



Learning Aims and Curriculum Intent:

Pupils in Year 12 Politics are introduced to the study of A Level Politics. During Year 12, students are taught about the fundamentals of UK Politics, UK Government and are introduced to Political Ideas. UK Politics is a theoretical unit of study, built around understanding of democracy, democratic principles, and theory. UK Government is a unit of study which focuses on the institutions that underpin the governance of the UK, which gives students an in depth understanding of how the British state works. Finally, students are introduced to Political Ideas, where they are encouraged to consider the nature of Politics through the prisms of the state, society, human nature, and economics. Throughout their study, students are expected to grasp knowledge and build skills of analysis and evaluation, which are all assessed in the final summer examinations.

Term	Content, Key Questions and Knowledge	Skills	Assessment
Michaelmas	<p>Component 1 – UK Politics: Democracy and Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which system of democracy is better, direct or representative? How similar is representative democracy to direct democracy? How have the franchise been widened over time? What attempts are currently ongoing to further widen the franchise? What are Pressure Groups? What impact do pressure groups have on UK Politics? Are Pressure Groups healthy for UK democracy? What are rights and how have they developed in the UK? How do individual and collective rights interact? Are rights in the UK effectively protected? 	Analysis Evaluation Collaboration Communication Debating Interpretation Critical thinking Comprehension	One timed source answer question One timed 30-mark question 10 question knowledge quiz every two weeks One Group Presentation per term
	<p>Component 1 – UK Politics: Political Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do we have political parties? Should parties receive state funding? What do the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats believe? How far are the three major parties internally united? How far is there overlap in ideology between the three major parties? How do smaller parties impact UK Politics? How many parties have a genuine ability to affect the makeup of government? why do some parties succeed more than others? 		
	<p>Component 2 – UK Government: Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Parliament? What does it look like? What are its functions? What are the powers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords? How far does Parliament fulfil its functions? Which is more powerful, the House of Commons or the House of Lords? How is law made? What are the different types of law? What does the formulation of law tell us about the relationship between the Commons and the Lords? How does Parliament interact with the government? Which methods does Parliament use to hold the government to account and to what extent is Parliament able to hold the government to account? 		
	<p>Component 2 – UK Government: Prime Minister & Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the Executive? How is the Executive structured? What are the roles of the Executive? How does the government maintain unity? What are the theories that underpin this? How does the Prime Minister interact with the Cabinet? Who holds ultimate power, the Prime Minister or the Cabinet? To what extent is the executive able to dictate events and determine policy? Which Prime Ministers have been able to control their Cabinets and dictate events? Which Prime Ministers have not been able to control their Cabinets and dictate events? 		

