

## 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
<b>Government and politics of the UK (Paper 1)</b>  <b>Terms 1 and 2</b>	<b>UK constitution:</b> what is a constitution? How does it affect politics in the UK? Why does it matter that the UK has an uncoded constitution?	Ascertain prior knowledge, undertake baseline assessment to evaluate political literacy.	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.)  Abstraction (the ability to move from the concrete to the abstract quickly).  VAA: Enquiring  Open Minded  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.  Watch Question Time on BBC one or listen to Any Questions BBC R4
	<b>Parliament:</b> What is the function of parliament? How	<b>Builds on:</b> students' knowledge of constitution and devolution.	9 mark exam question from past paper.	SPAG, reading for meaning.	Requires: Critical and logical thinking; The ability to deduct,	Students should read a quality broadsheet newspaper to keep

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	effective is parliament?	<b>Leads to:</b> greater knowledge and understanding of the significance of parliamentary sovereignty (one of the key concepts in this unit.	25 mark exam question from past paper.	Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.  Numeracy understanding of the mechanics of parliamentary majorities.	hypothesise, reason, seek supporting evidence.  Abstraction (the ability to move from the concrete to the abstract quickly.  VAA: Enquiring  Open Minded  Empathetic (collaborative)	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
	<b>Prime Minister and Cabinet:</b> What are the powers of the PM? What are the restrictions on the power of the PM, how significant is Cabinet within the executive branch?	<b>Builds on;</b> knowledge of parliament and constitution. <b>Leads to:</b> greater understanding of the powers of the PM	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.  Abstraction (the ability to move from the concrete to the abstract quickly.  VAA: Enquiring  Open minded  Empathetic  Creative & enterprising	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

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	<b>Judiciary</b> 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.	<b>Builds on:</b> knowledge of PM and parliament. <b>Leads to:</b> 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  Empathetic  Concerned for society	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
	<b>Devolution:</b> 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.	<b>Builds on;</b> students' knowledge of the unitary nature of the UK constitution. <b>Leads to;</b> 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  Creative & enterprising	Watch Question Time on BBC one or listen to Any Questions BBC R4
<b>Government and politics of the UK (Paper 1)</b>  <b>Terms 3 and 4</b>	<b>Democracy &amp; political participation:</b> What is meant by political participation? Is there a crisis in political participation, traditional methods of participation and new methods of participation.	<b>Builds on:</b> knowledge of Parliament, PM, role of the EU and UK constitution. <b>Leads to:</b> enhanced understanding of the nature of modern democracy in the UK.	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  Concerned for society	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
	<b>Electoral systems:</b> The role of FPTP in British politics, alternative electoral systems and electoral reform. The use of referendums.	<b>Builds on:</b> knowledge of parliament, UK constitution and PM. <b>Leads to:</b> Greater understanding of FPTP, alternative	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	Students should read a quality broadsheet newspaper to keep abreast of contemporary political events

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
	<b>Political parties:</b> 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
	<b>Voting behaviour and pressure groups:</b> voting by region, class, gender, age & ethnicity, factors influencing voter choice, the role of the media in politics	<b>Builds on:</b> understanding of electoral systems, parliament and constitution. <b>Leads to:</b> 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 Questions BBC R4
	<b>EU:</b> history of the EU, Britain's relationship with the EU, the impact of the EU on British politics, the impact of Brexit.	<b>Builds on:</b> knowledge of UK constitution, parliament and PM. <b>Leads to:</b> 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	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
<p><b>US and Comparative Politics (Paper 2)</b></p> <p><b>Terms 5 and 6</b></p> <p><b>(Including Paper 1 and Revision for PPE on Paper 1)</b></p>	<p><b>US constitution:</b> differences between a codified and uncoded constitution. The Bill of Rights, Separation of powers, checks &amp; balances, amending the US constitution, the Federal system of government, the protection of civil liberties and rights.</p>	<p>Ascertain prior knowledge, undertake baseline assessment to evaluate political literacy.</p>	<p>Forms quiz at the end of every week (knowledge test).</p> <p>9 mark exam question from past paper.</p> <p>25 mark exam question from past paper.</p>	<p>SPAG, reading for meaning.</p> <p>Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.</p>	<p>Requires Big picture thinking (the ability to work with big ideas and holistic concepts)</p> <p>Critical and logical thinking; The ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason, seek supporting evidence.</p> <p>Abstraction (the ability to move from the concrete to the abstract quickly).</p> <p>VAA: Enquiring</p> <p>Open Minded</p> <p>Enquiring</p>	<p>Students should read</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america">https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics">https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</a></p> <p>Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially:</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us-and-canada">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us-and-canada</a></p>
	<p><b>Congress:</b> structure and role of Congress, powers of Congress, oversight, power of the purse, the committee system, role of</p>	<p><b>Builds on;</b> students' knowledge of UK Parliament and enables comparison with Congress.</p> <p><b>Leads to;</b> greater understanding of</p>	<p>Forms quiz at the end of every week (knowledge test).</p> <p>9 mark exam question from past paper.</p>	<p>SPAG, reading for meaning.</p> <p>Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.</p>	<p>Requires: Connection finding; the ability to use connections from past experiences to seek possible generalisations. Especially connections to the UK legislature.</p>	<p>Students should read</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america">https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</a></p>

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	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics">https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</a>  Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us_and_canada">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us and canada</a>
	<b>President:</b> 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.	<b>Builds on:</b> students' knowledge of the executive branch in the UK <b>Leads to:</b> 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  <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america">https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</a>  <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics">https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</a>  Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us_and_canada">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us and canada</a>