

Government and Politics Department: Curriculum Overview 2025-26

Curriculum Intent:

In Social Sciences, our aims are for all students

- To develop an understanding of the complexities of the society that we live in with a particular focus on understanding why and how we act and the consequences of this.
- To show tolerance and respect for others.
- To provide qualifications and skills that will prepare students for life after Fullbrook and equip them with knowledge that they will use for the rest of their life.

In politics the curriculum intent for all students is

- to gain an understanding of different ideologies and the implications of these for society, economy, human nature, and state
- to be well versed in political systems in the UK and US
- to be able to consider and understand competing viewpoints and the concepts underpinning these
- to be able to articulate their political knowledge and viewpoints in an articulate manner
- to decipher political information and use this to support their arguments
- to develop their own political viewpoint

Year 12	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3		End Points
	Half Term 1 [? lessons]	Half Term 2 [? lessons]	Half Term 3 [? lessons]	Half Term 4 [? lessons]	Half Term 5 [? lessons]	Half Term 6 [? lessons]	
Topic	Paper 1: UK Politics	Paper 1: UK Politics	Paper 1: UK Politics and Political ideas	Paper 1: Political Ideas	Paper 2: UK Government	Paper 2: UK Government	
Skill	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: debate	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: oracy	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: presentations	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: Research	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: debate	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: oracy	
Content	Course intro and key skills Democracy and Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of democracy Political participation Suffrage Group activity Rights in context Political parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of political parties Conservative party Labour party Liberal Democrats 	Political parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging and minor parties Parties in context Electoral systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functions of elections FPTP AMS STV SV Referendums 	Voting behaviour and the media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social and demographic factors Turnout Voting theories The influence of the media: broadcasting, press, opinion polls, social media Case studies of general elections Political Ideas: Liberalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core ideas Tensions Key thinkers 	Political Ideas: Conservatism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core ideas Tensions Key thinkers Political Ideas: Socialism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core ideas Tensions Key thinkers 	Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature and sources of the UK constitution Constitutional reform since 1997 Devolution and its impact Debates on codification Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure of UK parliament The functions of both houses Comparing powers Legislation Parliament and the executive Opposition parties 	Prime Minister and the executive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure, role and powers of the executive The cabinet Ministerial responsibility Prime ministerial case studies Relationships between institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court Judicial independence and neutrality Relationship between judiciary, executive, and legislative UK and European Union Feminism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core ideas Tensions Key thinkers 	Students will be able to analyse sources to beneficial effect. Students will be able to use an effective essay structure for the three types of questions in paper 1 and 2. Students will have an excellent knowledge of the fundamentals of UK government and politics. Students will be able to use material synoptically
Prior Knowledge Required	None	Forms of democracy, participation, sovereignty	Participation, electoral systems	State, economy, human nature, society. One nation conservatism and new right New labour and old labour	Democracy and participation, parties, electoral system	Rights in context, parliament, executive, feminism, suffrage	
Feedback Points	Source based question. 30 marks. Skills based: AO1, AO2 and AO3.	Essay question. 30-mark. Content based focus	January mock (1 x essay question, 1x source question).	political ideologies question. 24 marks. Content focus- use of core theories, key thinkers, division.	Political ideologies question. 24 marks Skills focus- AO1, AO2 and AO3 marks	June Mock exam. Paper 1 full paper, partial paper 2	
Key Questions (1 per topic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the different forms of democracy in the UK and how effective are these? In what ways do citizens participate in politics? What are the remaining issues in the franchise? What role and influence do pressure groups have? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much influence do smaller parties have in the UK? How does the political system affect party success? What are the main functions and features of an election? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do different demographics and social groups vote and how has this changed over time? What are the key trends in turnout? What theories have developed to explain voting behaviour? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Conservatism state about pragmatism, tradition, human imperfection, organic society, paternalism, and libertarians? To what degree is there consensus between tradition, one nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key features of the UK constitution? In what ways has the constitution been amended since 1997 and how effective have these changes been? What does devolution across the regions look like and should it be extended? Should the UK have a codified constitution? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What roles are played by the PM? How does the cabinet system work? What is individual and collective ministerial responsibility? What factors have affected various prime ministers since 1979? 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent are rights protected in the UK? What is the role and function of political parties? How has the Conservative party policy changed over time? What are the separate phases of the Labour party? What are the main aims and policies of the Lib Dems? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does FPTP work? What issues does this create? How does AMS work and why is it used? How does STV achieve more proportional representation? Is SV an effective electoral system? What are the implications of using more referendums? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What role does the media play in shaping election outcomes? How did a range of different elections play out? What do liberals believe about freedom, equality, the state, individualism, rationalism, and liberal democracy? To what degree do Classical and modern liberals agree on the core concepts? What contributions did the key thinkers make to the debate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and new right conservatives? What contributions did the key thinkers make to the ideology? What do Socialists believe about collectivism, common humanity, equality, social class, and workers control? How much tension is there between revolutionary socialists, social democrats and third way socialists? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is parliament structured and what is the effect of this? How effectively does each house carry out its vital functions? Which house is more powerful? How is legislation made in parliament? What affects the relationship between parliament and government? What is the role and influence of the opposition party in parliament? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What role does the Supreme court play in government? How are judicial neutrality and independence maintained? How do the three branches interact? What is the impact of the EU on the UK post Brexit?
Direct Vocab Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideology Legitimacy Sovereignty Suffrage Pluralism Elitism Franchise Hyper pluralism Aggregation Populism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libertarianism Consensus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class alignment Class dealignment Apathy Abstention Valence Saliency Developmental individualism Laissez-faire capitalism Meritocracy Mechanistic theory Enabling state Keynesianism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pragmatism Atomism Hierarchy Paternalism Noblesse-oblige Anti-permissiveness Empiricism Fraternity Collectivism Revisionism Historic materialism Dialectic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codification Entrenchment Federalism Unitary Quasi-federalism Asymmetric devolution Bicameral Cronyism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prerogative powers Formal equality Habeas Corpus Omnicompetence Ultra Vires
Standardised Homework	<p>Homework based on democracy and party content covered in lessons Will often be in the form of extended essays. Students will have some flipped learning tasks and pre lesson prep. Students may also be set research tasks</p>					

