



### Learning Aims and Curriculum Intent:

Students in Year 13 Politics continue with their study of Political Ideas, building upon skills and content learned during Year 12. Students are also introduced to US Politics. This unit of study is a comparative unit, where students are expected to learn about the workings of American politics and government in isolation, as well as in comparison with the study of UK politics and government, studied in Year 12. Throughout their study, students are expected to grasp knowledge and build skills of analysis and evaluation, which are all assessed in the final A Level examinations.

Term	Content, Key Questions and Knowledge	Skills	Assessment
Michaelmas	<b>Component 1 – Core political ideas: liberalism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the core ideas of liberal thought and how did they develop over time?</li> <li>What are the areas of agreement and disagreement within strands of liberal thought?</li> <li>How has political philosophy contributed to liberal thought?</li> </ul>	Analysis	Two timed 12-mark questions
	<b>Component 1 – Core political ideas: socialism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the core ideas of socialist thought and how did they develop over time?</li> <li>What are the areas of agreement and disagreement within strands of socialist thought?</li> <li>How has political philosophy contributed to socialist thought?</li> </ul>	Evaluation	One timed 30-mark question
	<b>Component 3 – Comparative Politics: US Constitution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the nature of the US Constitution?</li> <li>How does vagueness, codification, and entrenchment of the US Constitution effect US Politics?</li> <li>How does the US Constitution establish government?</li> <li>What does the government look like according to the US Constitution?</li> <li>What powers does each branch of government have? How is this power limited?</li> <li>How does the US Constitution get amended? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this system?</li> <li>What are the key features of the US Constitution? Do they still exist?</li> <li>What are the main characteristics of the US Constitution?</li> <li>What are the key debates surrounding the relevance of the US Constitution today?</li> <li>What are the comparisons between the natures of the constitutions in the UK and the US?</li> <li>What are the comparisons between devolution and federalism?</li> <li>What are the comparative theories in relation to constitutions?</li> </ul>	Collaboration	One timed 24-mark question
	<b>Component 3 – Comparative Politics: US Congress</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the structure of the US Congress?</li> <li>What powers are given to the US Congress by the US Constitution?</li> <li>What are the functions of the US Congress?</li> <li>How effective is the US Congress at representation?</li> <li>How effective is the US Congress at legislating?</li> <li>How effective is the US Congress in oversight?</li> <li>What are the key debates around the US Congress today?</li> <li>Has the role of the US Congress diverted from the vision in the US Constitution?</li> <li>What are the comparisons between legislatures in the UK and the US?</li> <li>What are the comparative theories in relation to legislatures?</li> </ul>	Communication	10 question knowledge quiz every two weeks
		Debating	One Group Presentation per term
		Interpretation	
		Critical thinking	
		Comprehension	

