

**THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Department Curriculum Overview: POLITICS**

Year	Term	Topic	Subject Knowledge and Skills	SMSC/FBV/PSHEE/Careers / National Curriculum/PSHE Ref.
13	Autumn (Sept – Oct)	Government and Politics of the USA -  Unit 5 – Democracy and Participation	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electoral systems in the USA</li> <li>- Presidential elections and their significance</li> <li>- Campaign finance.</li> <li>- The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties</li> <li>- The distribution of power and changing significance of the parties</li> <li>- The current conflicts and tendencies and the changing power and influence that exist within the parties.</li> <li>- Coalition of supporters for each party</li> </ul>	<b>FBV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Democracy</li> <li>- Rule of Law</li> <li>- Individual Liberty</li> <li>- Tolerance of difference</li> </ul>
		Political Ideas –  Feminism	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Core ideas and principles of feminism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</li> <li>- The different types of feminism</li> <li>- Feminist thinkers and their ideas</li> </ul>	
			<b>Key Skills:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.</li> <li>- AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.</li> <li>- AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessments</b>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Government and Politics of the USA</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> Evaluate the view that the system of electing the president is no longer democratic [30 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> Explain the differences in policy between the Conservative and Republican Parties [12 marks]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Political Ideas</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> To what extent do feminists agree over human nature? [24 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> To what extent do feminists agree over the best ways to achieve social change? [24 marks]</p>

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13	Autumn (Nov-Dec)	Government and Politics of the USA -  Unit 5 – Democracy and Participation	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy.</li> <li>- and participation (continued)</li> <li>- Interpretations and debates of US democracy and participation</li> </ul>	<b>FBV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Democracy</li> <li>- Rule of Law</li> <li>- Individual Liberty</li> <li>- Tolerance of difference</li> </ul>
		Political Ideas – Conservatism	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</li> <li>- The differing views and tensions within conservatism</li> <li>- Conservative thinkers and their ideas</li> </ul>	
			<b>Key Skills:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.</li> <li>- AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.</li> <li>- AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessments</b>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Government and Politics of the USA</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> Evaluate the extent in which campaign finance impacts on the outcome of elections in the USA [30 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> Analyse the differences between interest groups in the USA and pressure groups in the UK [12 marks]</p> <p><b>Internal Preparatory exam: US Politics paper</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Political Ideas</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> To what extent are conservatives united in their attitude towards the state? [24 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> To what extent are conservatives united in their view of the economy? [24 marks]</p> <p><b>Internal Preparatory exam:</b> Political ideas – (Non-core ideology) Feminism</p>

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13	Spring (Jan-Feb)	Government and Politics of the USA -  Unit 2 – Congress	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The structure of Congress</li> <li>- The distribution of powers within Congress</li> <li>- The functions of Congress</li> <li>- Representation</li> <li>- Oversight</li> <li>- Interpretations and debates around Congress.</li> </ul>	<b>FBV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Democracy</li> <li>- Rule of Law</li> <li>- Individual Liberty</li> <li>- Tolerance of difference</li> </ul>
		Political Ideas – Liberalism	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Core ideas and principles of liberalism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</li> <li>- The differing views and tensions within liberalism</li> <li>- Liberal thinkers and their ideas</li> </ul>	
			<b>Key Skills:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.</li> <li>- AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.</li> <li>- AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessments</b>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Government and Politics of the USA</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> Outline the differences between the US Congress and UK Parliament [12 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> Evaluate the view that the US Congress is no longer able to fulfil its main functions [30 marks]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Political Ideas</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> To what extent do modern liberals accept the ideas of classical liberals? [24 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> To what extent do classical and modern liberals agree over individual freedom? [24 marks]</p>

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13	Spring (March-April)	Government and Politics of the USA - Unit 3 – The Presidency	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use</li> <li>- Informal sources of presidential power and their use</li> <li>- The presidency</li> <li>- Relationships between the presidency and the following institutions and why this varies</li> <li>- Limitations on presidential power and why this varies between presidents</li> <li>- Interpretations and debates of the US presidency.</li> </ul>	<b>FBV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Democracy</li> <li>- Rule of Law</li> <li>- Individual Liberty</li> <li>- Tolerance of difference</li> </ul>
		Political Ideas – Socialism	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</li> <li>- The differing views and tensions within socialism</li> <li>- Socialist thinkers and their ideas</li> </ul>	
			<b>Key Skills:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.</li> <li>- AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.</li> <li>- AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessments</b>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Government and Politics of the USA</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> Analyse the differences the president and prime minister have with the relationship with their cabinets [12 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> Evaluate the view that the president is weak at home but strong abroad [30 marks]</p> <p><b>Internal Preparatory exam: Paper 3</b> Comparative Politics 3A – USA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Political Ideas</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> To what extent are different socialists committed to ‘equality of outcome’? [24 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> To what extent do socialists have conflicting views over how the economy should operate? [24 marks]</p> <p><b>Internal Preparatory exam:</b> Political ideas – core and non-core ideologies</p>

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Year	Term	Topic	Subject Knowledge and Skills	SMSC/FBV/PSHEE/Careers / National Curriculum/PSHE Ref.		
13	Summer (May-June)	Government and Politics of the USA -  Unit 4 – Supreme Court and Civil Rights	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The nature and role of the Supreme Court</li> <li>- The appointment process for the Supreme Court</li> <li>- The Supreme Court and public policy</li> <li>- The protection of civil liberties and rights in the US today</li> <li>- Race and rights in contemporary US politics</li> <li>- Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights</li> </ul>	<b>FBV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Democracy</li> <li>- Rule of Law</li> <li>- Individual Liberty</li> </ul>		
		Revision – UK Politics and UK Government	<b>Knowledge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UK Politics - democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, and voting behaviour and the media.</li> <li>- UK Government - the Constitution, parliament, prime minister and executive, and relations between the branches.</li> </ul>			
			<b>Key Skills:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AO1 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.</li> <li>- AO2 - analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.</li> <li>- AO3 - evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.</li> </ul>			
<b>Assessments</b>		<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Government and Politics of the USA</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> Outline the differences between powers of the US and UK Supreme Courts [12 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> Evaluate the extent in which the US Supreme Court is a political institution [30 marks]</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Revision – UK Politics and UK Government</b></p> <p>There are at least 2 assessment tasks, but these are selected based on the pupil's prior attainment, mastery of topic knowledge and skills. Most lessons in this unit are based on past paper questions.</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Government and Politics of the USA</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> Outline the differences between powers of the US and UK Supreme Courts [12 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> Evaluate the extent in which the US Supreme Court is a political institution [30 marks]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Revision – UK Politics and UK Government</b></p> <p>There are at least 2 assessment tasks, but these are selected based on the pupil's prior attainment, mastery of topic knowledge and skills. Most lessons in this unit are based on past paper questions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Government and Politics of the USA</b></p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 1:</b> Outline the differences between powers of the US and UK Supreme Courts [12 marks]</p> <p><b>Standardised Assessed Task 2:</b> Evaluate the extent in which the US Supreme Court is a political institution [30 marks]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Revision – UK Politics and UK Government</b></p> <p>There are at least 2 assessment tasks, but these are selected based on the pupil's prior attainment, mastery of topic knowledge and skills. Most lessons in this unit are based on past paper questions.</p>					