

THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL
Department Curriculum Overview: POLITICS

Year	Term	Topic	Subject Knowledge and Skills	SMSC/FBV/PSHEE/Careers / National Curriculum/PSHE Ref.
12	Autumn (Sept – Oct)	UK Politics Unit 1 – Democracy and Participation	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy - A wider franchise and debates over suffrage. - Pressure groups and other influences. - Rights in context 	FBV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democracy - Rule of Law - Individual Liberty
		UK Government Unit 1 - The Constitution	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The nature and sources of the UK Constitution - How the constitution has changed since 1997 - The role and powers of devolved bodies in the UK, and the impact of this devolution on the UK. - Debates on further reform. 	
			Key Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. - AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences. - AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions. 	
Assessments			There are 2 Standardised Assessed Tasks for each topic.	
			<p style="text-align: center;">UK Politics</p> <p>Standardised Assessed Task 1: Evaluate the extent to which the UK is facing a democratic deficit [30 marks] Standardised Assessed Task 2: Using the source, Evaluate the view that the UK is facing a participation crisis [30 marks]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UK Government</p> <p>Standardised Assessed Task 1: Evaluate the view that the UK should introduce a codified constitution. [30 marks] Standardised Assessed Task 2: Using the source, evaluate the view that the logical next step after devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is the devolution of further power to England. [30 marks]</p>

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12	Autumn (Nov-Dec)	UK Politics Unit 2 – Political Parties	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Their functions and features - Established political parties - Emerging and minor UK political parties - UK political parties in context including the development of a multi-party system and its implications for government and factors that affect party success 	FBV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democracy - Rule of Law - Individual Liberty
		UK Government Unit 2 - Parliament	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The structure and role of the House of Commons and House of Lords - The comparative powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords - The legislative process - The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive 	
			Key Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. - AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences. - AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions. 	
Assessments			There are 2 Standardised Assessed Tasks for each topic. In addition to an internal preparatory exam for each topic.	
			UK Politics	UK Government
			Standardised Assessed Task 1: Evaluate the view that emerging parties do not have an impact on UK politics [30 marks] Standardised Assessed Task 2: Using the source, evaluate the extent to which voters opt for 'pick n mix' politics. [30 marks] Internal preparatory exam	Standardised Assessed Task 1: Using the source, evaluate the view that the House of Lords is in need of major reform. [30 marks] Standardised Assessed Task 2: Evaluate the view that the House of Commons is effective in holding the executive to account. [30 marks] Internal preparatory exam

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12	Spring (Jan-April)	UK Politics Unit 3 – Electoral systems	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different electoral systems. - Referendums and how they are used. - Electoral system analysis 	FBV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democracy - Rule of Law - Individual Liberty
		UK Government Unit 3 - Prime Minister and Executive	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The structure, role, and powers of the Executive - The concept of ministerial responsibility - The Prime Minister and the Cabinet - The power of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. - The powers of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to dictate events and determine policy 	
			Key Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. - AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences. - AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions. 	
Assessments			There are 2 Standardised Assessed Tasks for each topic. In addition to an internal preparatory exam for each topic.	
			<p style="text-align: center;">UK Politics</p> <p>Standardised Assessed Task 1: Using the source, evaluate the extent to which First Past the Post is fit for UK General Elections [30 marks] Standardised Assessed Task 2: Evaluate the view that use of PR has improved representation in the UK [30 marks] Internal preparatory exam</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UK Government</p> <p>Standardised Assessed Task 1: Evaluate the view that Individual Ministerial Responsibility and Collective Ministerial Responsibility are no longer significant conventions in UK Politics. [30 marks] Standardised Assessed Task 2: Evaluate the view that since 2010 the UK has seen a return to cabinet government [30 marks] Internal preparatory exam</p>

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12	Summer (May-June)	UK Politics Unit 4 – Voting behaviour and the media	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies of three key general elections (one from the period 1945– 92, the 1997 election, and one since 1997) - The influence of the media 	FBV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democracy - Rule of Law - Individual Liberty Careers Politics trip
		UK Government Unit 4- Relations between the branches	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Supreme Court and its interactions with, and influence over, the legislative and policy-making processes - The relationship between the Executive and Parliament - The aims, role and impact of the European Union (EU) on the UK government - The location of sovereignty in the UK political system 	
			Key Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. - AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences. - AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions. 	
Assessments			There are 2 Standardised Assessed Tasks for each topic. In addition to an internal preparatory exam for each topic.	
			UK Politics Standardised Assessed Task 1: Evaluate the extent to which class is still an indicator of voter behaviour [30 marks] Standardised Assessed Task 2: Using the sources, evaluate the view that General Elections in the UK are stable and predictable [30 Marks]	UK Government Standardised Assessed Task 1: Evaluate the view the Supreme Court is neutral and independent of the UK government. [30 marks] Standardised Assessed Task 2: Evaluate the view that Parliament retains sole sovereignty within the UK political system. [30 marks]

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12	Summer (June-July)	Government and Politics of the USA Unit 1 - US Constitution and federalism	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The nature of the US Constitution - The key features of the US Constitution (as listed below) and an evaluation of their effectiveness today - The main characteristics of US federalism - Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism 	FBV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democracy - Rule of Law - Individual Liberty
		Political Ideas	Knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to ideologies - Introduction to feminism 	
			Key Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. - AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences. - AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions. 	
Assessments			There is an internal mock exam in June.	
			UK Politics Internal preparatory exam: Paper 1 UK Politics	UK Government Internal preparatory exam: Paper 2 UK Government