

Politics Curriculum Overview

Curriculum intent

The specification covers three topics – Government and politics in the UK, Government and politics in the USA with comparisons to the UK and Political Ideologies.

We also aim to increase the students' awareness of political events past and present so that they are able to critically assess what they read and see in the news as well as confidently debate different topics.

Curriculum Implementation

Two years ago, we changed the order of the topics in our week to week plan so that UK topics are covered prior to USA topics. The USA paper is where students are required to do comparisons between the UK and USA so teaching the UK first, then USA allows for that comparison to take place more seamlessly so this change has been effective.

A requirement of the course is that students reference current events in every topic area. Therefore, we have a weekly news review, presented by students, which gives a chance for debate and discussion as well as providing current examples for exam answers. It enhances knowledge of political processes and vocabulary.

In addition, essays in all topics have to have synoptic links so as students progress to year 13, the content covered in year 12 is referred back to as the specification has many overlaps. For example, the topic 'elections' in the UK and USA overlaps easily with constitution, democracy, parties, legislatures, executives, civil rights. Also, when teaching unit three 'Political ideologies', there are links made to the concepts listed above.

Curriculum impact

Students studying A Level Politics are equipped to move on to politics degrees, law degrees as well as a wide range of other subjects, including history and economics. In our most recent cohort, seven out of eleven students have gone onto study politics, economics, history or law. Students leave politically literate, aware of 'British Values' and equipped to be adult citizens.