



Overview	<p>The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally ■ develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes ■ develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics ■ develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups ■ develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements ■ develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politic
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Autumn Term	<p>Conservatism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy ■ Key thinkers (Edmund Burke, Thomas Hobbes, Ayn Rand, Michael Oakeshott, Robert Nozick) <p>Socialism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy ■ Key Thinkers (Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Beatrice Webb, Rosa Luxemburg, Anthony Crosland, Anthony Giddens) <p>US Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The nature of the US Constitution ■ The principles of the US Constitution ■ Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution ■ Comparisons to the UK - Similarities and differences between each constitution, their nature, sources, provisions, separation of powers, checks and balances <p>Federalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The main characteristics of US federalism ■ Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism ■ Comparisons to the UK – how far the UK model of devolution parallels the US federal system <p>US Democracy and elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presidential elections and their significance ■ Campaign finance ■ Debates surrounding elections in the USA including the electoral college and the role of incumbency 	Assessment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 24 mark exam question on Conservatism and Socialism ■ 30 mark question on the US constitution ■ 12 mark Comparative questions US and UK

Spring Term	<p>US Political Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The distribution of power and changing significance of the parties ■ The current conflicts and tendencies and changing power and influence that exist within the parties ■ Coalition of supporters for each party ■ Debates surrounding party unity, party policy and voting groups ■ Comparisons to the UK – nature of the party system, degree of unity within major parties, policy profiles, debates around campaign finance, methods and extent of influence of pressure groups <p>Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The structure of Congress ■ The functions of Congress ■ Interpretations and debates around Congress ■ Comparisons to the UK – membership of each House in each country, power of each House, relationship between the two houses in each system <p>President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use. ■ Informal sources of presidential power and their use: ■ The presidency. ■ Interpretations and debates of the US presidency. ■ Comparisons to the UK – role and power and limitations of the President and Prime Minister, extent of accountability to legislature <p>US Supreme Court and US Civil Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature and role of the Supreme Court ■ The appointment process for the Supreme Court ■ The Supreme Court and public policy ■ The protection of civil liberties and rights in the US today ■ Race and rights in contemporary US politics ■ Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights ■ Comparisons to the UK – the basis for their power, impact on government and policy, relative independence of each Court, effectiveness of rights protection in each country, impact/effectiveness of interest groups in protecting rights 	Assessment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 30 mark question on the US Government and Politics ■ 12 mark Comparative questions US and UK

Summer Term	<p>US Interest Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy ■ Comparisons to the UK – nature of the party system, degree of unity within major parties, policy profiles, debates around campaign finance, methods and extent of influence of pressure groups <p>Revision Study Leave</p>	Assessment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Practice 30 mark source exam questions (UK paper 1 and 2) ■ Practice 30 mark discussion exam questions (UK paper 1 and 2) ■ Practice 24 mark ideology questions (Paper 1 and 2) ■ Practise 12 mark comparative questions (Paper 3)

Useful Resources for Supporting Your Child at Home:	Homework:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Politics Review ■ Newspapers (Telegraph, Guardian, Independent, The Times) ■ New programs; Politics Live, Politics UK, Politics USA 	<p>You will have a variety of homework tasks such as flip learning tasks, research tasks, planning answers for exam questions. Independent study is essential to politics and keeping up-to-date with current affairs is expected.</p>