- Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights

Comparisons to the UK – the basis for their power, impact on government and policy, relative independence of each Court, effectiveness of rights protection in each country, impact/effectiveness of interest groups in protecting rights

Ideology: Socialism

- Core ideas and principles, and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy
- Tensions between revolutionary and social democracy
- Ideas of key thinkers – Marx, Engels, Webb, Luxemburg, Crosland, Giddens



Spring 2 – USA/Ideologies

US Congress

- The structure of Congress
- The functions of Congress
- Interpretations and debates around Congress

Comparisons to the UK – membership of each House in each country, power of each House, relationship between the two houses in each system

Ideology: Anarchism

- Core ideas and principles, and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy
- Tensions between differing types of this ideology
- Ideas of key thinkers



Summer 1 – USA/Ideologies

Federalism

- The main characteristics of US federalism
- Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism

Comparisons to the UK – how far the UK model of devolution parallels the US federal system

Ideology: Anarchism

- Core ideas and principles, and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and economy
- Tensions between differing types of this ideology
- Ideas of key thinkers

Revision

Summer 2

Examination: UK Politics and Core Ideologies, UK Government and Non Core Ideologies, Comparative Politics: USA