

**Politics at Samuel Whitbread Academy**  
**Curriculum Sequencing**

**Year 12:**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Big Ideas</b>	<b>Subject Learning Checklist</b>
<b>UK Politics</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Term 1</b>	<p><b>1. Democracy and Participation</b></p> <p><b>2. Political parties</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The features of direct democracy and representative democracy. • The similarities and differences between direct democracy and representative democracy. Advantages and disadvantages of direct democracy and representative democracy and consideration of the case for reform.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Key milestones in the widening of the franchise in relation to class, gender, ethnicity and age, including the 1832 Great Reform Act and the 1918, 1928 and 1969 Representation of the People Acts. • The work of the suffragists/suffragettes to extend the franchise. The work of a current movement to extend the franchise.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How different pressure groups exert influence and how their methods and influence vary in contemporary politics. • Case studies of two different pressure groups, highlighting examples of how their methods and influence vary. • Other collective organisations and groups including think tanks, lobbyists and corporations, and their influence on government and Parliament."</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Major milestones in their development, including the significance of Magna Carta and more recent developments, including the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Debates on the extent, limits and tensions within the UK's rights-based culture, including consideration of how individual and collective right may conflict, the contributions from civil liberties pressure groups – including the work of two contemporary civil liberties pressure groups</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The functions and features of political parties in the UK's representative democracy.</i></li> <li>• <i>How parties are currently funded and debates on the consequences of the current funding system."</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The origins and historical development of the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and Liberal Democrat Party, and how this has shaped their ideas and current policies on the economy, law and order, welfare and foreign affairs.</i></li> </ul>

		<b>Term 2</b>	<p><b>3. Political Parties</b></p> <p><b>4. Electoral systems</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of other parties in the UK. • The ideas and policies of two other minor parties.</li> <li>"• The development of a multi-party system and its implications for government. • Various factors that affect party success – explanations of why political parties have succeeded or failed, including debates on the influence of the media."</li> <li>• First-past-the-post (FPTP), Additional Member System (AMS), Single Transferable Vote (STV), and Supplementary Vote (SV). • The advantages and disadvantages of these different systems. • Comparison of first-past-the-post (FPTP) to a different electoral system in a devolved parliament/assembly."</li> <li>• How referendums have been used in the UK and their impact on UK political life since 1997.</li> <li>• The case for and against referendums in a representative democracy"</li> <li>• Debates on why different electoral systems are used in the UK.</li> <li>• The impact of the electoral system on the government or type of government appointed. • The impact of different systems on party representation and of electoral systems on voter choice.</li> </ul>
		<b>Term 3</b>	<b>5. Voting behaviour and the media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The factors that explain the outcomes of these elections, including: o the reasons for and impact of party policies and manifestos, techniques used in their election campaigns, and the wider political context of the elections o class-based voting and other factors influencing voting patterns, such as partisanship and voting attachment o gender, age, ethnicity and region as factors in influencing voting behaviour, turnout and trends. • Analysis of the national voting-behaviour patterns for these elections, revealed by national data sources and how and why they vary</li> <li>The factors that explain the outcomes of these elections, including: o the reasons for and impact of party policies and manifestos, techniques used in their election campaigns, and the wider political context of the elections o class-based voting and other factors influencing voting patterns, such as partisanship and voting attachment o gender, age, ethnicity and region as factors in influencing voting behaviour, turnout and trends. • Analysis of the national voting-behaviour patterns for these elections, revealed by national data sources and how and why they vary</li> <li>The factors that explain the outcomes of these elections, including: o the reasons for and impact of party policies and manifestos, techniques used in their election campaigns, and the wider political context of the elections o class-based voting and other factors influencing voting patterns, such as partisanship and voting attachment o gender, age, ethnicity and region as factors in influencing voting behaviour, turnout and trends. • Analysis of the national voting-behaviour patterns for these elections,</li> </ul>

				<p>revealed by national data sources and how and why they vary</p> <p><i>"The influence of the media. • The Assessment of the role and impact of the media on politics – both during and between key general elections, including the importance and relevance of opinion polls, media bias and persuasion."</i></p>
--	--	--	--	--

