

An introduction to key concepts and features in politics

To begin Year 12, students will learn about:

- The nature of politics
- The nature of democracy
- Parliamentary sovereignty and the Westminster model
- The relationship between the executive branch and legislative branch



LINKING

Big picture thinking

The ability to work with big ideas and holistic concepts



The constitution

- The nature and sources of the British constitution
- Contemporary legislation and current issues regarding rights
- Issues and debates around recent constitutional changes



ANALYSING

Critical or logical thinking

The ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason and seek supporting evidence



Devolution

The roles, powers and responsibilities of the different devolved bodies in the UK



Parliament

- Parliamentary debate and the legislative process
- The significance of Commons and Lords
- The extent of Parliament's influence on government decisions

The Prime Minister

- How policy is made
- The relationship between Prime Minister and cabinet
- The difference between individual and collective responsibility



UK Supreme Court

The role of the Supreme Court and its impact on government, legislature and policy process.

ENQUIRING



The ability to be curious, challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions.

The European Union

- The history of the EU
- Britain's relationship with the EU
- The impact of the EU on British politics
 - The impact of Brexit



Government and Politics



Big picture thinking

The ability to work with big ideas and holistic concepts

Democracy and participation

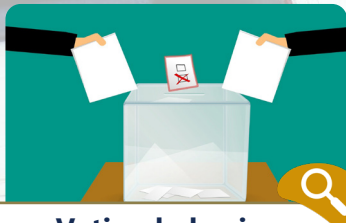
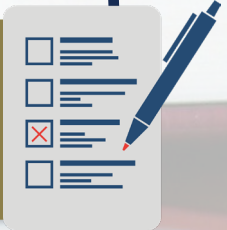
The nature and different types of democracy - direct democracy and representative government.

Self-regulating own study of key source material and interpretations.



Electoral systems

- The role of FPTP in British politics
- Alternative electoral systems and electoral reform
- The use of referendums



Voting behaviour

The influence of the media on the outcomes, the role of elections and their influence on policy and policy making...

Year
13



The constitution

To start Year 13, pupils will study the US Constitution including:

- Bill of Rights
- Checks and balances
- Separation of powers
- Federalism

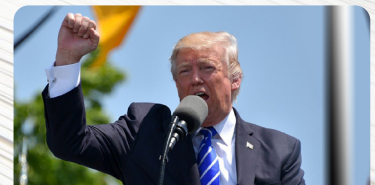
Generalisation

The ability to see how what is happening in his instance could be extrapolated to other circumstances



Congress

The structure, role and powers of the US Congress



The Presidency

As part of this topic, pupils will analyse and evaluate sources of presidential power: selecting two relevant examples to demonstrate how these have been used by different presidents.

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CREATING



Flexible thinking

The ability to abandon one idea for a superior one or generate multiple solutions.

Government and Politics



Connection finding

The ability to use connections from past experiences to seek possible generalisations.

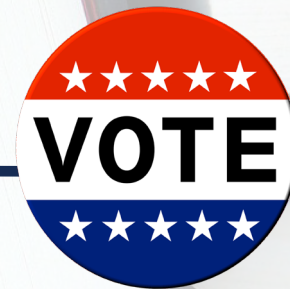


The US Supreme Court and civil rights

Pupils will learn about the nature of judicial power and the constitutional role of the Supreme Court. As part of this topic, pupils analyse and evaluate two examples of landmark rulings and related debates and controversies.

Elections

The electoral systems used in the USA and the main characteristics of presidential and congressional elections and campaigns



Parties and pressure groups

- Key similarities and differences of the influences on government in the UK and the USA
- The relative power, influence and methods of pressure groups in the UK and the USA.

Precision

The ability to work effectively within the rules of a domain

CREATING



Flexible thinking

The ability to abandon one idea for a superior one or generate multiple ideas



Liberalism

As part of this topic, students will analyse and evaluate:

- Debates about the nature of liberalism
- Core liberal ideas and values concerning the individual and freedom
- Classical liberalism, modern (new/progressive) liberalism

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Socialism

An introduction to core socialist views and values concerning Marxism, class analysis and the fundamental goals of socialism

Big picture thinking

The ability to work with big ideas and holistic concepts.



Conservatives

Conservatism

This topic looks at the core conservative ideas and values concerning government, the free market and the individual.



Feminism

- Equality of treatment, recognition of gender differences
- Human nature, the state, society and the economy
 - Liberal feminism, radical feminism

HARD WORKING

Perseverance

The ability to keep going and not give up.



Exams

1. The Government and Politics of the UK
2. The Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics
3. Political Ideas

At the end of Year 13, pupils are assessed with 3 written exams. Each exam is worth 33.3% of your final grade.

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