

Politics Curriculum Journey

	Term	Area of Focus
Year 12	Term 1	Students learn to apply precise examples to definitions, identify changes over time & offer contrasting arguments. Students develop these skills through a study of the nature of UK democracy, which includes the nature of a representative democracy, the activity of pressure groups and the rights of UK citizens as well as the key features of the UK constitution.
	Term 2	Students learn the beliefs and structure of the key UK political parties and the 'emerging' party Reform UK alongside a study of how parties function within the UK Parliament. They develop an ability to select relevant theories to develop chains of analysis and make synoptic links which enable students to identify exceptions to political arguments.
	Term 3	Students learn the key features of the different electoral systems in use across the UK (AMS, FPTP, SV and STV) alongside the nature of the executive government of the UK. Students refine their ability to select appropriate political theories to solve problems and learn to make synoptic links across the course so far to articulate arguments and identify the assumptions upon which political arguments rest.
	Term 4	Students learn to construct persuasive judgements on the strength of political arguments by exploring the role of the individual within the UK political system. Students not only learn about the rights of UK citizens and how these are protected by the judiciary but about how citizens exercise their vote by exploring how influential the media is on voting behaviour alongside other social and demographic factors.
	Term 5	Liberalism and Socialism offer students an effective entry into the realm of political ideologies, drawing a sharp distinction to their previous studies of policies and the political parties. Students identify the core beliefs of these two ideologies and explore the importance of the areas of tension that exist within them.
	Term 6	Conservatism and Feminism offer students a further opportunity to identify the main areas of disagreement between the ideologies as well as within them. Students learn how to make precise judgement on the importance of the tensions to arrive at persuasive arguments on how united each ideology is.
Year 13	Terms 1 & 2	<p>A study of the US constitution allows students to develop an even more precise understanding of how political systems operate by comparing the two systems. In seeing two contrasting ideas about how constitutions can be formed, students learn to revisit their previous views on the strengths and weaknesses of the UK's idiosyncratic constitutional settlement.</p> <p>Students also explore the nature of the US legislature and similarly revisit their previous views on the roles, function and effectiveness of the UK parliament by drawing precise comparisons. Students learn the cultural and rational approach to explaining differences in political systems to explain the reasons for the different operation of the legislature on the two sides of the Atlantic, while using their ability to recognise temporal patterns to advance precise judgements on the effectiveness of the two political systems.</p>

	Term 3 & 4	Through studying the US executive and the behaviour of the US electorate, students develop further points of comparison between the two political systems they have studied and develop the ability to select the most relevant comparative political theory to explain the nature of those differences.
	Term 5	Students conclude their studies off US and UK Politics by contrasting the role of the judiciary in each nation and how effectively rights are protected in the two systems. Students will also draw their studies to a close by making synoptic connections across the course as a whole to decode and solve challenging political questions.