

Shoreham Academy Politics A level Curriculum plan

<p>Topic 1: UK politics (Year 1 Autumn 1+2) The political landscape and how democracy functions in the UK. i. Democracy and Participation ii. Political Parties of the UK and their functions iii. Electoral systems iv. Voting behaviour and the media</p>	<p>Topic 2: Core political ideas (Year 1 Summer 1) The Core ideas, figures and development of the three main political ideas in the western world. i. Liberalism ii. Conservatism iii. Socialism</p>	<p>Topic 3: UK Government (Year 1 Spring 1+2) The Institutions, functions and procedures of the UK's government. i. The constitution ii. Parliament iii. Prime Minister and executive iv. Relations between the branches.</p>	<p>Topic 4: Non-Core political idea (Year 1 Summer 1/2) Also a last, non-core political idea from the following list (one); i. Anarchism ii. Ecologism iii. Feminism iv. Multiculturalism v. <u>Nationalism (chosen idea).</u></p>	<p>Topic 5: US government and politics (comparative) (Year 2). The Government and Politics of the USA, with a focus on comparing it to the UK; i. The US Constitution and federalism ii. US Congress iii. US presidency iv. US Supreme Court and US civil rights v. US democracy and participation vi. Comparative theories.</p>
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<p><u>Learning:</u></p> <p>Throughout the course students learn the government and politics of the western world, primarily the United Kingdom and the United States. They will be able to describe the processes and debate issues that arise in western democracies, before coming substantiated conclusions of their own. To do this they will need to learn;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The underlying principles of politics; e.g; democracy, representation, accountability, etc. • The institutions and functions of government, including law-making, governance, and election. • The ideals underpinning western thought, including their points of agreement and disagreement- Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, and a secondary idea- in our case Nationalism. • How two of the major democracies (UK/USA) compare in terms of the way they are governed and how their politics functions. <p>As part of the course, students will also need a healthy awareness of current events. Over the two years students will be able to apply the knowledge of the course to current affairs, and in turn use those examples as part of the course.</p>	<p><u>Skills</u></p> <p>The key skills for this exam board are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ao1: Knowledge and understanding; the ability to demonstrate a deep and thorough understanding of the content, and explain aspects of the course such as; the functions of institutions; the ways democracy manifest in the UK and present political issues. This underpins the ability to make analysis and judgements (Ao2, Ao3) • Ao2: Analysis; the ability to weigh up different arguments, compare similarities and differences between aspects of institutions/ ideas, and link together different political ideas. • Ao3: Evaluation; Using the previous AOs to reach substantiated conclusions and create judgements using the preceding evidence and debate. <p>These are all evenly weighted skills, and are present throughout each of the three papers.</p>
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