

Year 12 Government & Politics Curriculum Rationale

In Year 12 students will study a wide range of political institutions, structures and ideas that examine and analyse the political process in the UK which requires students to see and understand alternative political perspectives. Consequently, students will go on to develop written communication skills as well as critical thinking and analytical skills.

Paper 1: Government and politics of the UK (33% of A Level)

Unit:	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment:	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development:	Home learning and enrichment
Government and	UK constitution : what	Ascertain prior	9 mark exam	SPAG, reading	Requires Big picture	Students should read a
politics of the UK	is a constitution? How	knowledge,	question from past	for meaning.	thinking (the ability to	quality broadsheet
(Paper 1)	does it affect politics	undertake baseline	paper.		work with big ideas and	newspaper to keep
	in the UK? Why does	assessment to		Tolerance of	holistic concepts)	abreast of contemporary
Terms 1 and 2	it matter that the UK	evaluate political	25 mark exam	those with		political events
	has an uncodified	literacy.	question from past	different opinions	Enquiring (the ability to	
	constitution?		paper.	to our own.	be curious, challenge	Students can also use the
					assumptions and require	BBC news app on their
					evidence for assertions.)	phone to keep up to
						date with political
					Abstraction (the ability to	developments.
					move from the concrete	
					to the abstract quickly.	Watch Question Time on
						BBC one or listen to Any
					VAA: Enquiring	Questions BBC R4
					Open Minded	
					Enquiring	
	Parliament: What is the function of	Builds on: students'	9 mark exam question from past	SPAG, reading for meaning.	Requires: Critical and logical thinking; The	Students should read a
	parliament? How	knowledge of constitution and devolution.	paper.	Tor meaning.	ability to deduct,	quality broadsheet newspaper to keep



Unit:	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment:	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development	Home learning and enrichment
	effective is parliament?	Leads to: greater knowledge and understanding of	25 mark exam question from past paper.	Tolerance of those with different opinions	hypothesise, reason, seek supporting evidence.	abreast of contemporary political events
		the significance of parliamentary		to our own.	Abstraction (the ability to move from the concrete	Students can also use the BBC news app on their
		sovereignty (one of the key concepts in		Numeracy understanding of	to the abstract quickly.	phone to keep up to date with political
		this unit.		the mechanics of parliamentary	VAA: Enquiring	developments.
				majorities.	Open Minded	Watch Question Time on BBC one or listen to Any
					Empathetic (collaborative)	Questions BBC R4
	Prime Minister and Cabinet: What are the powers of the PM? What are the restrictions on the	Builds on; knowledge of parliament and constitution. Leads to: greater	9 mark exam question from past paper. 25 mark exam	SPAG, reading for meaning. Tolerance of those with	Requires: Connection finding; the ability to use connections from past experiences to seek possible generalisations.	Students should read a quality broadsheet newspaper to keep abreast of contemporary political events
	power of the PM, how significant is Cabinet within the executive branch?	understanding of the powers of the PM	question from past paper.	different opinions to our own.	Abstraction (the ability to move from the concrete to the abstract quickly.	Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone to keep up to date with political
					VAA: Enquiring Open minded	developments. Watch Question Time on
					Empathetic	BBC one or listen to Any Questions BBC R4
					Creative & enterprising	



Unit:	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment:	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development:	Home learning and enrichment
	Judiciary The role of the Supreme Court in the UK political process, recruitment to the Supreme Court, powers of the Supreme Court in relation to parliament.	Builds on: knowledge of PM and parliament. Leads to: greater understanding of the role of the Supreme Court in relation to PM & parliament.	9 mark exam question from past paper. 25 mark exam question from past paper.	SPAG, reading for meaning. Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.	Requires: Big picture thinking (the ability to work with big ideas and holistic concepts) Enquiring (the ability to be curious, challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions.) VAA: Enquiring Open Minded	Students should read a quality broadsheet newspaper to keep abreast of contemporary political events Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone to keep up to date with political developments. Watch Question Time on
					Empathetic Concerned for society	BBC one or listen to Any Questions BBC R4
	Devolution: Why has the UK moved to a devolved system? What are the effects of devolution in Scotland, Wales and NI? How has devolution affected the UK political system.	Builds on; students' knowledge of the unitary nature of the UK constitution. Leads to; greater understanding of how the constitution has been affected by devolution.	9 mark exam question from past paper. 25 mark exam question from past paper.	SPAG, reading for meaning. Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.	Requires: Connection finding; the ability to use connections from past experiences to seek possible generalisations. Critical and logical thinking; The ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason, seek supporting evidence. VAA: Enquiring	Students should read a quality broadsheet newspaper to keep abreast of contemporary political events Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone to keep up to date with political developments.