Course	Year	Term	Big Ideas	Subject Learning Checklist
<b>UK Government</b>  <b>Political Ideas</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Term 1</b> <b>28</b>	<b>1. The Constitution</b>                        <b>2. Parliament</b>	<p><i>The nature and sources of the UK Constitution, including: • an overview of the development of the Constitution through key historical documents: o Magna Carta (1215); Bill of Rights (1689); Act of Settlement (1701); Acts of Union (1707); Parliament Acts (1911 and 1949); European Communities Act (1972) • the nature of the UK Constitution: unentrenched, uncodified and unitary, and the 'twin pillars' of parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law • the five main sources of the UK Constitution: statute law; common law; conventions; authoritative works, and treaties (including European Union law).</i></p> <p><i>How the constitution has changed since 1997. • Under Labour 1997–2010: House of Lords reforms, electoral reform; devolution; Human Rights Act 1998; and the Supreme Court. • Under the Coalition 2010–15: Fixed Term Parliaments, Act 2011; further devolution to Wales. • Any major reforms undertaken by governments since 2015, including further devolution to Scotland"</i></p> <p><i>The role and powers of devolved bodies in the UK, and the impact of this devolution on the UK.</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Devolution in England. • Scottish Parliament and Government. • Welsh Assembly and Government.</i></li> <li><i>• Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive."</i></li> </ul> </p> <p><i>Debates on further reform. • An overview of the extent to which the individual reforms since 1997 listed in section 1.2 above should be taken further. • The extent to which devolution should be extended in England. • Whether the UK constitution should be changed to be entrenched and codified, including a bill of rights.</i></p> <p><i>.The selection of members of the House of Commons and House of Lords, including the different types of Peers. • The main functions of the House of Commons and House of Lords and the extent to which these functions are fulfilled.</i></p> <p><i>The exclusive powers of the House of Commons. • The main powers of the House of Lords. Debates about the relative power of the two Houses"</i></p>

				<p><i>The different stages a bill must go through to become law. • The interaction between the Commons and the Lords during the legislative process, including the Salisbury Convention.</i></p> <p><i>The role and significance of backbenchers in both Houses, including the importance of parliamentary privilege. • The work of select committees. • The role and significance of the opposition. • The purpose and nature of ministerial question time, including Prime Minister’s Questions.</i></p>
		<b>Term 2 24</b>	<p><b>3. Prime Minister and Executive</b></p> <p><b>4. Relations between institutions</b></p>	<p><i>. • Its structure, including Prime Minister, the Cabinet, junior ministers and government departments. • Its main roles, including proposing legislation, proposing a budget, and making policy decisions within laws and budget. • The main powers of the Executive, including Royal Prerogative powers, initiation of legislation and secondary legislative power.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The concept of individual ministerial responsibility.</i></li> <li><i>• The concept of collective ministerial responsibility"</i></li> </ul> <p><i>• The factors governing the Prime Minister’s selection of ministers. • The factors that affect the relationship between the Cabinet and the Prime Minister, and the ways they have changed, and the balance of power between the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.</i></p> <p><i>Students must study the influence of one Prime Minister from 1945 to 1997 and one post-1997 Prime Minister. • Students may choose any pre-1997 and any post-1997 Prime Minister, provided that they study them in an equivalent level of detail, covering both events and policy, with examples that illustrate both control and a lack of control.</i></p> <p><i>. • The role and composition of the Supreme Court. • The key operating principles of the Supreme Court, including judicial neutrality and judicial independence and their extent. • The degree to which the Supreme Court influences both the Executive and Parliament, including the doctrine of ultra vires and judicial review</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The influence and effectiveness of Parliament in holding the Executive to account. • The influence and effectiveness of the Executive in attempting to exercise dominance over Parliament. • The extent to which the balance of power between Parliament and the Executive has changed.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>• The aims of the EU, including the ‘four freedoms’ of the union, and the extent to which these have been achieved. • The role of the EU in policy making. • The impact of the EU, including the main effects of at least two EU policies and their impact on the UK political system and UK policy making.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The distinction between legal sovereignty and political sovereignty. • The extent to which sovereignty has moved between different branches of government. • Where sovereignty can now be said to lie in the UK.</i></li> </ul>

