

Curriculum Intent

- To develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the UK and globally
- To develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- To develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics
- To develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups
- To develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements
- To develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

What do students *do* with this knowledge or these skills?

Students will make comparisons across the UK and US political systems identifying parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics. This will ensure that students develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, political institutions and political processes. This course aims to develop research, analytical and reasoning skills, improving the student's ability to interpret and explain complex ideas and form sound arguments with critical judgement. It's an ideal qualification for students wanting to go to university or work in the legal sector, journalism or the civil service.

How does the KS5 curriculum build on that from KS4?

Politics is not taught as a discreet subject at GCSE but all students will have received a basic introduction to themes such as democracy and the government of the UK through PSHE sessions. It also builds on students' historical knowledge at both KS3 and 4. At GCSE History students study The USA 1919–1948 which provides a basic framework understanding of the governing structure of the US. Furthermore, the study of the Glorious Revolution and the Act of Union as part of the Impact of Empire on Britain unit gives a foundation to understanding the British government system along with many of the issues relevant to devolution today.

What new knowledge or skills are students taught?

Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn	<p>The Government of the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and sources of the British Constitution • The structure and role of Parliament • The Prime Minister and cabinet • The judiciary • Devolution 	<p>The Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The judicial branch of government • The electoral process and direct democracy • Political parties • Pressure groups • Civil rights <p>Political Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberalism core ideas and key strands
Spring	<p>The Politics of the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy and participation • Elections and referendums • Political parties • Pressure Groups • The European Union 	<p>Political Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberalism key thinkers • Conservatism core ideas and key strands • Conservatism key thinkers • Socialism core ideas and key strands • Socialism key thinkers • Nationalism core ideas and key strands
Summer	<p>The Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The constitutional framework of US government • The legislative branch of government: Congress • The executive branch of government: President 	<p>Political Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalism key thinkers <p>Revision</p>
Rationale for this sequencing	<p>The course begins with UK government and politics as this is the part of the course which students will have the most pre-existing knowledge about and therefore gives a more comfortable way into an entirely new subject. Students can then apply the knowledge and understanding of relevant political concepts, institutions and processes in the UK to comparative parts of US government and politics.</p>	<p>Political Ideas is studied as the final unit as it requires the most develop analytical skills and the handling of complex ideas from challenging texts. The maturity and progress made by the late autumn term in Year 13 provides the best context for this. In addition by this stage students will have developed their own political ideas and so this gives them a more Secure basis from which to analyse and challenge established political ideologies.</p>

Additional support at home

<p>Additional reading for enjoyment, enhancement and extension</p>	<p>Rights of Man, Common Sense, and Other Political Writings, Thomas Paine 50 Politics Classics: Your shortcut to the most important ideas on freedom, equality, and power, Tom Butler-Bowdon Why We Get the Wrong Politicians, Isabel Hardman American Politics: A Very Short Introduction, Richard M. Valelly UnPresided: Politics, pandemics and the race that Trumped all others, Jon Sopel</p>
<p>Online resources to practice, consolidate and revise</p>	<p>A Level Politics - Learning Materials and Newsletter</p>
<p>Workbooks & revision guides to practice, consolidate and revise</p>	<p>My Revision Notes: AQA A-level Politics: UK Politics My Revision Notes: AQA A-level Politics: Political Ideas My Revision Notes: AQA A-level Politics: US and Comparative Politics Alternatively, look for the AQA A-level Politics Student Guides (1-4)</p>