

Government and Politics

Curriculum Intent: Produce critical thinkers who are able to analyse and evaluate political systems, concepts and events. Produce capable and thoughtful global citizens. Foster a general political engagement and critical thinking, alongside an encouragement and expectation of engagement with wider current political events.

Year 12

Core knowledge:

Democracy and participation in the UK (current systems of democracy, suffrage, pressure groups and rights).
 Political parties (principles of political parties, established and minor parties, and the role of parties in the UK).
 Electoral systems (including referendums).
 Voting behaviour and the media (including case studies on the 1979, 1997 and 2019 elections).
 The constitution (nature and sources of the constitution, reform since 1997, impacts of devolution and debates on future reform of the constitution).
 Parliament (comparative powers and roles of the Commons and the Lords, legislation and interaction with the executive).
 PM and the executive (structure, role, powers, ministerial responsibility and case studies of prominent PMs).
 Relations between the branches (Supreme Court, relations between Parliament and the executive, the EU and the locations of sovereignty in the UK).

Procedural knowledge (how to..):

Learning how to identify different arguments on key political questions.
 Analysing those arguments to highlight the strengths and weaknesses.
 Organising and structuring arguments to link together themed issues.
 Analysing extended pieces of writing to identify, amplify and evaluate the arguments within it.
 Forming a clear line of argument based on analysis of competing positions.
 Integrating real life examples to support and extend written arguments.
 Engaging with contemporary debates on significant issues such as political sovereignty and referendums.
 Analyse the political structures that govern our everyday lives.
 Suggest detailed and thoughtful solutions to issues facing Britain today.

Assessment:

Combination of source and essay questions, all 30 marks, at the end of each module.
 2 assessment windows (November and June) with full papers.

Year 13

Core knowledge:

Liberalism (core principles, tensions and thinkers).
 Conservatism (core principles, tensions and thinkers).
 Socialism (core principles, tensions and thinkers).
 Feminism (core principles, tensions and thinkers).
 US Constitution and federalism (history and nature of the Constitution, key features and characteristics, interactions and debates and comparisons with the UK).
 US Congress (structure, functions, interpretations, debates and comparisons with the UK).
 US presidency (formal and informal sources of power, interpretations and debates around the presidency, and comparisons with the UK).
 Supreme Court and civil rights (nature, role and appointments process of the court; role of the court in public policy; protection of civil liberties and rights; race and rights in contemporary US politics; interpretations and debates around the court and rights; and comparison with the UK).
 US democracy and participation (electoral systems, key ideas and principles of the Republican and Democratic parties, interest groups, interpretations and debates, and comparisons with the UK).

Procedural knowledge (how to..):

Learning how to identify different arguments on key political questions.
 Analysing those arguments to highlight the strengths and weaknesses.
 Organising and structuring arguments to link together themed issues.
 Analysing extended pieces of writing to identify, amplify and evaluate the arguments within it.
 Forming a clear line of argument based on analysis of competing positions.
 Integrating real life examples to support and extend written arguments.
 Engaging with contemporary debates on significant issues such as civil rights protection and constitutional reform.
 Analyse the political structures that govern our everyday lives
 Compare and contrast British and American political systems
 Understand the political ideas that have shaped our political structures and debates.
 Analyse issues such as the impact of the patriarchy on politics across the UK.
 Engage with and utilise a range of comparative theories to analyse reasons for differences in UK and US systems.

Homework:

Subject knowledge organisers.
2 items of developed reading for each module.
Revision and preparation for assessments.

Links to careers and personal development include:

Analysis and engagement with British political values
Prepare learners for future success in education, employment and training.

Assessment:

Essay questions at the end of every module (combination of 24 mark and 30-mark questions).
2 assessment windows with full papers for each.

Homework:

Subject knowledge organisers.
2 items of developed reading for each module.
Revision and preparation for assessments.

Links to careers and personal development include:

Analysis and engagement with British political values.
Prepare learners for future success in education, employment and training.