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Curriculum Plan Politics

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Year 13	**Golden Threads:** How do political ideologies impact on democracy and people's perception of political issues? How does the UK democracy compare the to the USA's system of democracy and governance?			**Enrichment:** What is offered through the year to support learning in the classroom?		**Review and evaluation:** Give date for review of the curriculum
	Topics and substantive knowledge	**Assessment**	**Disciplinary Knowledge**	**Misconceptions**	**Key Vocabulary**	**Knowledge tracking**
	List the key topics taught in this term. Have you checked that the curriculum the department is teaching links to the National Curriculum where this is appropriate? List the key facts that students need to learn. Substantive vs disciplinary knowledge	Give the name, nature/content and date of the assessment in this term.	What skills, procedures, thinking is required to use substantive knowledge to progress understanding and application. Substantive vs disciplinary knowledge	What are the key misconceptions that students have in this curriculum area?	List the Tier 2 and Tier 3 words that will be encountered in this term.	What prior learning does this term's curriculum link to and what future learning does this term's curriculum link to?
Term 1	**Socialism: core ideas and principles** Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy: • collectivism • common humanity • equality • social class • workers' control The differing views and tensions within socialism: • revolutionary socialism – socialism can be brought about only by the overthrow of the existing political and societal structures • social democracy – an ideological view that wishes to humanise capitalism in the interests of social justice • Third Way – a middle-ground alternative route to socialism and free-market capitalism. The key ideas of the following thinkers to exemplify the content from areas 1 and 2:	Written essay on the extent that socialists agree. 24 marks September.	To cover how collective human effort is both of greater practical value to the economy and moral value to society than the effort of individuals To cover the nature of humans as social creatures with a tendency to co-operation, sociability and rationality, and how the individual cannot be understood without reference to society, as human behaviour is socially determined To cover the disagreements among socialists about the nature of equality and how it is critical to the state, society, the economy and human nature To cover the extent to which class impacts on socialists' views of society, the state and the economy	Socialism is irrelevant in modern UK Socialism is the same as communism Socialism cannot coexist with capitalism	Fraternity Cooperation Capitalism Common ownership Communism Evolutionary socialism Marxism Revisionism Social justice Class consciousness Historical materialism Dialectic Keynesian economics	Links to unit 2- political parties. Links to Unit 1- extent of democracy. Focus of Human Nature, the Economy, the State and Society feature throughout all ideologies topics.

	Karl Marx (1818–83) and Friedrich Engels (1820–95) • The centrality of social class • Humans as social beings **Beatrice Webb (1858–1943)** • 'The inevitability of gradualness' – • The expansion of the state **Rosa Luxemburg (1871–1919)** • Evolutionary socialism and revisionism • Struggle by the proletariat for reform and democracy **Anthony Crosland (1918–77)** • The inherent contradictions in capitalism • State-managed capitalism **Anthony Giddens** (1938–) • The rejection of state intervention • The role of the state		To cover the importance and the extent of control over the economy and/or state and how it is to be achieved.			
	<u>The US Constitution</u> 1.1 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. 1.2 The key features of the US Constitution (as listed below) and an evaluation of their effectiveness today. • Federalism. • Separation of powers and checks and balances. • Bipartisanship. • Limited government. 1.3 The main characteristics of US federalism.	Examine the extent to which the US and UK constitutions adhere to the doctrine of separation of powers [12] Analyse the differences between federalism in the US Constitution and devolution in the UK Constitution [12]	Defining key terms. Describing and evaluating key theories and concepts. Describing and evaluating key legislation, political power and consequences Understand historical development of the USA and how impacts constitution Understand the diversity, size and scale of the USA	The US Constitution solves all political problems The Constitution guarantees equality The Constitution is unchangeable The relationship between the states and the federal government	Bipartisanship Checks and balances Codification Constitution Entrenchment Enumerated powers Federalism Limited government Principles Separation of powers	This links back to the topic of French Revolution in Year 8 This links to the topic of UK Constitution from Year 12 Links to Congress, Presidency, Supreme Court, democracy and participation in Year 13

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	• The nature of the federal system of government and its relationship with the states. 1.4 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.			remains the same		
Term 2	**Electoral systems** 5.1 Electoral systems in the USA. 5.1.1 Presidential elections and their significance. • The main processes to elect a US president, including the constitutional requirements, the invisible primary, primaries 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. 5.1.2 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.	30 mark essay on the need to reform the Electoral College.	Defining key terms. Describing and evaluating key theories and concepts. Describing and evaluating key legislation, political power and consequences Understand historical development of the USA and how this impacts the electoral system Understand the diversity, size and scale of the USA		Campaign finance Invisible primary Political Action Committees (PACs) Party system Soft/hard money Super PACs Partisanship	This refers back to the topic of electoral systems in Year 12 Links to democracy and participation in Year 13. Links to the establishment of the constitution and aims of the Founding Fathers.
	Congress 2.1 The structure of Congress. • Bicameral nature, the membership of Congress and the election cycle. 2.1.1 The distribution of powers within Congress:	Analyse the differences in which legislation is passed in US Congress and UK	Defining key terms. Describing and evaluating key theories and concepts. Describing and evaluating key legislation, authoritative power, limitations and developments	Congress has unlimited power Congress is now irrelevant	Congressional caucuses Divided government Filibuster Gridlock Incumbency	This refers back to UK Parliament in Year 12 Links to US Constitution, presidency and