		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Term 3 24</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5. Political Ideas</b></p>	<p><b>Conservatism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pragmatism - tradition - human imperfection - organic society or state - paternalism - Libertarianism</li> <li>• The differing views and tensions within conservatism: • traditional conservative – • one-nation conservative – • New Right</li> <li>• Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) - Edmund Burke (1729-1797) -Michael Oakshott (1901-1990) - Ayn Rand (1905-1982) - Robert Nozick (1938-2002)</li> </ul> <p><b>Liberalism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individualism - Freedom or liberty - The state: a 'necessary evil' - Rationalism - Equality and social justice - Liberal democracy</li> <li>• Different views of freedom - different views of the state - The Beveridge Report -Is modern liberalism a contradiction or a continuation of classic liberalism?</li> <li>• John Locke (1632-1704) - Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-97) - John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) - John Rawls (1921-2002) - Betty Friedan (1921-2006)</li> </ul> <p><b>Socialism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collectivism - Common humanity - Equality - Social class - Workers' control -</li> <li>• Revolutionary socialism - Social democracy - Third way</li> <li>• Karl Marx (1818-83) and Friedrich Engels (1820-95)-Beatrice Webb (1858-1943) - Rosa Luxemburg (1871-1919) - Anthony Crosland (1918-1977) - Anthony Giddens (1938-)</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecologism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecology - Holism - Environmental ethics - Post-materialism and anti-consumerism - sustainability</li> <li>• Deep green - Shallow green - Social ecology</li> <li>• Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) - Rachel Carson (1907-1964) - EF Schumacher (1911-1977) - Murray Bookchin (1921-2006) - Carolyn Merchant (1936-)</li> </ul>
--	--	---	--	---

--	--	--	--	--

**Year 13:**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Big Ideas</b>	<b>Subject Learning Checklist</b>
<b>Government and Politics of the USA</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Term 1 35</b>	<p><b>1. US Constitution and Federalism</b></p> <p><b>2. Supreme Court and Civil Rights</b></p>	<p><i>The nature of the US Constitution. • Vagueness of the document, codification and entrenchment. • The constitutional framework (powers) of the US branches of government. • The amendment process, including advantages and disadvantages of the formal process</i></p> <p><i>"The key features of the US Constitution (as listed below) and an evaluation of their effectiveness today.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Federalism. • Separation of powers and checks and balances. • Bipartisanship. • Limited government."</i></li> </ul> <p><i>"The main characteristics of US federalism. • The nature of the federal system of government and its relationship with the states."</i></p> <p><i>Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism. • The extent of democracy within the US Constitution, its strengths and weaknesses and its impact on the US government today. • The debates around the extent to which the USA remains federal today.</i></p> <p><i>The nature and role of the Supreme Court. • The US Constitution. • The independent nature of the Supreme Court. • The judicial review process (Marbury vs Madison 1803 and Fletcher vs Peck 1810).</i></p>

**3. Democracy and Participation**

*"The appointment process for the Supreme Court. • Strengths and weaknesses of the process. • Factors influencing the president's choice of nominee. • The current composition and ideological balance of the Court. "*

*"The Supreme Court and public policy. • The impact of the Supreme Court on public policy in the US, with a range of examples, including examples post-2005. • Political significance debate: the role of judicial activism and judicial restraint and criticisms of each "*

*The protection of civil liberties and rights in the US today. • Rights protected by the Constitution, by the Bill of Rights, by subsequent constitutional amendments and by rulings of the Supreme Court.*

*"Race and rights in contemporary US politics. • The methods, influence and effectiveness of racial rights campaigns and the impact on current domestic policy: on voting rights, affirmative action and representation."*

*Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights. • The political versus judicial nature of the Supreme Court. • Living Constitution ideology as against originalism. • How effectively civil and constitutional rights have been upheld by the Supreme Court and the effectiveness of this protection. • The extent of their powers and the effectiveness of checks and balances. • The successes and failures of measures to promote equality, including affirmative action and immigration reform.*

*Presidential elections and their significance. • The main processes to elect a US president, including the and caucuses, the role of National Party Conventions and the electoral college, and the resulting party system. • The importance of incumbency on a president seeking a second term*

*Campaign finance. • The role of campaign finance and the current legislation on campaign finance, including McCain-Feingold reforms 2002 and Citizens United vs FEC 2010.*

*The distribution of power and changing significance of the parties: Democrats • progressive attitude on social and moral issues, including crime • greater governmental intervention in the national economy • government provision of social welfare.*

*Republicans • conservative attitude on social and moral issues • more restricted governmental intervention in the national economy while protecting American trade and jobs • acceptance of social welfare but a preference for personal responsibility.*

