

Learning Cycle	Knowledge and Skills	Vocabulary & Reading	Checking of understanding	Rationale
Autumn Term of Year 12	<p>UK government & politics</p> <p>To understand the structure of the UK political system including the institutions (government) and politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy & participation (PD link to Adulthood) • The UK constitution • The UK judiciary • Elections & referendums • Political parties <p>Skills: Independent learning & research skills embedded for out of hours learning Debating skills – informed debate – using examples to support argument. 9 mark questions – analysing significance of arguments/ factors 25-mark essay questions – evaluating arguments – arguing for and against</p>	<p>Direct/ representative democracy, suffrage, partisan dealignment, suffrage, codified, statute law, common law, conventions, authoritative opinions, The Royal Prerogative, Rule of law, Parliamentary sovereignty, individual & collective rights, Supreme Court, judicial independence & impartiality, separation of powers, ultra vires, judicial review, majoritarian & proportional electoral systems, participation, voting behaviour, manifesto, campaign, referendums, ideology, party structure, systems, funding, functions, minor parties</p> <p>Time given in lessons to for learners to reflect on ‘This week in politics’ having followed political news over the past few days. Podcasts set as home learning tasks Politics review reading – articles integrated into learning, as well as available for wider reading (online subscription)</p>	<p>Mini whiteboard exercises, Weekly Fact check quiz</p> <p>Low-stakes quiz 9 mark exam questions</p> <p>25 mark essay exam questions</p>	<p>Beginning the course with the government and politics of the UK provides the foundational base for the comparative element of the course later on when studying U.S politics.</p> <p>Starting the unit with the theme of ‘democracy and participation’ helps learners appreciate some of the key ideas and developments within democracy and democratic institutions. Following on from this, the different themes connected with either UK government (institutions) or UK politics (parties, issues) help build on the knowledge and understanding gained at each stage of learning.</p> <p>PD link to Health – government policies on tax and public spending.</p>
Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution • Parliament • PM & Cabinet • The UK and the EU • Pressure groups <p>Skills:</p>	<p>Devolved bodies – Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, Northern Ireland Assembly & executive, scrutiny, Commons, Lords, delegates & trustees, Burkean, mandate theory, parliamentary privilege, opposition, legislation, debate, redress of grievances, referendum, core executive, prime minister, primus inter pares, cabinet, inner cabinet, cabinet committee, individual and collective responsibility, accountability, EU institutions</p>	<p>Mini whiteboard exercises, Weekly Fact check quiz</p> <p>Low-stakes quiz 9 mark exam questions</p>	<p>Learners continue to familiarise themselves with the institutions as well as the politics of the UK. Knowledge gained is utilised effectively to better understand later topics studied. For example, when learning about parliament and its make-up the knowledge of democracy and also elections inform student understanding of</p>

	<p>Independent learning & research skills embedded for out of hours learning Debating skills – informed debate – using examples to support argument.</p> <p>25-mark extract questions – commenting on provenance of sources of information. Plus evaluating statements using knowledge and understanding of differ</p>	<p>(Commission, Council, Parliament, Court of Justice), pluralism, elitism, political agenda, insider/ outsider groups, promotional and interest groups, think tanks, lobbyists, corporations, media.</p> <p>Time given in lessons to for learners to reflect on ‘This week in politics’ having followed political news over the past few days. Podcasts set as home learning tasks Politics review reading – articles integrated into learning, as well as available for wider reading (online subscription)</p>	<p>25 mark essay exam questions</p> <p>25 mark extract essay questions</p> <p>Before Easter: Paper 1 Exam</p>	<p>Parliaments’ structure and its committees and conventions.</p> <p>Opportunities are embedded to reflect on past learning through informal and more formal assessments. But also by linking ideas across topic with the aim to help foster ‘synoptic’ thinking across themes.</p> <p>PD link to environment – the tactics used by a environmental groups, and government responses.</p>
<p>Summer Term</p>	<p>U.S government & politics To understand the structure of the American political system including the Constitution, Congress, Judiciary and the Presidency, and be able to critically compare it to the UK political system using theories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S constitution • Congress • Executive (start) 	<p>Bill of Rights, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, House of Representatives, Senate, oversight, committee system, the executive, the President, formal powers, informal powers, imperial presidency, imperilled presidency</p> <p>Time given in lessons to for learners to reflect on ‘This week in politics’ having followed political news over the past few days. Podcasts set as home learning tasks Politics review reading – articles integrated into learning, as well as available for wider reading (online subscription)</p>	<p>Mini whiteboard exercises, Weekly Fact check quiz</p> <p>Low-stakes quiz 9-mark exam questions</p> <p>25-mark essay exam questions</p> <p>25-mark extract essay questions</p>	<p>With all of the UK government and politics themes completed, learners then embark on studying key features of the US system of government. This then facilitates the comparative element of the course.</p>

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<p>Autumn Term of Year 13</p>	<p>U.S government & politics To understand the structure of the American political system including the Constitution, Congress, Judiciary and the Presidency, and be able to critically compare it to the UK political system using theories.</p> <p>Political Ideologies To understand the key concepts and thinkers in liberalism and conservatism</p>	<p>Structural, rational, cultural. Federalism, constructionism, activism, impeachment.</p> <p>Classical, progressive. Locke, Mill, Rawls, Green, Wollstonecraft, Friedan. Authoritarian, the New Right. Hobbes, Burke, Rand, Nozick.</p>	<p>Mini white board quizzes Directed questioning Cloze exercises Nine markers Extract questions Essays</p>	<p>The American comparative unit builds on the knowledge of the British political system from year 12. The starting point is the US Constitution as all other elements link back to this. PD link to heritage – the changing role of black civil rights and Black Lives Matter campaigns The political ideas have been introduced across year 12 as part of British politics, this understanding is then built on and clarified by looking at key thinkers. Liberalism as an ideology is examined first as a centrist ideology before widening the study to the left and right.</p>
<p>Spring Term</p>	<p>US government & politics To understand the structure of the American political system including the electoral system, parties, pressure groups and rights, and be able to critically compare it to the UK political system using theories.</p> <p>Political ideologies To understand the key concepts and thinkers in socialism and feminism (PD link to contemporary global issues)</p>	<p>Incumbency, Caucusus, conventions, split tickets, iron triangles, Political Action Committees.</p> <p>Marxism, social democracy. Marx, Engels, Luxemburg, Webb, Crosland, Giddens. Liberal feminism, radical feminism. Gilman, De Beauvoir, Millett, Rowbotham, Hooks.</p>	<p>Mini white board quizzes Directed questioning Cloze exercises Nine markers Extract questions Essays</p>	<p>This term sees the bringing together of all the synoptic elements of the course, US/UK comparisons and theoretical concepts and ideas. This will allow the most effective revision and exam skills to be developed. Socialism as an idea allows the recall and revision of parties, and feminism supports the integration of both civil rights and the judiciary.</p> <p>PD link to equality – civil and human rights in the UK and USA</p>
<p>Summer Term</p>	<p>Revision of content to ensure recall and application for final exams.</p>	<p>Revision of above and all year 12 vocabulary.</p>	<p>Mini white board quizzes Directed questioning Cloze exercises Nine markers Extract questions</p>	<p>Synoptic nature of the Politics A level lends itself to all units being revised at the same time.</p>



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Curriculum Intent: The aim of our Politics A Level at Melton Vale is to develop our students' knowledge and skills to become the very best thinkers, analysts and communicators. We want our students to understand the ever-changing world around and to understand how their actions, and the actions of groups in society, can impact all of us. This political responsibility will enable our students to recognise where and how they can have an impact, both personally, within our school community, and beyond.