



## POLITICS CURRICULUM MAP

### Intent:

We follow the specification for the Edexcel exam board. We aim to develop politically aware students, equipped to engage with & understand politics in the UK and the US. This supports the teaching of skills such as debate, source analysis, extended writing, critical thinking and reading

Our purpose is to provide a broad, relevant and challenging political education. This is best summarised below:

The A Level Politics curriculum is designed to empower you as an informed and engaged citizen. It equips you to dissect the complexities of the modern world by delving into the structures and dynamics of power in the UK and USA. You'll explore the evolution of political thought, from historical foundations to the ever-changing landscape of today. By critically analysing information and forming your own judgments, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the forces shaping government decisions and the rights and responsibilities we hold. This program fosters a keen interest in current affairs, empowering you to navigate the noise of news and social media with a discerning eye. You'll not only grasp the bedrock of British values and democracy, but also understand the distribution of power within the system. Ultimately, the A Level Politics curriculum equips you to interpret the turbulent political events of the 21st century, fostering an informed and engaged approach to the world around you.

**Key Stage 5: A level**

<b>YEAR 12</b>	Democracy and Participation UK Political Parties	Electoral systems Voting behaviour and the media	The constitution Prime Minister and Cabinet	Parliament Relations between institutions	Liberalism Socialism	Conservatism Anarchism
<b>Key Knowledge</b>	<p>Current systems of democracy Suffrage Group activity Rights in context</p> <p>Principles of political parties Established political parties Emerging and minor UK political parties UK political parties in context A summary of the role of political parties in the UK</p>	<p>Different electoral systems Electoral systems analysis Referendums</p> <p>Voting behaviour The influence of the media Case studies of general elections</p>	<p>What is a constitution? The nature and sources of the UK Constitution Constitutional reform in the UK since 1997 Devolved bodies in the UK and the impact of devolution on the UK Debates on further constitutional reform</p> <p>The House of Commons and House of Lords Comparing the powers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords Legislation</p>	<p>The structure, role and powers of the national executive The power of the executive Ministerial responsibility The prime minister and the Cabinet Prime ministerial case studies</p> <p>The Supreme Court Key operating principles of the Supreme Court The relationship between the executive and Parliament The UK and the European Union The location of sovereignty in the UK political system</p>	<p>Introduction to liberalism: an influential ideology The origins of liberalism and the influence of the Enlightenment The core ideas of liberalism Different types of liberalism Conclusion: liberalism today Summary: key themes and key thinkers</p> <p>Introduction to socialism: a controversial ideology The origins of socialism The core ideas of socialism Different types of socialism</p>	<p>Introduction to conservatism: a paradoxical ideology The origins of conservatism The core ideas of conservatism Different types of conservatism Conclusion: conservatism today Summary: key themes and key thinkers</p> <p>Introduction to anarchism: an anti-authoritarian ideology The origins of anarchism The core ideas of anarchism Different types of anarchism Conclusion: anarchism today</p>

