

Politics Department 2023-2024

	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
TERM 1	<p>In Term 1 Studying political ideologies of liberalism and conservatism provides students with valuable insights into the ideologies and shaping political beliefs and behaviors. Liberalism emphasizes individual rights, personal freedoms, and equality, while conservatism values tradition, order, and stability. Understanding these ideologies helps students comprehend the psychological motivations behind policies and voting behavior and fosters critical thinking skills necessary for analyzing political arguments. This knowledge will be beneficial for students as they delve into the complexities of UK and US politics, enabling them to understand the connections between psychological processes, political ideologies, and policy outcomes.</p>	<p>In term 1 of Year 13, students will focus on US political parties, specifically the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. They will study their ideologies, values, policies, traditions, and organizational structures. The Democratic Party tends to align with progressivism and liberalism, emphasizing social justice and a larger government role. The Republican Party leans towards conservatism, emphasizing limited government intervention and individual liberties. Students will also explore the judicial branch of US politics, which includes the Supreme Court. They will examine the role of the courts in interpreting the Constitution, landmark cases, and their impact on social issues and constitutional interpretation. Understanding these concepts aligns with the AQA specification and provides a comprehensive understanding of US political parties and the judicial branch within the broader context of US politics.</p>

TERM 2	<p>In term 2 of year UK Government: Constitution and Function. The UK government operates within a parliamentary democracy, where power is vested in the elected representatives of the people. The government consists of three main branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary. The executive branch is headed by the Prime Minister, who leads the government and is responsible for policy-making and administration. The legislative branch comprises the Parliament, consisting of two</p>	<p>In term 2 of Year 13, students focus on three key areas: the Executive branch of the USA, US civil rights, and the role of the Vice President. They study the powers and responsibilities of the President and the Executive branch, examining their influence on policy-making and governance. Additionally, students explore the history and development of US civil rights, including significant events, legislation, and the ongoing pursuit of equality. Finally, they analyze the function of the Vice President, including their constitutional duties and potential</p>
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	houses: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The Parliament is responsible for enacting laws and scrutinizing the government's activities. The judiciary interprets and applies the law independently. The UK government operates under the constitutional principle of parliamentary sovereignty, whereby the Parliament is the supreme legal authority. This one-paragraph overview provides a brief understanding of the structure and functioning of the UK government.	impact on the Executive branch. This comprehensive study aligns with the AQA specification and provides a deeper understanding of the Executive branch, civil rights, and the role of the Vice President in the US political system.
TERM 3	Studying political ideologies like socialism before examining political parties in the UK in term 3 provides a foundational understanding of the underlying principles and values that shape party platforms. By delving into socialism as an ideology, students gain insight into the broader ideas and goals that influence political parties' policy positions and ideologies. This knowledge enhances their ability to critically analyze and evaluate the platforms and actions of different political parties in the UK. Understanding socialism helps students recognize the ideological spectrum and appreciate how different parties align with or deviate from socialist principles. It provides a valuable context for comprehending the policy debates and political dynamics within the UK party system.	In term 2 of Year 13, students focus on three key areas: The Executive branch of the USA, US civil rights, and the role of the Vice President. They study the powers and responsibilities of the President and the Executive branch, examining their influence on policymaking and governance. Additionally, students explore the history and development of US civil rights, including significant events, legislation, and the ongoing pursuit of equality. Finally, they analyze the function of the Vice President, including their constitutional duties and potential impact on the Executive branch. This comprehensive study aligns with the AQA specification and provides a deeper understanding of the Executive branch, civil rights, and the role of the Vice President in the US political system.
TERM 4	In term 4, the focus shifts towards studying UK political parties and the role of the executive branch within the UK political system. The UK has a multi-party system, with the two major parties being the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. Students will explore the ideologies, historical contexts, and policy positions of these parties, as well as other significant	In term 4, students engage in revision of UK Government and Politics and US Comparative Politics for the AQA course. This period focuses on consolidating knowledge and preparing for examinations. Students revisit key concepts, such as the structure and functioning of the UK government, including the roles of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. They review the UK party system, studying the

	<p>parties such as the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party (SNP). Understanding the structure, organization, and electoral strategies of these parties is crucial for analyzing political dynamics in the UK. Additionally, students will delve into the role of the executive branch, which is headed by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. They will examine the powers and responsibilities of the executive, its relationship with the legislative branch, and its influence on policy-making and governance. Studying UK political parties and the role of the executive in term 4 provides a comprehensive understanding of the actors shaping the political landscape in the UK.</p>	<p>ideologies, values, policies, traditions, and organizational structures of major political parties. In addition, students revise the comparative politics of the US, exploring the US Constitution, the electoral process, political parties, and the role of the executive branch. Through comprehensive revision, students solidify their understanding of these topics, ensuring they are well-prepared for assessments and examinations in the AQA course.</p>
<p>TERM 5</p>	<p>In term 5, the focus shifts to the comparative politics of the United States, with an emphasis on the US Constitution and the electoral process. Students will explore the foundations of the US political system, including the principles and structures outlined in the Constitution. They will examine the separation of powers among the three branches of government—executive, legislative, and judicial—and the system of checks and balances that ensures accountability. Furthermore, students will delve into the electoral process in the US, which includes studying the presidential system, the role of political parties, and the mechanics of elections, including primaries, caucuses, and the Electoral College. Understanding the comparative politics of the US provides students with a contrast to the UK political system, enabling them to analyze and compare different approaches to governance, political institutions, and electoral systems.</p>	