		<b>Term 2 30</b>	<b>Democracy and Participation</b>	<p><i>"The current conflicts and tendencies and the changing power and influence that exist within the parties.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democrats: liberals, moderates and conservatives.</li> <li>• Republicans: moderates, social conservatives and fiscal conservatives."</li> </ul> <p><i>"Coalition of supporters for each party. • Voters: how the following factors are likely to influence voting patterns and why, in relation to one recent presidential election campaign (since 2000) – race, religion, gender and education."</i></p> <p><i>Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy. • The influence, methods and power of at least one single interest group, professional group or policy group</i></p> <p><i>Interpretations and debates of US democracy and participation, including: • advantages and disadvantages of the electoral process and the Electoral College and the debate around reform • the role of campaign finance and difficulty in achieving effective reform • the role of incumbency in elections • the ways in which interest groups can influence the three branches of government and policy creation, including the role of PACs and Super PACs and their impact on democracy.</i></p>
			<b>4. Revision: Politics of the UK</b>	
			<b>5. Revision: Politics of the USA</b>	

Course	Year	Term	Big Ideas	Subject Learning Checklist
<b>Government and Politics of the USA</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Term 1 28</b>	<b>1 US Presidency</b>	<i>"Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use. • The role as the Head of State and as the Head of Government. The significance of these powers with reference to residents since 1992."</i>



## 2 Congress

*Informal sources of presidential power and their use. • The electoral mandate, executive orders, national events and the cabinet. • Powers of persuasion including the nature/characteristics of each president. • Executive Office of the President (EXOP), including the role of the National Security Council (NSC), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the White House Office (WHO). The significance of these powers with reference to presidents since 1992.*

*Relationships between the presidency and the following institutions and why this varies: • Congress and the Supreme Court.*

*Limitations on presidential power and why this varies between presidents: • changing nature of power over their term in office • Congress, the Supreme Court and the Constitution • the election cycle and divided government. The significance of these limitations with reference to presidents since 1992.*

*"3.4 Interpretations and debates of the US presidency. • How effectively they have achieved their aims.*

*• The imperial presidency. • The extent of presidential accountability to Congress. • The role and power of the president in foreign policy. With reference to presidents since 1992"*

*"The structure of Congress. • Bicameral nature, the membership of Congress and the election cycle.*

*2.1.1 The distribution of powers within Congress: • powers given to Congress in the Constitution, the exclusive powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress."*

*Representation. • Congressional elections and the significance of incumbency. • Factors that affect voting behaviour within Congress: o parties and caucuses, constituency, pressure groups and lobbyists.*

*"Legislative. • The legislative process, including the strengths and weaknesses of this process.*

*• The differences between the legislative process in each chamber. • The policy significance of Congress – impact and effectiveness of laws passed."*

*"Oversight. • Factors that influence the relationship between Congress and the presidency.*

*• The checks on the other branches of government and the extent of its institutional effectiveness"*

*"Interpretations and debates around Congress. • Changing roles and powers of Congress and their relative*

				<p><i>importance, and debates about adequacy of its representative role. • Changing significance of parties in Congress. • Significance and effectiveness of the powers outlined in the Constitution."</i></p>
		<p><b>Term 2 24</b></p>	<p><b>2. Comparative approaches</b></p>	<p><i>Rational • This approach focuses on individuals within a political system. • Cultural • This approach focuses on groups within a political system – Structural • This approach focuses on the institutions in a political system and the processes within them.</i></p> <p><i>Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Constitutions and the resulting impact on politics and government: • their nature (codified/uncodified) and their sources, provisions and principles, including separation of powers, checks and balances • the similarities and differences between the US federal system and the UK system of devolution. 6.2.2 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</i></p> <p><i>"Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US legislative branches and their resulting impact on politics and government: • powers, strengths and weaknesses of each of the Houses • the extent to which each of the Houses are equal. 6.2.4 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences."</i></p> <p><i>Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US executive branches and their resulting impact on politics and government: • key similarities and differences between the role and powers of the US President and the UK Prime Minister and their impact on politics and government • extent of accountability to the US and UK legislature. 6.2.6 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</i></p> <p><i>Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Supreme Courts and civil rights and their resulting impact on politics and government: • basis for and relative extent for their powers • relative independence of the Supreme Court in the US and UK • effectiveness of the protection of rights in each country • effectiveness of interest groups in the protection of civil rights in the USA and the UK. 6.2.8 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences</i></p> <p><i>Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation, and their resulting impact on politics and government: • the different</i></p>

				<p><i>nature of the party systems (two-party and multi-party) • degree of internal unity within parties • the policy profiles of the two main parties in each country • debates around campaign finance and party funding • the relative power, methods and influence of pressure groups. 6.2.10 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences</i></p>
		<p><b>Term 3</b> <b>8</b></p>	<p><b>3. Revision UK Politics</b> <b>4. Revision US Politics</b></p>	