			How parliament interacts with the executive		Conclusion: socialism today Summary: key themes and key thinkers	Summary: key themes and key thinkers
<b>Key subjects Skills</b>	<p><b>Research Skills:</b> You'll become adept at finding credible sources, evaluating information, and building a strong foundation for your arguments. This is crucial in today's information age, where sifting through fact and opinion is essential.</p> <p><b>Written Communication:</b> Politics A Level demands clear, concise, and persuasive writing. You'll hone your essay writing skills, learning to structure arguments, present evidence, and analyse complex issues.</p> <p><b>Debating Skills:</b> Get ready to argue your point! A Level Politics encourages healthy debate, where you'll learn to defend your position, address counter-arguments, and think on your feet.</p> <p><b>Critical Thinking:</b> Don't just accept things at face value. A Level Politics trains you to question assumptions, analyse information objectively, and develop well-reasoned conclusions.</p> <p><b>Analytical Skills:</b> You'll learn to break down complex political issues into manageable parts, identify key factors, and evaluate their significance. This skill is valuable in any field that requires examining problems from different angles.</p> <p><b>Communication Confidence:</b> Through presentations, debates, and discussions, A Level Politics builds your confidence in expressing your ideas clearly and effectively. This is a transferable skill that will benefit you in any future academic or professional setting.</p>					
<b>Personal development:</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSE</li> <li>• Online safety</li> <li>• Enrichment</li> </ul>						
<b>Connections with careers</b>	<p><b>Journalism:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Critical analysis:</b> You'll develop the ability to analyse information, identify bias, and evaluate evidence – essential for accurate and insightful reporting.</li> <li>• <b>Communication skills:</b> A Level Politics hones your written and verbal communication, crucial for crafting compelling articles and interviews.</li> <li>• <b>Research skills:</b> You'll learn to research effectively, a key skill for journalists gathering information and verifying sources.</li> </ul> <p><b>Law:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Understanding legal systems:</b> Studying political structures provides a foundation for understanding legal frameworks and how laws are made and enforced.</li> </ul>					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Logical reasoning:</b> A Level Politics develops strong logical reasoning skills, crucial for lawyers to construct arguments and analyze legal cases.</li> <li>• <b>Persuasive communication:</b> The ability to present arguments effectively, honed in political debate and analysis, translates well to courtroom advocacy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Understanding markets:</b> A Level Politics explores economic and social factors that influence markets, valuable for business professionals navigating the global landscape.</li> <li>• <b>Negotiation skills:</b> Political discourse builds negotiation skills, crucial for businesses striking deals and securing partnerships.</li> <li>• <b>Policy analysis:</b> You'll learn to analyse the impact of policies on businesses, a critical skill for navigating regulations and making strategic decisions.</li> </ul> <p><b>International Relations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Global awareness:</b> A Level Politics provides a deep understanding of international relations, power dynamics, and global issues.</li> <li>• <b>Political theory:</b> Studying political theory equips you with frameworks for analysing international conflicts and potential solutions.</li> <li>• <b>Research and communication:</b> Strong research and communication skills, honed in A Level Politics, are vital for careers in diplomacy and international organizations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Relations (PR):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Understanding public opinion:</b> A Level Politics explores how public opinion is formed and influenced, crucial for PR professionals managing a brand's image.</li> <li>• <b>Communication strategy:</b> You'll learn to develop effective communication strategies, essential for crafting press releases and managing public perception.</li> <li>• <b>Crisis management:</b> Studying political crises provides insights into managing PR challenges and mitigating reputational damage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Teaching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Research and presentation skills:</b> A Level Politics develops strong research and presentation skills, important for creating engaging and informative lessons.</li> <li>• <b>Critical thinking:</b> You'll hone critical thinking skills, essential for encouraging students to analyse information and form their own opinions.</li> <li>• <b>Communication and engagement:</b> The communication skills developed in A Level Politics will help you effectively explain complex political concepts to students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Home support</b></p>	<p>Past paper questions are on Teams  Students will be directed towards relevant resources online e.g. Youtube  Politics Review and further reading in Dr Keen Library  Relevant articles and books in Teams/history department office</p>

	<a href="#">Massolit UK Government and Politics</a> <a href="#">Massolit Political Ideas</a> <a href="#">Seneca Politics</a> <a href="#">Seneca Revision Notes</a> <a href="#">Tutor2U Politics Resources</a>
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<b>YEAR 13</b>	The US Constitution and federalism US democracy and participation	US Presidency US democracy and participation	US Presidency US Congress	US Supreme Court and Civil Rights	Revision	Examination
<b>Key Knowledge</b>	Introduction to the Constitution The nature of the Constitution: three key features Amendments to the Constitution The principles of the Constitution The changing federal-state relationship Consequences of federalism Comparing the US and UK constitutions  Introduction to political parties Party organisation Party ideology Party policies	Introduction to the Presidency The creation of the presidency The formal powers of the president The vice president The cabinet The Executive Office of the President (EXOP)  Pressure Groups Pluralism Types of pressure groups Functions of pressure groups Methods used by pressure groups The power of pressure groups	The president's relations with Congress Direct authority Theories of presidential power The role and power of the president in foreign policy Limitations of presidential power Factors that affect presidential success The future of the presidency Comparing the US president and the UK prime minister  Introduction to Congress	Introduction to the Supreme Court Structure of federal courts Membership of the Supreme Court Philosophy of the justices The appointment and confirmation process The power of judicial review Judicial activism and judicial restraint The Supreme Court and the Bill of Rights The Supreme Court and public policy The Supreme Court and congressional power		

	<p>Coalitions of supporters The polarisation of American politics The two-party system Third parties Theories of party decline and renewal Current conflicts within parties Comparing US and UK parties</p>	<p>The impact of pressure groups on government Arguments for pressure groups Arguments against pressure groups Comparing US and UK pressure groups  Introduction to elections Presidential elections Congressional elections Propositions, referendums and recall elections Comparing US and UK electoral systems</p>	<p>The structure of Congress The composition of Congress The powers of Congress Comparing the House and the Senate The committee system Congress and legislation Congress and oversight Congress and representation Voting in Congress Parties in Congress Comparing Congress with the UK Parliament</p>	<p>The Supreme Court and presidential power What do decisions show about the Supreme Court? Comparing the US and UK Supreme Courts  Civil Rights Affirmative action Voting rights Representation Immigration reform Comparing the protection of rights in the USA and UK</p>		
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