

Politics – Year 12	
Autumn 1 (September-October)	<p>Democracy and Participation (UK Politics) Students will look at the nature of democracy and its different types – representative and direct. They will look at the history of the suffrage movement in Britain and factors in Britain that may affect voter turnout.</p> <p>The Structure and Role of Parliament (UK Government) Students will learn how Parliament is structured and key roles that MPs play both in the Government and Opposition. They will analyse and evaluate how effective Parliament is in its scrutiny of the Government through PMQs, Debates and Committees. They will also learn how legislation is passed.</p>
Autumn 2 (October-December)	<p>Elections and Referendums (UK Politics) Students will look at the key issues and debates in various electoral systems and debate the issue of electoral reform. They will evaluate FPTP, Proportional Representation, AMS, STC and AV systems of voting. They will also look at trends in election results in recent years and factors that influence voting behaviour. This includes the role of the media, leaders and manifestos.</p> <p>The Prime Minister and Cabinet (UK Government) Students will evaluate how the role of the Prime Minister has changed in recent times and how policy is made and dictated. They will study case studies of Prime Ministers using their prerogative (Poll Tax, Decision to invade Iraq). Students will look at the difference between individual and collective responsibility and also the relationship that a Prime Minister has with their cabinet.</p>
Spring 1 (January-February)	<p>UK Political Parties (UK Politics) Students will look at the origins, development and policies of the main UK parties – Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats. They will then look at how parties are funded, and the role played by minor parties in Parliament.</p> <p>The Nature and Sources of the British Constitution (UK Government) Students will analyse the nature of the British Constitution and look at the sources that make up our uncodified Constitution. This will involve looking at both common and statute law. Students will evaluate how well citizen's rights are protected by the Constitution and look at its history and milestones in its development (e.g., the Magna Carta, Bill of Rights and Act of Settlement), and any changes to the Constitution since 1997.</p>

<p>Spring 2 (February-March)</p>	<p>UK Pressure Groups and The European Union (UK Politics) Students will look at the main functions of pressure groups and evaluate whether they help or hinder democracy. They will look at the different methods used by Pressure Groups to campaign and how they link up with political parties, government and the media. In the European Union module, students will look at the aims of the EU and evaluate to what extent they have been achieved. They will look at the key institutions of the EU and the impact the EU has had on UK Politics and policy making.</p> <p>The Judiciary (UK Government) Students will look at how senior judges are appointed in the UK and look at the Supreme Court – how it was created, what it does and evaluate its impact. They will look at the main principles and doctrines that underpin the work of the judiciary and discuss how much influence Judges have over government and policy and whether they are too powerful.</p>
<p>Summer 1 (April-May)</p>	<p>US Pressure Groups (USA Government and Politics) Students will evaluate methods and tactics used by Pressure Groups in the US and the influence they have in US Elections. They will look at the role of Political Action Committees (PACs) and Super PACs and their significance in electoral finance. They will then compare US Pressure Groups to those in the UK.</p> <p>Devolution (UK Government) Students will look at the introduction and expansion of devolved governments for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They will look at the history of devolution in these nations and key features of each devolved legislature.</p>
<p>Summer 2 (Transition to Y13)</p>	<p>The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy (USA Government and Politics) We will look at the format of US elections and the characteristics of election campaigns. Students will look at how candidates are selected and nominated, and evaluate how well the electoral college system works. They will look at the factors that affect the outcome of US Elections and campaign finance. Finally they will look at how direct democracy works on a state level. All through this topic there are comparisons to be made to the UK electoral process.</p> <p>The Constitutional Framework of the US Government (USA Government and Politics) Students will look at the US Constitution and evaluate whether it is suited to 21st century America. Students will look at the federal system of government and the powers that the US President has to make policy. Students will compare what they learn about the US to what they have previously learned on these topics for the UK e.g. comparing federalism to devolution.</p>