Unit:	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment:	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development:	Home learning and enrichment
					Open minded	Watch Question Time on BBC one or listen to Any Questions BBC R4
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Government and	Democracy & political	Builds on:	9 mark exam	SPAG, reading	Requires: Big picture	Students should read a
politics of the UK	participation:	knowledge of	question from past	for meaning.	thinking (the ability to	quality broadsheet
(Paper 1)	What is meant by	Parliament, PM, role	paper.	T 1 6	work with big ideas and	newspaper to keep
	political participation?	of the EU and UK	25	Tolerance of	holistic concepts)	abreast of contemporary
Terms 3 and 4	Is there a crisis in	constitution.	25 mark exam	those with	Fig. 121 - 7th and 1110 - 1	political events
	political participation,	Leads to: enhanced	question from past	different opinions	Enquiring (the ability to	
	traditional methods	understanding of	paper.	to our own.	be curious, challenge	Students can also use the
	of participation and	the nature of			assumptions and require	BBC news app on their
	new methods of	modern democracy			evidence for assertions.)	phone to keep up to
	participation.	in the UK.				date with political
					VAA Enquiring	developments.
					Open Minded	Watch Question Time on
						BBC one or listen to Any
					Empathetic	Questions BBC R4
					Concerned for society	
	Electoral systems: The	Builds on:	9 mark exam	SPAG, reading	Requires: Big picture	Students should read a
	role of FPTP in British	knowledge of	question from past	for meaning.	thinking (the ability to	quality broadsheet
	politics, alternative	parliament, UK	paper.		work with big ideas and	newspaper to keep
	electoral systems and	constitution and PM.	11	Tolerance of	holistic concepts)	abreast of contemporary
	electoral reform.	Leads to : Greater	25 mark exam	those with		political events
	The use of	understanding of	question from past	different opinions	Enquiring (the ability to	
	referendums.	FPTP, alternative	paper.	to our own.	be curious, challenge	



Unit	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development:	Home learning and enrichment
		electoral systems, use of referendums and electoral reform.		Numeracy, understanding that maths of different electoral systems.	assumptions and require evidence for assertions.) VAA Enquiring Open Minded Empathetic Open minded	Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone to keep up to date with political developments. Watch Question Time on BBC one or listen to Any Questions BBC R4
	Political parties: What is a political party? Manifesto & mandate, roles and types of political party in the UK, internal party democracy, funding of parties	Builds on: Understanding of voting behaviour, UK constitution, UK constitution and parliament. Leads to: enhanced understanding of the nature and role of political parties, including main parties and minor parties and funding of political parties.	9 mark exam question from past paper. 25 mark exam question from past paper.	SPAG, reading for meaning. Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.	Requires: Big picture thinking (the ability to work with big ideas and holistic concepts) Enquiring (the ability to be curious, challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions.) VAA Enquiring Open Minded Empathetic	Students should read a quality broadsheet newspaper to keep abreast of contemporary political events Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone to keep up to date with political developments. Watch Question Time on BBC one or listen to Any Questions BBC R4



