

POLITICS



Scan for Specification

Our two-year A-Level covers the government and politics of the UK and the USA. Topics such as political parties, elections and pressure groups are studied. Contrasts between the two political systems are drawn on through the course – for example between Parliament and Congress & the two constitutions. The course also incorporates political ideas including liberalism, socialism and conservatism. This includes the study of the theory's ideas on human nature, the individual and society.

BEFORE YOU START

- Key textbook to purchase – AQA A Level Politics (Second Edition), Simon Lemieux et al, 2025 ISBN: **1036011437**
- Subscribe for free content from the following podcasts:
<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/our-podcasts/inside-briefing>
<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/nick-de-souza> (some free content, but only £1.99 per month for all content)
https://open.spotify.com/show/IREQGH8euZ2NwoTMhi1HM7?si=wWku6Y2YTcCxP_QNBkn8BA&nd=1&dlsi=d6189c4530024c79
<https://open.spotify.com/show/1iBV1JyVTq8RGw3HFz4b3y>

Key words for the Autumn term: You will get to know and understand lots of political terminology for the course. Let's start this process now.

1. Find out and record the definitions to the key terms below.
2. Choose THREE of the terms to find out ore about and how it relates to politics in the UK

Key word glossary words			
Power	Separation of powers	Legitimacy	Government
Politics	Codified constitution	Executive branch	Prime minister
Cabinet	Parliament	House of Commons	House of Lords
Judicial branch	Supreme Court	Rule of law	Devolution
Parliamentary sovereignty	Direct democracy	Representative democracy	Sovereignty

Political parties

Choose one of the political parties with MPs in Parliament. Write up a one page summary of what they stand for and who they represent. Include:

- Their manifesto promises from 2024
- Past leaders and policies
- Their historical origins and past election success/failures

Useful websites:

Tutor 2u:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/collections/uk-politics-study-notes-for-a-level-politics>

Citizens Assembly on UK democracy:

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/sites/constitution_unit/files/glossary_of_terms_updated.pdf

Institute for government:

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/>

UK and Comparative Politics

We will start the course by understanding the UK political system, then compare it to that of the US. To support you in this, and to be sure politics is for you, please complete the two tasks below.

1. UK Politics:
Recent political developments. Choose 3 of the following to research and produce a fact card – including what, when, who, why

2016 Brexit referendum	The 2010-15 Coalition government	1998 Good Friday Agreement
Scottish devolution (1997 onwards)	Human Rights Act (1998)	2024 UK general election

2 US Politics:

Research the political careers of any two American Presidents since 1933, one should be a Republican, one should be a Democrat. Create a summary of their careers before becoming President, when and how they became President, key events during their presidencies, and their successes and failures. Then compare them, and reach a substantiated judgement (with reasons) on who was more significant and why.

Research and list 5 politics-based careers
Choose three from the list and outline the role and expectations in more detail

Review those three to show why you would be interested or suitable for that career

LITERACY TASK

CAREERS TASK

KNOW THIS TASK

RESEARCH THIS TASK