Year 13	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3		End Points
	Half Term 1 [? lessons]	Half Term 2 [? lessons]	Half Term 3 [? lessons]	Half Term 4 [? lessons]	Half Term 5 [? lessons]	Half Term 6 [? lessons]	
Topic	Paper 3: US government and politics	Paper 3: US government and politics	Paper 3: US government and politics	Paper 3: US government and politics	Paper 3: US government and politics Revision	Revision	
Skill	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: group presentations	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: debate	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: Oracy	AO1, AO2, AO3 Non exam skills: Research	AO1, AO2, AO3	AO1, AO2, AO3	
Content	US Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature of the constitution Features of the constitution Federalism Democracy and the constitution Evaluation of the constitution Comparing the US and UK constitution 	Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure of congress Congressional elections Powers of congress Representative Function of congress Legislative function of congress Oversight function of congress Changing roles and powers of congress Effectiveness of congress Comparing US and UK legislature 	Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal sources of presidential power The Cabinet Executive office of the President Power of Persuasion Direct authority Debates on the presidency Foreign policy Checks on the president Presidential aims Comparing UK PM and US President Supreme Court <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature and role of the supreme court Judicial philosophies 	Supreme Court <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supreme court and public policy The living constitution/originalism Judicial review Supreme court appointments Rights protection in the US Race and rights in the US Comparing US and UK supreme courts Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements to be president The invisible primary Primaries National Party Conventions Campaign finance Electoral college 	Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest groups Parties and factions Voting groups Revision of paper 1 and 2	Revision of paper 2 and 3	Students will have an excellent knowledge of the fundamentals of US government and politics. Students will be able to use comparative theories effectively Students will be able to write high level essays that are underpinned by an effective structure
Prior Knowledge Required	State, society, human nature, economy, liberal democracy Codification, entrenchment, amendment	UK constitution Features of the US constitution UK parliament Comparative theories	US constitution powers and checks and balances UK executive Comparative theories	US constitution Comparative theories	All year 1 content	Year 1 and 2 content	
Feedback Points	Comparative questions x2	Mock – full paper 1 & 2	Comparative questions x2	Mock- full paper 1, 2 and 3	As needed based on content and revision		
Key Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did the US constitution come to be? What are the key features of the constitution? Is the US still federal? How democratic is the constitution? How is the constitution amended? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How effective is the US constitution? What are the similarities between the UK and US constitutions? How is congress structured? What factors are vital to winning a congressional election? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What powers does the constitution grant the president? How do presidents use the cabinet? How does the EXOP support the president? How can the president use the power of persuasion to get their way in congress? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What role has the supreme court played in making public policy Should the constitution be protected or updated by the SC? How can the court use judicial review? How are supreme court justices appointed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much influence do interest groups have on American politics? What are the main policies of the two parties, and how unified are they? How do different groups of people vote? 	As before	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What processes are in place to protect checks and balances? • In what ways are the UK and US constitutions comparable? • How does this comparison align with the comparative theories? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the exclusive and shared powers of each chamber? • How effectively does congress perform its representative function? • How are laws made in congress? • How can congress hold the other branches to account? • How has Congress' power and roles altered over time? • Is congress the broken branch? • In what ways are parliament and congress comparable? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the president use executive actions and orders? • Is the president imperial, imperilled or post imperial? • What role does the president play in foreign policy? • How effectively have different presidents achieved their aims? • What are the similarities between the US and UK leaders? • What is the role of the Supreme court? • What is meant by judicial activism, restraint, strict and loose constructionism? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have the rights enshrined in the bill of rights been protected? • What impact has affirmative action had on racial rights? • How do the US and UK supreme courts differ? • What are the constitutional requirements to be president? • What happens during the invisible primary? • What are the different types of primary used and why? • How important is the NPC? • Why has campaign finance proven to be so contentious? • What are the main issues with the electoral college? 			
Direct Vocab Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicameral • Entrenched • Amendment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bipartisanship • Filibuster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collegiality • Policy czars • imperilled presidency • Strict constructionist/Loose constructionist • Stare decisis • Quasi-legislative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caucuses • Brokered convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots • Iron-triangle 	N/A	
Standardised Homework	Homework based on content covered in lessons or previous content learnt. Will often be in the form of extended essays. Students will have some flipped learning tasks and pre lesson prep. Students may also be set research tasks						