SUBJECT CURRICULUM PLAN

HASMONEAN
אל תקרי בניך אלא בוניך

SUBJECT:	POLITICS	**YEAR GROUP:**	12
COURSE:	A Level Politics	**EXAM BOARD:**	Pearson Edexcel
SUBJECT INTENT:	At Hasmonean, our Politics curriculum is designed to foster informed, articulate, and critically engaged citizens by exploring power, governance, constitutional frameworks, and democratic institutions across the UK and USA. Grounded in academic rigour, the course equips students with high-level analytical and evidence-based essay-writing skills that are highly valued in higher education and professional pathways such as Law, History, and Economics. By deeply engaging with political ideologies, contemporary current affairs, and comparative systems, students develop the intellectual independence and multi-sided perspective needed to evaluate real-world events and participate meaningfully at local, national, and global scales.		

TERM	TOPIC	CORE LEARNING	KEY CONCEPTS	SEQUENCING	SPECIFICATION LINK

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Autumn	Politics in the UK. Governing the UK	Learning focuses on Component 1 (UK political participation via parties, pressure groups, and elections) Component 2 (governing structures like Westminster and devolved administrations, plus constitutional debates). Students also develop structured essay-writing skills through evidence analysis and evaluation.	Component 1: Examines UK participation (parties, pressure groups, elections) and assesses the UK's democratic health, including electoral systems and pluralism. Component 2: Explores UK governance, constitutional features (unentrenched, uncodified, unitary), and the powers of the executive, cabinet, Prime Minister, and Parliament.	Components 1 and 2 are taught in parallel, following the specification order to foster the synoptic links required for top marks. Teaching integrates real-world examples and source material analysis from the start, concluding with timed assessments after each topic.	Syllabus **Component 1: UK Politics** Democracy and Participation 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4; Political Parties 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 Electoral systems 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 **Component 2: UK government** Constitution 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 Parliament

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Spring	Politics in the UK Government in the UK	Students analyse election case studies (including 1997 and media influence) and evaluate UK institutional relationships, including the EU.	Covers voting behavior (dealignment, apathy, mandates) and UK governance (Supreme Court, judicial independence, sovereignty, elective dictatorship).	Builds on prior knowledge of UK politics by learning about the reasons for election results and also also the relationships between and institutions, linking devolution, Parliament, and how the Supreme Court.	**Component 1**: Voting behaviour and the media 4.1, 4.2 **Component 2:** Relations between the branches 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4
	Core and non-core political ideologies	They explore core principles, key thinkers, and internal divisions within conservatism, liberalism, socialism and feminism, applying these to human nature, the state, society, and the economy. They also learn about how key thinkers have developed the ideology and their approach to it.	Explores ideological tenets: conservatism (pragmatism, paternalism, neo-liberalism), liberalism (liberty, equality, social justice), and socialism (revolutionary, social democracy, Third Way, Marxism, Keynesianism). Explores key ideas in feminism: sex and gender; patriarchy; personal is political; equality and difference feminists.	Political ideologies (Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism, and Feminism) are taught using a consistent structure: core principles, internal tensions, and analysis of five key thinkers. Students integrate prior examples into essay writing from term 1.	**Component 1 part 2:** Conservatism 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 Liberalism 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 Socialism 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 C**omponent 2** **Feminism** option

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Summer	Revision for end of year assessments Constitution (US)	Students prepare for their summer exams by reviewing and consolidating their prior learning through structured revision. Students prepare for Year 13 with an introduction to US politics that focuses on the nature of the US constitution.	Exploring nature, vagueness, codification and entrenchment, amendment process and separation of powers.	Revision draws together skills and content with a focus on key knowledge retrieval and exam practice. Students are introduced to the key concepts in US politics and are asked to prepare a continuation in Year 13. Exam results are reviewed and holiday work is set.	1.1, 1.2 ,1.3 Component 3 Comparative Politics US Constitution 1.1, 1.2

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TERM	TOPIC	CORE LEARNING	KEY CONCEPTS	SEQUENCING	SPECIFICATION LINK
Autumn	US and Comparative Politics	Component 3: US constitution and federalism; Congress; democracy and participation; comparative theories.	Constitution (Federalism, checks and balances, limited government); Congress (bicameral, filibuster, incumbency, partisanship, mid-term elections); democracy and participation (campaign finance, PACs, party system, soft/hard money); theoretical approaches (structural, rational, cultural).	The Constitution and Congress are taught by one teacher alongside democracy and participation taught by the second teacher. Teaching integrates real world examples. Comparative approaches are taught at each section of the syllabus to compare branches of government.	Syllabus **USA (9PL0/3A)** Constitution and federalism 1.3, 1.4 US Congress 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 US democracy and participation 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 Comparative approaches 6.1, 6.2
Spring	Mock exams and feedback US and comparative politics	Presidency; Supreme Court and Civil Rights; Comparative theories.	Presidency (executive branch, executive orders, imperial/imperiled presidency, powers of	The President is taught by one teacher alongside Supreme Court and Civil Rights taught by the second teacher. Teaching integrates real world examples. Comparative approaches are taught at each section of the syllabus to compare branches of	**Component 3** **Comparative Politics** US Presidency 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

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			persuasion); Supreme court and civil rights (conservative/liberal justice, strict/loose constructionist, living constitution, originalism, swing justice, constitutional rights, racial equality, affirmative action);	government.	Supreme Court and civil rights 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 Comparative approaches 6.1, 6.2
Summer	Revision	Students prepare for their summer exams by reviewing and consolidating their prior learning through structured revision.		Revision draws together skills and content with a focus on key knowledge retrieval and exam practice.	