



# St Joseph's College Subject Curriculum Map: POLITICS

## Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum intent for teaching A Level Edexcel Government and Politics is to develop students' comprehensive understanding of political systems and processes, fostering critical thinking, active citizenship, and democratic values. Through in-depth study of political structures, ideologies, comparative politics, and global politics, students will gain the knowledge and skills necessary for critical analysis, research, effective communication, and active participation in the democratic process. We emphasize contemporary relevance, encouraging students to apply their knowledge to real-world examples and engage with ethical considerations. Our aim is to cultivate informed, engaged, and responsible citizens who can navigate and contribute to the complexities of political systems.

Year Group	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term		
	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3	Half Term 4	Half Term 5	Half Term 6	
Key Stage 5	12	<p><b>UK Politics &amp; Core Political Ideologies: Democracy in context in the UK</b> Students will explore the features, similarities, and differences between direct democracy and representative democracy. They will analyse the advantages and disadvantages of both systems, while also assessing the health of democracy in the UK. Additionally, students will engage in the debate surrounding potential reforms and improvements to democracy in the UK. These lessons aim to develop a critical understanding of democratic structures and foster active citizenship. This unit will also look at the core ideas and principles of liberalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society, or the economy.</p>	<p><b>UK Politics &amp; Core Political Ideologies</b> Students will explore the functions and features of political parties in the UK's representative democracy. They will examine the significance of manifestos and mandates for successful parties, as well as the concepts of right-wing and left-wing in UK politics. Additionally, students will analyse the current party funding system, including debates about its consequences and implications. They will also consider alternative funding systems and potential financial restrictions, fostering a comprehensive understanding of political party dynamics. This unit will also look at core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society, or the economy.</p>	<p><b>UK Politics &amp; Core Political Ideologies</b> Students will explore the principles, established parties, emerging parties, and the context of UK political parties. They will examine the functions, features, and funding of political parties in representative democracy, as well as the significance of manifestos and mandates. Students will analyse the right-wing and left-wing dynamics in UK politics and consider alternative funding systems. They will also study the origins, development, and current policies of major parties like the Conservatives, Labour, and the Liberal Democrats. Additionally, students will explore the growth of minor parties, their policies, and their influence on major parties. The lessons will also cover party classifications, factors affecting party success, and the UK party system within Westminster</p>	<p><b>UK Politics &amp; Non-Core Political Ideologies</b> Students will explore different electoral systems, including First-past-the-post (FPTP), Additional Member System (AMS), Single Transferable Vote (STV), and Supplementary Vote (SV). They will analyse the advantages and disadvantages of each system and compare FPTP to a different electoral system used in a devolved parliament/assembly. These lessons aim to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of electoral systems and their impact on representation and democratic outcomes. This unit will also look at core ideas and principles of nationalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society or the economy.</p>	<p><b>UK Politics &amp; Non-Core Political Ideologies</b> Students will explore referendums and their use in the UK. They will examine the history of referendums in the UK since 1997 and their impact on political life. Students will analyse the arguments for and against referendums in a representative democracy. Additionally, they will delve into electoral system analysis, including debates on why different electoral systems are used in the UK. The lessons will cover the impact of electoral systems on government and party representation, as well as the influence of electoral systems on voter choice. Students will also study case studies of three key general elections, examining their results and the impact on parties and government. They will analyse factors such as party policies, election campaigns, and the wider political context that</p>	<p><b>UK Politics, UK Government &amp; Non-Core Political Ideologies</b> Students will explore the influence of the media on politics, both during and between general elections. They will assess the role and impact of the media, including the significance of opinion polls, media bias, and persuasion. Additionally, students will be introduced to the UK Government topic, studying the nature and sources of the UK constitution. They will examine key historical documents such as Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights, and Acts of Union. Furthermore, students will explore the unentrenched, uncodified, and unitary nature of the UK constitution, focusing on parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law. They will also analyse the five main sources of the UK constitution, including statute law, common law, conventions, authoritative works, and treaties,</p>

				<p><i>and beyond. This unit will also look at core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society, or the economy</i></p>		<p><i>explain the outcomes of these elections. Furthermore, students will explore voting patterns based on factors such as class, partisanship, gender, age, ethnicity, and region, and how these factors influence voting behaviour, turnout, and trends.</i></p>	<p><i>including European Union law.</i></p>
13	<p><b>The US Constitution and Federalism</b>  <i>By studying the Constitution, students will develop a deep appreciation for its significance as the supreme law of the United States. They will explore the framework of the federal government, including the roles and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Through a focus on the Bill of Rights, students will gain an understanding of the protection of individual rights and freedoms. Additionally, our curriculum emphasizes the importance of federalism, highlighting the division of powers between the national government and the states. By examining landmark Supreme Court cases, students will analyse how the Constitution's interpretation shapes the relationship between the federal government and the states. Through this curriculum, students will develop critical thinking skills and a strong foundation in the principles</i></p>	<p><b>US Congress and US Presidency</b>  <i>By studying the US Congress, students will explore the structure, functions, and powers of this legislative body. They will examine the importance of checks and balances, the lawmaking process, and the role of representatives and senators in shaping policy. In addition, our curriculum will delve into the political and economic systems in the United States, examining key concepts such as democracy, capitalism, and the role of government in regulating the economy. Students will analyse the interplay between politics and economics and gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between government policies and societal outcomes. Lastly, students will examine the role of the US presidency, exploring the powers and responsibilities of the functioning of the US government and its impact on society.</i></p>	<p><b>US Supreme Court and US Civil Rights Power &amp; Developments</b>  <i>Through the study of the US Supreme Court, students will explore the role and significance of this judicial body in interpreting the Constitution and shaping legal precedents. They will examine landmark cases that have influenced civil rights, equality, and justice in the United States. Our curriculum will also delve into the history and impact of the civil rights movement, highlighting key events and figures that have fought for equality and social justice. Additionally, students will gain a deeper understanding of the principles of US democracy and the importance of citizen participation in shaping government decisions. They will analyse the rights and responsibilities of citizens, the electoral process, and the significance of civic engagement. By studying these topics, students will develop critical thinking</i></p>	Revision	Exams	Exams	

		<i>that govern the American political system.</i>		<i>skills, a sense of social responsibility, and an appreciation for the ideals of justice, equality, and democratic participation in the United States.</i>			
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