

The Pingle Academy 2019.20



Government and Politics Curriculum Rationale

Paper 1

In Year 12 there are two teachers and so UK Politics and UK Government are taught concurrently for increased opportunities for links and deepened comprehension. RRE moves onto the USA (paper 2) during yr12 whilst TWA continues with paper 1.

Unit / Module	Rationale	Unit / Module	Rationale
1 <i>UK Politics Paper 1</i> Democracy & participation	In Year 12 we begin with UK Politics as this builds the foundation of the whole course and covers key concepts that will be compared with ideologies and the US topics. The unit is useful for assessing student's general and prior knowledge of politics whether they have studied GCSE Citizenship or not. The students are introduced to vital concepts of democracy and participation. In these units students develop source analysis and essay writing skills.	1 <i>UK Government Paper 1</i> Constitution	The students begin to learn about the Constitution first as this is the foundation of UK Government and all following Government topics link back to the support and constraints of the constitution. This topic is also essential comparison with the Year 13 USA Constitution topic. The students are taught the concepts of authority, power and sovereignty. In UK Government students are taught to make synoptic links to UK Politics.
2 <i>UK Politics Paper 1</i> Electoral systems	In the previous unit the students learnt about voter turnout and participation, so this unit builds on this knowledge by looking at the mechanisms of how elections work. This is a challenging unit as we students need some mathematical understanding to examine representation and effectiveness as we use terms such as majority. The unit links to UK Govt relations between branches as we look at electoral systems in other nations of the UK. This unit links to Year 13 Democracy and Participation.	2 <i>UK Government Paper 1</i> Parliament	This unit links to the previous unit as students would have learnt that the Parliament is sovereign in the UK. Students will examine how parliament functions, makes laws and scrutinises. This topic connects with UK Politics units of democracy and participation and electoral systems. In UK Government students are taught to make synoptic links to UK Politics. This unit links directly to the Year 13 on Congress. This unit may be taught as introductory unit in place of democracy and participation in future years.

<p>3 UK <i>Politics</i> <i>Paper 1</i> Political parties</p>	<p>In the previous units the students learnt about how representatives are elected and why there may be a lack of participation in the UK democracy. In this unit the students learn about the role of political parties and the major and minor parties in the UK. It is important that this unit is taught separately from the ideologies units as some weaker students can confuse the ideas of parties with the ideologies of politics, for example conservatism. This unit links to Year 13 Democracy and Participation.</p>	<p>3 UK <i>Government Paper 1</i> Prime Minister & cabinet</p>	<p>In the previous units, students learnt about the foundation of the UK political system and how parliament is sovereign. In this unit they will see how the Prime Minister is an executive in parliament. This unit will link to electoral systems and political parties as they will see how manifestos and electoral results can affect mandates. In UK Government students are taught to make synoptic links to UK Politics. This unit compares to the Year 13 unit on the President.</p>
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<p>4 UK Politics Paper 1 Voting behaviour</p>	<p>The final unit on UK Politics links back to all the previous units as students examine how voters act in general elections. They will examine how voters are less driven by long term issues and more influenced in the short term in recent years. There are connections with Sociology as we examine how factors such as age, race, religion and class affect voting. This unit links to Year 13 Democracy and Participation.</p>	<p>4 UK Government Paper 1 EU Devolution The Judiciary</p>	<p>In these final units on UK Government the students will connect the branches of the UK and how they work together. They will examine the PM, judiciary and devolved bodies. This unit is challenging as students will study how the EU operates which can be complex such as the European Court of Justice. The complexities of the process of leaving the EU is not on the specification. In UK Government students are taught to make synoptic links to UK Politics. This unit compares to the Year 13 unit on the Constitution as the students will be able to compare the devolution in the UK to the federalism in the USA.</p>
<p>Unit / Module</p>	<p>Rationale The ideologies units are conceptually the most complex of all the units studied in Year 13 and so the units are left until the end of year 13 when students have developed their skills of analysis and their knowledge in politics. Students are taught to make detailed comparisons. For each unit there are 5/6 key thinkers which they need to learn and apply to their analysis. The students can make comparative points learnt from this unit in Paper 2 UK Government essays and Paper 3 USA.</p>		
<p>Paper 3 Liberalism</p>	<p>Taught first. This unit is conceptually easier to understand than the other ideologies units so it is a useful starting point. The ideas of liberalism will seem familiar to the students as we will have discussed these in the UK constitution and political parties. Some of the key thinkers may have been learnt by students in other subjects such as History and Economics. For the exam, students not need to compare between ideologies but it is a key teaching strategy to embed understanding and to prevent students becoming confused. This unit will link when students study the USA Constitution as key liberal ideas such as ‘limited government’ are fundamental.</p>		
<p>Paper 3 Conservatism</p>	<p>Taught 3rd. This next unit is more challenging as students can struggle to understand the differences between the strands of conservatism. Students also find it challenging as some weaker students try to compare the Conservative party with conservatism and struggle. For the exam, students not need to compare between ideologies but it is a key teaching strategy to embed understanding and to prevent students becoming confused. Key concepts that we study are pragmatism, organic society and tradition.</p>		
<p>Paper 3 Socialism</p>	<p>Taught 2nd. The final UK politics ideologies unit is the most complex of the three core ideologies. Socialism has the most strands and has challenging concepts of collectivisation and equality. Students find analysing the Third Way challenging. Some students may be able to draw links between the international relations and their studies in History. For the exam, students not need to compare between ideologies but it is a key teaching strategy to embed understanding and to prevent students becoming confused.</p>		
<p>Paper 3 Feminism</p>	<p>Taught 4th. This unit is similar to the other ideologies units in skills but different in terms of knowledge. In this unit students will look at the ideas of feminism and how it is not a cohesive ideology. The unit links to the topic of parliament as well as that of democracy and participation (suffrage etc.) from the UK course as well as links to socialism and liberalism in terms of some key thinkers.</p>		