Lent	<p>Component 1 – UK Politics: Electoral Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are elections held in the UK? • What are the effects of the use of different electoral systems in different parts of the country? • Why are different electoral systems used in different parts of the country? • Is electoral reform required for the UK Parliament? • What are referendums? • Why have referendums been increasingly used since 1997? • Should the use of referendums be more widespread? <p>Component 1 – Voting behaviour and the media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the social factors involved in voting behaviour? • What are the non-social factors involved in voting behaviour? • What can the 1979, 1997 and 2019 General Elections tell us about voting behaviour? • Are election results predictable? • What impact does the media have on voting behaviour? <p>Component 2 – UK Government: Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the nature and sources of the UK Constitution? • What are the key historical milestones in the development of the UK Constitution? • Why are the ‘twin pillars’ of parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law important to the UK Constitution? • What is the impact of the uncodified and unentrenched nature of the UK Constitution on UK Politics? • How do the sources of the UK Constitution interact and impact on the working of the Constitution? • How has the Constitution changed since 1997? • Why has constitutional reform been apparent since 1997? • How far has constitutional reform since 1997 achieved its aims? • What is devolution and how does it work in different parts of the country? • How has devolution impacted on the workings of UK Politics? • Should previous examples of constitutional reform be taken further? • Should devolution be extended? • Should the UK Constitution become codified and entrenched? <p>Component 2 – UK Government: Relations between branches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role does the Supreme Court play in UK Politics? • What are the key operation principles of the Supreme Court? • To what extent is the Supreme Court able to influence UK Politics? • To what extent is Parliament effective in holding the Executive to account? • To what extent is the Executive able to exert influence over Parliament? • To what extent has the balance of power between Parliament and the Executive changed over time? • What are the aims of the European Union? • How far have the aims of the European Union been achieved? • What impact has EU legislation had on parliamentary sovereignty in relation to policy making? • What distinguishes legal and political sovereignty? • To what extent has sovereignty moved between different branches of government? • Where does sovereignty now lie in the UK? 	<p>Analysis</p> <p>Evaluation</p> <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Debating</p> <p>Interpretation</p> <p>Critical thinking</p> <p>Comprehension</p>	<p>One timed source answer question</p> <p>One timed 30-mark question</p> <p>10 question knowledge quiz every two weeks</p> <p>One Group Presentation per term</p>
Trinity	<p>Component 1 – Core political ideas: conservatism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the core ideas of conservative thought and how did they develop over time? • What are the areas of agreement and disagreement within strands of conservative thought? • How has political philosophy contributed to conservative thought? <p>Component 3 – Comparative Politics: USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparisons between the British and American constitutions. • Comparisons between the British and American legislatures. • Comparisons between the British and American executives. 	<p>Analysis</p> <p>Evaluation</p> <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Debating</p> <p>Interpretation</p> <p>Critical thinking</p> <p>Comprehension</p>	<p>End of Year 12 Exam</p> <p>10 question knowledge quiz every two weeks</p>

What consolidation looks like in this subject	Independent study, reading about current affairs, essay planning, essay writing	
Examples of Homework	Research task on party policies. Group presentations on the ideas of conservative key thinkers.	
Key terminology	Legitimacy, Direct democracy, Representative democracy, Pluralist democracy, Democratic deficit, Participation crisis, Franchise/suffrage, Think tanks, Lobbyists, Old Labour (social democracy), New Labour (Third Way), One Nation, New Right, Classical liberals, Modern liberals, Party systems, Left-wing, Right-wing, First Past the Post (FPTP), Additional Member System (AMS), Single Transferable Vote (STV), Supplementary Vote (SV), Safe seat, Marginal seat, Minority government, Coalition government, Class dealignment, Partisan dealignment, Governing competency, Disillusion and apathy, Manifesto, Mandate, Constitution, Unentrenched (entrenched), Uncodified (codified), Unitary (federal), Parliamentary sovereignty, The rule of law, Statute law, Common law, Conventions, Authoritative works, Treaties, Devolution, Parliament, House of Commons, House of Lords, Confidence and supply, Salisbury Convention, Parliamentary privilege, Legislative bills, Public bill committees, Backbenchers, Select committees, Opposition, Executive, Cabinet, Minister, Government department, Royal prerogative, Secondary legislation, Individual responsibility, Collective responsibility, Presidential Government, Supreme Court, Judicial neutrality, Judicial independence, Judicial review, Elective dictatorship, European Union (EU), Four freedoms (EU), Legal sovereignty, Political sovereignty, Ultra vires, Hierarchy, Authority, Change to conserve, Atomism, Noblesse oblige, Anti-permissiveness, Radical, Human imperfection, Laissez-faire, Empiricism, Cultural theory, Rational theory, Structural theory	
Super-curricular enrichment and scholarly extension	Read: Politics Review BBC News Politics The Telegraph The Times The Daily Mail Independent The Guardian Mirror The Politics Book The Changing Constitution Parliament in British Politics Contemporary British Politics and Government Watch: Question Time (BBC) Politics Live (BBC) Blair & Brown: The New Labour Revolution (BBC) Thatcher: A Very British Revolution (BBC) The Iron Lady Brexit: the Uncivil War Study Politics (YouTube) Learning Academy (YouTube) Tom Richey (YouTube) Listen: The A Level Politics Show Private Eye Podcast The Economist Podcast Politico Westminster Insider The Political Party The Rest is Politics Pupil Politics Visit: Houses of Parliament Supreme Court	
Useful websites	Prechewed Politics Tutor2u Edexcel Politics Home Study Rocket Simple Politics	
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