	• powers given to Congress in the Constitution, the exclusive powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress. 2.2 The functions of Congress. 2.2.1 Representation. • Congressional elections and the significance of incumbency. • Factors that affect voting behaviour within Congress: o parties and caucuses, constituency, pressure groups and lobbyists. 2.2.2 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. 2.2.3 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 . 2.3 Interpretations and debates around Congress . • Changing roles and powers of Congress and their relative 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.	Parliament [12] Evaluate the extent to which political parties play an important role in Congress [30]		Congress only represents special interests	Mid-term elections Oversight Partisanship Unanimous consent	Supreme Court in Year 13
Term 3	**Political Parties, democracy and participation** 5.2 The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties.	**12 mark comparison question on the similarities**	Defining key terms. Describing and evaluating key theories and concepts.	Political parties are controlled centrally like they are in the UK. Democrats used to represent the	Mid-term elections Incumbency Factions Policy group	This refers back to political parties and democracy and

	5.2.1 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. 5.2.2 The current conflicts and tendencies and the changing power and influence that exist within the parties. • Democrats: liberals, moderates and conservatives. • Republicans: moderates, social conservatives and fiscal conservatives. 5.2.3 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. 5.3 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. 5.4 Interpretations and debates of US democracy and participation, including:	**between UK and US parties.** **Write one from a choice of 2.**	Describing and evaluating key legislation, political power and consequences Understand historical development of the USA and how it impacts the political parties and their policies. Analysing the reasons for the changing nature of the political parties over time. Understand the diversity, size and scale of the USA	Southern states and the Republicans the north. Difference between parties in the state and the federal governments.	Professional group Single interest group Religious right	participation in Year 12

	• 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					
	<u>President</u> 3.1 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 presidents since 1992. 3.2 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. 3.3 The presidency. 3.3.1 Relationships between the presidency and the following institutions and why this varies: • Congress and the Supreme Court.	Evaluate the extent to which the US president controls foreign policy [30] Examine the ways in which the US and UK cabinets are different [12]	Defining key terms. Describing and evaluating key theories and concepts. Describing and evaluating key legislation, personalities and characteristics, authority and powers, and limitations. Case studies of presidents since 1992 Examples of foreign and domestic policy	The President has unlimited powers The President can make laws The President can override court decisions	Domestic politics Electoral mandate Executive branch Executive orders Imperial presidency Imperilled presidency Informal powers Powers of persuasion Unified Government	Refers back to GCSE Cold War topic in Year 10 Refers back to UK PM & executive form Year 12 Links to US Constitution, Congress and Supreme Court in Year 13

	3.3.2 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.					
Term 4	**<u>Civil Rights</u>** 4.5 Race and rights in contemporary US politics. • The methods, influence and effectiveness of racial rights campaigns and the impact on current domestic policy: o voting rights, affirmative action and representation .4.6 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.	30 mark essay on the extent to which rights are protected in the UK.	Defining key terms. Describing and evaluating key theories and concepts. Describing and evaluating key legislation and cases in relation to rights. Examples of recent Supreme Court cases where rights have been protected (or not).	Affirmative action violates civil rights Civil Rights were resolved in the 1960s Civil Rights are legal protections	Constitutional rights Racial equality Affirmative action	Refers back to Civil Rights topic in Year 9. Links with protection of rights in Unit 1. Especially the role of pressure groups in upholding rights. Links to the Supreme Court in the USA.

	• 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.					
	<u>Supreme Court</u> 4.1 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). 4.2 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. 4.3 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 4.6 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	Analyse the differences in powers of the UK and US Supreme Courts [12] Evaluate the extent to which the Supreme Court is a political institution [30]	Defining key terms. Describing and evaluating key theories and concepts. Describing and evaluating key responsibilities, landmark cases and international developments. Understand key changes in justices and their political affiliation and its impact on outcome of cases	Supreme Court decisions are permanent The Supreme Court represents the views of the people The Supreme Court is above politics	Conservative justice Imperial judiciary Judicial activism Judicial restraint Judicial review Liberal justice Living constitution Originalism Public policy Stare decisis Strict/loose constructionist Swing justice Constitutional rights	Refers back to Relations between branches and UK Constitution in Year 12 Links to US Constitution, Congress, Presidency in Year 13

	Court and the effectiveness of this protection. • The extent of their powers and the effectiveness of checks and balances.					
Term 5	**<u>Comparative Politics</u>** 6.1 Theoretical approaches – understanding of these three approaches and the different ways they explain similarities and differences between the government and politics of different countries. Rational • This approach focuses on individuals within a political system. • A rational approach suggests that such individuals will act rationally, choosing to act in a particular way as it will give them a beneficial outcome. Cultural • This approach focuses on groups within a political system – this could be voters, parties, pressure groups and so on. • A cultural approach suggests that the shared ideas, beliefs and values of these groups often determine the actions of individuals within them. Structural • This approach focuses on the institutions in a political system and the processes within them. • A structural approach suggests that political outcomes are largely determined by the formal processes laid out within a political system.	Mixture of 12-mark questions from across the topics Combination of 'examine' and 'analyse'	Defining key terms. Describing and evaluating key theories and concepts. Using exam terminology to distinguish between questions and the expected structure – when to use comparative theories	There are no similarities between the UK and the US political systems The President is more powerful than the PM Federalism is the same in both the UK and the USA	Analyse Examine	Refers back to all topics in both Year 12 and Year 13 politics A Level.

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Term 6	**n/a**