Paper 2

The politics of the USA with comparative elements (from the UK – paper 1 content). Within the specification there is a unit called ‘comparative theories’ where students are taught to compare between the USA and UK applying three key theories to deepen their analysis. The three comparative theories are taught throughout the course and discreet lessons on them all at the end of the USA content.

Unit / Module	Rationale
<i>Paper 2</i> USA Constitution	Students begin studying the USA constitution as this document outlines the foundation of the three branches of government which students then study in further detail throughout the year. Key concepts of limited government and separation of powers are introduced which are necessary for their understanding of the course. The comparative theories section will encourage links between Paper 1 liberalism, Paper 2 UK Constitution and Relations between branches.
<i>Paper 2</i> USA Democracy & participation	The next unit covers a large amount of material including elections, pressure groups and political parties. In the previous unit, students will have learnt about how the Founding Fathers intended the USA to be governed and this unit looks at how democracy functions in practise. This unit will fall in the Autumn term which is useful as USA elections are scheduled in November. Students will be encouraged to analyse across the USA course as the essay questions are synoptic in nature. The comparative theories section will encourage links between all of the Paper 1 UK Politics units, including democracy and participation, electoral systems, political parties and voting behaviour.
<i>Paper 2</i> US Congress	This unit will return to the USA Constitution and then consider how the USA Congress may be seen by some as the ‘weakest branch.’ Students will have learnt about Congressional elections in the previous unit and so will be able to apply their knowledge to Congressional representation. Students will be encouraged to analyse across the USA course as the essay questions are synoptic in nature. The comparative theories section will encourage links between Paper 2 UK Parliament.
<i>Paper 2</i> US Presidency	This unit will again return to the USA Constitution and then consider how the Presidency has evolved to become the powerful branch that it is today. Students will have studied Presidential elections in the Democracy unit and will be able to apply this knowledge. Students will also be able to connect how Congress interacts with the Presidency and scrutiny it can use including impeachment. Students will be encouraged to analyse across the USA course as the essay questions are synoptic in nature. The comparative theories section will encourage links between Paper 2 UK Prime Minister.
<i>Paper 2</i> US Supreme Court & Civil Rights	In the final unit of the course we return to the USA constitution and the final of the three branches of government. The Supreme Court has a complex relationship with the other branches and so it seems right to conclude with this unit. The students will examine civil rights which is a challenging issue which requires knowledge of democracy and participation. Students will be encouraged to analyse across the USA course as the essay questions are synoptic in nature. The comparative theories section will encourage links between Paper 1 Democracy, Paper 2 Relations between branches and UK Constitution.

