

Westfield Academy - Curriculum Information

Students work in Politics allows them to develop a detailed understanding about law and ruling of both Britain and America. Students develop a sense of who has power within both countries and how this is utilised. Students also develop an understanding of political theories that underpin current politics and allows them to understand reasons for political change over time.

Politics – Key Stage 5

Head of Department	Mr C Gilder	
Head of Department email	cgi@westfield.academy	
Lessons per 2-week cycle	10	
Specification/Board details/Key stage	Key Stage 5 Edexcel exam board	

Term by term

Year 12

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1
<u>Political Parties</u> History of parties in the UK Role of minority parties Political party funding <u>The Constitution</u> Natures & sources of the constitution Constitutional change since 1997 Impact of devolution on the UK	<u>Democracy & Participation</u> Direct & representative democracy Referendums Pressure groups, think-tanks and lobbyists <u>Parliament</u> Powers of the Houses of Commons & Lords The legislative process	<u>Prime Minister & Executive</u> Powers of the PM The role of the cabinet Case studies <u>Electoral Systems</u> Evaluating FPTP Comparing differing voting systems Impact of referendums
Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<u>Relations between the branches</u> Role & powers of the Supreme court Where power lies within the UK <u>Voting Behaviour</u> Factors affecting the way people vote Election case studies	<u>Conservatism</u> History of conservatism Change in conservatism over time Key conservative theorists <u>Liberalism</u> History of liberalism Change in liberalism over time Key liberal theorists	<u>Socialism</u> History of socialism Change in socialism over time Key socialist theorists <u>Feminism</u> History of feminism Change in feminism over time Key feminist theorists on the UK Year 12 UCAS exams

Year 13		
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1
<u>US Politics</u> Nature of the US Constitution The amendment process Checks and balances Federalism Republican & Democrat parties	<u>US Politics</u> Presidential election system Funding of elections Voting behaviour & role of incumbency Interest groups Powers of Congress Legislative process	<u>US Politics</u> Functions of Congress Role of the President Executive orders and the office of President Limitations of the role of President
Spring 2	Summer 1	
<u>US Politics</u> Relationship between the President and Congress Nature & role of the Supreme court Significance of the supreme court How effectively rights are protected in the USA	Revision and retrieval of Year 12 & 13 content Final A-Level exams	
Useful Websites	Pearson Edexcel Access to all lessons via students Google classroom	
Reading/Literacy requirements /Key Words	All lessons have a strong focus on literacy. In the course of their studies, students will complete reading of academic texts and learn how to spell and incorporate key historical terminology into their writing. Students are supported in their planning and writing of essays which develop skills in making and explaining judgements. Students will develop an understanding of key political terminology which is embedded into lessons to support students with understanding how to use key terms in extended writing.	
Homework requirements	Homework focuses on the following tasks • Summarising core knowledge covered in lessons • Extended reading • Research • Current affairs • Extended writing & essay planning Retrieval practice is used as “flipped learning” homework in year 13 to embed knowledge and practice skills using formative assessments.	
Personal Development Links	Lessons in politics allow students to build upon their knowledge gained throughout their studies in history at GCSE to develop a more detailed understanding of both British and world history. Students take part in formal presentations and debates in lessons to develop skills in	

	speaking and listening. Students spend time in both year 12 and 13 on researching and presenting news and current affairs stories, giving students an understanding of current significant issues and the importance of them.
Trips/Visits (If applicable)	KS5 walking tour of London