

Year 13 Government & Politics Curriculum Rationale

In Year 13, students will study a wide range of political institutions, structures and ideas that examine and analyse the political process in the USA 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 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
Unit two: Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics	US Supreme Court: The selection of US Supreme Court justices, current composition of the US Supreme Court, Judicial Review, landmark cases, similarities & differences between the Supreme Courts, relative independence of US & UK judiciaries Weeks 7 & 8 (weeks commencing 30 th of October and 6 th of November)	Builds on; knowledge of the UK Supreme Court. Leads to: greater understanding of the US Supreme Court.	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.	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 https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-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/news/world/us-and-canada

Unit	Core knowledge/skill development	Sequence	Assessment	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development	Home learning and enrichment
	<p>Elections: Characteristics of US elections, selection & nomination of candidates, National Nominating Conventions, the electoral college, factors affecting the outcome of elections, campaign finance, direct democracy & split ticket voting.</p> <p>Weeks 9 & 10 (weeks commencing 13th & 20th of November)</p>	<p>Builds on: knowledge of UK elections, especially general elections. Leads to: greater understanding of elections in the USA.</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>Enquiring (the ability to be curious, challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions.)</p> <p>VAA: Enquiring/Open Minded/Empathetic</p>	<p>Students should read</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</p> <p>Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us-and-canada</p>
	<p>Political Parties: The values of the democrat & republican party, party organisation, party unity, renewal and decline, 3rd parties, comparing</p>	<p>Builds on: knowledge of UK political parties. Leads to: Greater understanding of political parties in the USA.</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: Critical and logical thinking, the ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason and seek supporting evidence.</p> <p>VAA Enquiring</p>	<p>Students should read</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</p>

Unit:	Core knowledge/skill development:	Sequence:	Assessment:	Literacy, numeracy, PSHE, FBV, other links	ACP and VAA development:	Home learning and enrichment
	party and electoral systems, structural/rational/cultural theories, 2 party system in the UK and USA, campaign finance and electoral systems. Weeks 11 & 12 (weeks commencing 27 th of November & 4 th of December)		25 mark exam question from past paper.		Open Minded Empathetic	Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us_and_canada
	Pressure Groups Pluralism, elitism, typologies, methods, iron triangles, the role of PACs and Super PACs, comparing USA and UK pressure groups. Weeks 13 & 14 (weeks commencing 11 th & 18 th of December)	Builds on: knowledge of UK Pressure Groups Leads to: enhanced understanding of Pressure Groups in the USA.	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.	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 https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially:

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						https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us-and-canada
	<p>Civil Rights The protection of rights and liberties, the Bill of Rights, landmark Supreme Court cases, pressure groups & civil rights, race/affirmative action/voting rights/incarceration rates/felony disenfranchisement/alt right and domestic terrorism</p> <p>Weeks 15 & 16, (weeks commencing the 8th of January & 15th of January)</p>	<p>Builds on: knowledge of Civil Rights in the UK</p> <p>Leads to: Greater understanding of civil rights in the USA.</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>Numeracy, understanding that maths of different electoral systems.</p>	<p>Requires: Big picture thinking (the ability to work with big ideas and holistic concepts)</p> <p>Enquiring (the ability to be curious, challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions.)</p> <p>VAA Enquiring</p> <p>Open Minded</p> <p>Empathetic</p> <p>Open minded</p>	<p>Students should read</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</p> <p>Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us-and-canada</p>

Paper 3: Political Ideologies (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
Unit three, political ideas (ideologies)	<p>Liberalism</p> <p>Core ideas; human nature, the state, society, the economy.</p> <p>Key thinkers: John Locke/Mary Woolstonecraft/John Stuart Mill/John Rawls/Betty Friedan</p>	<p>Ascertain prior knowledge to evaluate knowledge and understanding of core ideologies/political ideas</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>Enquiring (the ability to be curious, challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions.)</p> <p>VAA Enquiring</p> <p>Open Minded</p> <p>Empathetic</p> <p>Open minded</p>	<p>Students should read</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</p> <p>Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us_and_canada</p>
	<p>Conservatism</p> <p>Core ideas: human nature, the state, society, the economy.</p> <p>Key thinkers: Thomas Hobbes/Edmund Burke/Michael</p>	<p>Builds on: knowledge and understanding of liberalism and politics across the whole of the course.</p> <p>Leads to: Knowledge and understanding of conservatism.</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: Big picture thinking (the ability to work with big ideas and holistic concepts)</p> <p>Enquiring (the ability to be curious, challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions.)</p>	<p>Students should read</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</p>

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	Oakeshott/Ayn Rand/Robert Nozick		25 mark exam question from past paper.		VAA Enquiring Open Minded Empathetic Open minded	Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us_and_canada
	Socialism		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.	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 Open minded	Students should read https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-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/news/world/us_and_canada
	Feminism		Forms quiz at the end of every week (knowledge test).	SPAG, reading for meaning.	Requires: Big picture thinking (the ability to	Students should read

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			<p>9 mark exam question from past paper.</p> <p>25 mark exam question from past paper.</p>	<p>Tolerance of those with different opinions to our own.</p>	<p>work with big ideas and holistic concepts)</p> <p>Enquiring (the ability to be curious, challenge assumptions and require evidence for assertions.)</p> <p>VAA Enquiring</p> <p>Open Minded</p> <p>Empathetic</p> <p>Open minded</p>	<p>https://www.theguardian.com/politics/series/politics-weekly-america</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/us-politics</p> <p>Students can also use the BBC news app on their phone, especially:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/us and canada</p>