Key Dates	AS		A2	
	RRE	TWA	RRE	TWA

1		Intro to politics and assessment	Intro to politics and assessment	Research projects and sources of power	DEVOLUTION
2		UK CONSTITUTION – why?/ types	UK DEMOCRACY	Formal vs informal powers	Devolved institutions
3		Key terms and definitions	Direct and representative democracy	Constraints on power	Devolution in England
4		Documents	Direct and representative democracy	Cabinet, EXOP and fed bureaucracy	Impact of devolution
5		Sources	suffrage	Imperial vs imperilled presidency & one focused example	Impact of devolution
6		Changes/reform	participation	US SUPREME COURT	Impact of devolution
7		Human rights	PRESSURE GROUPS Insider and outsider	Make up, leaning, orientation	THE EU
	Half term				
8		UK ELECTIONS – history and stats	typologies ty	US CIVIL RIGHTS	How it formed
9	Yr13 mocks	Key terms / development of suffrage	methods	Civil rights- case studies	institutions
10	Yr13 mocks	Nature / types of democracy	Success/failure	Civil rights and supreme court	Aims and achievements
11		Electoral systems	Other influences	US CONGRESS	Impact on UK
12		1992(?), 1997 and 2017 (must pick 3)	pluralism	Make up	INTRO TO POLITICAL THEORY
13		UK REFERENDA – nature & use	Democracy and participation-evaluate Evaluate UK democracy	Committees and leaning	LIBERALISM
14		Nature & use of referenda	PARLIAMENT	Relationships with other bodies	
	Christmas and New Year Break				
15	Yr12 mocks	UK POLITICAL PARTIES – key terms	Legislative process	SC, CR and Congress recap and assessment	LIBERALISM
16	Yr12 mocks	Origins, ideas and development of C, L & LD	The Lords	US PRESSURE GROUPS	
17		Party structures of C, L & LD + Electoral outcomes	Committees	PG – examples	SOCIALISM
18		Party funding & media	Parliament and other branches	PG – PACS and role of \$\$\$	
19		Minor parties – impact & agenda	PM AND EXECUTIVE	PG and other institutions	SOCIALISM
20		Party systems – multi??	The PM and Cabinet	PG and PP	
	Half Term				
21		INTRO TO USA POLITICS	Cabinet committees	UK/USA GOVERNMENT	ONSERVATISM

		US CONSTITUTION – key terms			
22		Nature & significance & importance	Cabinet	Comparative theories x 3 – UK & USA	
23		Relations	Collective ministerial responsibility	Comparative theories x 3 – UK & USA	CONSERVATISM
24		amendments	Individual ministerial responsibility	Comparative theories x 3 – UK & USA	
25		federalism	Individual ministerial responsibility	Comparative theories x 3 – UK & USA	FEMINISM
	Easter Break				
26		US POLITICAL PARTIES – key terms	Policy making	REVISION	
27		Dem & Rep party	committees	REVISION	FEMINISM
28		Decline/Renewal/Factionalised/ weaknesses	committees	REVISION	REVISION
29		Decline/Renewal/Factionalised/ weaknesses	Policy making	REVISION	REVISION
30		2 party system	Policy making	REVISION	REVISION
31		3 rd parties	Evaluative focus + Supreme CourtPower of the SC	REVISION	REVISION
32		US ELECTIONS / REFERENDA – key terms	UK JUDICIARY	REVISION	REVISION
	Half term				
33		Pres & congressional elections	UK JUDICIARY		
34		ECS	Power of the judiciary		
35		Primaries, caucuses and NPCs	Power of the judiciary		
36		Factors determining outcome/success	Power of the judiciary		
37		Finance & VB	Supreme Court		
38		VB, split ticket voting and turnout	Composition and appointment		
39		US PRESIDENCY – key terms and research projects	Evaluative focus		