<b>Lent</b>	<p><b>Component 2 – Non-core political idea: feminism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the core ideas of feminist thought and how did they develop over time?</li> <li>• What are the areas of agreement and disagreement within strands of feminist thought?</li> <li>• How has political philosophy contributed to feminist thought?</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 3 – Comparative Politics: US Presidency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the formal sources of presidential power?</li> <li>• How does the role of Head of State and Head of government differ?</li> <li>• What are the informal sources of presidential power?</li> <li>• What are the theories of presidential power?</li> <li>• How does the President use the EXOP, NSC, OMB and WHO?</li> <li>• How does the presidency interact with Congress and the Supreme Court?</li> <li>• What are the limitations on presidential power and why does this vary between presidents?</li> <li>• How effective are Presidents in achieving their aims?</li> <li>• What are the comparisons between executives in the UK and the US?</li> <li>• What are the comparative theories in relation to executives?</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 3 – Comparative Politics: US Supreme Court and civil rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the role of the Supreme Court?</li> <li>• What is the nature of the Supreme Court?</li> <li>• How are justices appointed to the Supreme Court?</li> <li>• What are the strengths and weaknesses of the appointment process?</li> <li>• What influences the president’s choice of nominee?</li> <li>• What is the current composition and ideological balance of the Court?</li> <li>• How has the Supreme Court influences public policy since 2005?</li> <li>• Is the Supreme Court too politically active?</li> <li>• How are rights protected in the United States?</li> <li>• What are the methods, influence, and effectiveness of racial rights campaigns in the US?</li> <li>• What are the theories of constitutional interpretation in the US?</li> <li>• How effectively have civil and constitutional rights been upheld by the Supreme Court?</li> <li>• What are the successes and failures in promoting racial equality?</li> <li>• What are the comparisons between Supreme Courts in the UK and the US?</li> <li>• What are the comparative theories in relation to the judiciary?</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 3 – Comparative Politics: US democracy and participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the President elected?</li> <li>• What are the strengths and weaknesses of electing the President?</li> <li>• What role does campaign finance play in US elections?</li> <li>• What are the key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties?</li> <li>• How is power distributed within each party?</li> <li>• How similar and different are the parties to each other?</li> <li>• Which kinds of people typically support each party?</li> <li>• What are interest groups and how are they significant?</li> <li>• What are the different types of interest group?</li> <li>• What methods do different interest groups use?</li> <li>• What are the comparisons between parties in the UK and the US?</li> <li>• What are the comparisons between elections in the UK and the US?</li> <li>• What are the comparisons between pressure groups in the UK and the US?</li> <li>• What are the comparative theories in relation to democracy and participation?</li> </ul>	<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>Two timed 12-mark questions</p> <p>One timed 30-mark question</p> <p>One time 24-mark question</p> <p>10 question knowledge quiz every two weeks</p> <p>One Group Presentation per term</p>
<b>Trinity</b>	<p><b>Preparation for end of year exams.</b></p>		

<b>What consolidation looks like in this subject</b>	Independent study, reading about current affairs, essay planning, essay writing	
<b>Examples of Homework</b>	Research task on party policies. Group presentations on the ideas of conservative key thinkers.	
<b>Key terminology</b>	Foundational equality, formal equality, equality of opportunity, social contract, meritocracy, mechanistic theory, tolerance, limited government, egoistical individualism, developmental individualism, negative freedom, positive freedom, laissez-faire capitalism, Keynesianism, harm principle, minimal state, enabling state, fraternity, cooperation, capitalism, common ownership, communism, evolutionary socialism, Marxism, revisionism, social justice, class consciousness, historical materialism, dialectic, Keynesian economics, public sphere, private sphere, essentialism, gender stereotypes, discrimination, political equality, legal equality, reserve army of labour, gender equality, cultural feminism, reformist, otherness, equality feminism, difference feminism, intersectionality, bipartisanship, checks and balances, codification, constitution, entrenchment, enumerated powers, federalism, principle, separation of powers, congressional caucuses, divided government, filibuster, gridlock, incumbency, mid-term elections, oversight, partisanship, unanimous consent, domestic politics electoral mandate, executive branch, executive orders, imperial presidency, imperilled presidency, informal powers, powers of persuasion, unified government, conservative justice, imperial judiciary, judicial activism, judicial restraint, judicial review, liberal justice, living constitution, originalism, public policy, stare decisis, strict/loose constructionist, swing justice, constitutional rights, racial equality, affirmative action, campaign finance, faction, invisible primary, Political Action Committees (PACs), party system, policy group, professional group, single interest group, soft/hard money, super PACs, religious right, rational comparative theory, structural comparative theory, cultural comparative theory	
<b>Super-curricular enrichment and scholarly extension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Read:</b> NY Times Washington Post The Economist UnPresidential,</li> <li>• <b>Watch:</b> <a href="#">Study Politics (YouTube)</a> <a href="#">Learning Academy (YouTube)</a> <a href="#">Tom Richey (YouTube)</a> The 13<sup>th</sup> (Netflix) The Great Hack (Netflix) Knock Down the House (Netflix)</li> <li>• <b>Listen:</b> <a href="#">The A Level Politics Show The Problem with Jon Stewart Pod Save America Americast Can He Do That? In the Thick FiveThirtyEight Politics</a></li> <li>• <b>Visit:</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Useful websites</b>	<a href="#">Prechewed Politics</a> <a href="#">Tutor2u</a> <a href="#">Edexcel Politics Home Study Rocket</a> <a href="#">Simple Politics</a>	
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