



Year 13 Curriculum Grid

Politics

Year/Term	Unit	Content	What skills are developed?
Autumn-Spring Terms (projected to complete course by April of Year 13)	Comparative: US Government & Politics	1. The US Constitution and Federalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature of the US Constitution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codified, entrenched, sovereign Separation of powers and checks and balances Key principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federalism, limited government, popular sovereignty, constitutionalism Amendment process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rigidity, formal vs informal change Bill of Rights and civil liberties Federalism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship between federal and state governments Shifts in the balance of power over time (e.g., New Federalism) Comparative UK links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codified vs uncoded constitutions Entrenchment vs parliamentary sovereignty Centralisation vs devolved power 	<i>The ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse Evaluate Think critically Learn independently Work in groups/teams Communicate effectively Debate Research Write extensively Compare similarities and differences between political ideologies
		2. US Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure: bicameral – House of Representatives and Senate Powers of Congress (legislation, oversight, budget, confirmation) Differences between the two chambers Effectiveness of Congress in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing legislation Checking the executive Representing the people Partisanship and gridlock Comparative UK links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress vs UK Parliament Bicameralism: Lords vs Senate Strength of committees Party discipline and executive control 	
		3. The US Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roles of the President: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of state and government Commander-in-chief, chief legislator, diplomat Powers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal (constitutional) vs informal (e.g., power of persuasion, media) Limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress, courts, public opinion Factors affecting success: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandate, majority in Congress, external crises Debate over the “Imperial Presidency” Comparative UK links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> US President vs UK Prime Minister 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation vs fusion of powers • Role of Cabinet and party • Extent of individual leadership power 	
		<p>4. US Supreme Court and Civil Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure and role of the Supreme Court • Judicial independence and appointment process • Judicial review and its impact • Role in protecting civil rights (e.g., Brown v. Board, Dobbs v. Jackson, Obergefell v. Hodges, Trump v. CASA) • Ongoing civil rights issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Race, gender, LGBTQ+ rights • Political significance of the Court <p>Comparative UK links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Supreme Court vs UK Supreme Court • Judicial appointments • Power of constitutional interpretation • Protection of rights 	
		<p>5. US Democracy and Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Presidential and congressional elections ◦ Electoral College: advantages, criticisms, reform debate • Campaign finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Role of PACs, Super PACs, Citizens United case • Political parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Democrat and Republican ideologies and divisions (e.g., progressives, moderates, conservatives) • Voting behaviour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Factors: race, gender, religion, education, age, region ◦ Turnout and participation trends <p>Comparative UK links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral systems: FPTP vs Electoral College • Party ideology and structure • Voting behaviour patterns and media influence • Campaign spending rules 	
		<p>6. Comparative Theories and Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Focuses on institutions and frameworks (e.g., constitutions, systems of government) • Rational theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Emphasises individual actions and motivations (e.g., voting, party loyalty) • Cultural theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Highlights societal values, traditions, and political culture <p>Students must apply these theories to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the US and UK systems across all the above topics • Evaluate how effectively each system delivers democracy, accountability, and representation <p><u>Homework: Pre-chewed Politics sheets, Cornell notes, Research projects, etc.</u></p> <p>Key Concepts and Skills: Description, Analysis, Evaluation,</p>	

		Judgement, Balanced Argument, Inference, Compare and Contrast	
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