Unit:	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development:	Home learning and enrichment
	Voting behaviour and pressure groups: voting by region, class, gender, age & ethnicity, factors influencing voter choice, the role of the media in politics	Builds on: understanding of electoral systems, parliament and constitution. Leads to: knowledge & understanding of factors influencing voting behaviour, increased volatility in voting behaviour.	9 mark exam question from past paper. 25 mark exam question from past paper.	SPAG, reading for meaning. Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.	Requires: Critical and logical thinking, the ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason and seek supporting evidence. VAA Enquiring Open Minded Empathetic	Students should read a quality broadsheet newspaper to keep abreast of contemporary political events Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone to keep up to date with political developments. Watch Question Time on BBC one or listen to Any
	EU: history of the EU, Britain's relationship with the EU, the impact of the EU on British politics, the impact of Brexit.	Builds on: knowledge of UK constitution, parliament and PM. Leads to: Greater understanding of the UK's relationship with Europe and its impact on sovereignty.	9 mark exam question from past paper. 25 mark exam question from past paper.	SPAG, reading for meaning. Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.	Requires: Critical and logical thinking, the ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason and seek supporting evidence. VAA Enquiring Open Minded Empathetic	Questions BBC R4 Students should read a quality broadsheet newspaper to keep abreast of contemporary political events Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone to keep up to date with political developments. Watch Question Time on BBC one or listen to Any Questions BBC R4



Paper 2: US and Comparative Politics (33% of A Level – started in Year 12 and completed in Year 13)

Unit:	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment:	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development:	Home learning and enrichment
US and	US constitution:	Ascertain prior	Forms quiz at the	SPAG, reading	Requires Big picture	Students should read
Comparative	differences between a	knowledge,	end of every week	for meaning.	thinking (the ability to	
Politics (Paper 2)	codified and	undertake baseline	(knowledge test).		work with big ideas and	https://www.theguardian.
	uncodified	assessment to		Tolerance of	holistic concepts)	com/politics/series/politic
Terms 5 and 6	constitution. The Bill	evaluate political	9 mark exam	those with		s-weekly-america
	of Rights, Separation	literacy.	question from past	different opinions	Critical and logical	
(Including Paper 1	of powers, checks &		paper.	to our own.	thinking; The ability to	https://www.theguardian.
and Revision for	balances, amending				deduct, hypothesise,	com/us-news/us-politics
PPE on Paper 1)	the US constitution,		25 mark exam		reason, seek supporting	
	the Federal system of		question from past		evidence.	
	government, the		paper.			Students can also use the
	protection of civil					BBC news app on their
	liberties and rights.				Abstraction (the ability to	phone, especially:
					move from the concrete	
					to the abstract quickly.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/n
						ews/world/us and canad
					VAA: Enquiring	<u>a</u>
					Open Minded	
					Enquiring	
	Congress: structure	Builds on; students'	Forms quiz at the	SPAG, reading	Requires: Connection	Students should read
	and role of Congress,	knowledge of UK	end of every week	for meaning.	finding; the ability to use	
	powers of Congress,	Parliament and	(knowledge test).		connections from past	https://www.theguardian.
	oversight, power of	enables comparison		Tolerance of	experiences to seek	com/politics/series/politic
	the purse, the	with Congress.	9 mark exam	those with	possible generalisations.	s-weekly-america
	committee system,	Leads to ; greater	question from past	different opinions	Especially connections to	
	role of	understanding of	paper.	to our own.	the UK legislature.	



Unit:	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment:	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development:	Home learning and enrichment
	representatives & senators, relationship to the executive, relationship to the Supreme Court	how the two different legislatures work.	25 mark exam question from past paper.		Critical and logical thinking; The ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason, seek supporting evidence. VAA: Enquiring Open minded Creative & enterprising	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us and canada
	President: Sources of presidential power, formal & informal powers, constraints on the president, checks and balances by the judiciary & Congress, the US cabinet, relationships between the presidency and other institutions, imperial or imperilled presidency.	Builds on: students' knowledge of the executive branch in the UK Leads to: greater knowledge and understanding of the executive branch of US Government	Forms quiz at the end of every week (knowledge test). 9 mark exam question from past paper. 25 mark exam question from past paper.	SPAG, reading for meaning. Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own. Numeracy understanding of the mechanics of parliamentary majorities	Requires: Critical and logical thinking; The ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason, seek supporting evidence. Abstraction (the ability to move from the concrete to the abstract quickly. VAA: Enquiring Open Minded Empathetic (collaborative)	Students should read https://www.theguardian. com/politics/series/politic s-weekly-america https://www.theguardian. com/us-news/us-politics Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially: https://www.bbc.co.uk/n ews/world/us and canad a