

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Overview 2025- 2026 A Level Politics Year 12: UK Politics and Political Ideas

		Unit 1 Democracy and Participation	Unit 2 The Constitution	Unit 1 The Electoral System	Unit 1 Voting Behaviour and the Media	Ideologies		Consolidation
		AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2	
7	Unit description	<p>Students will examine various forms of democracy, in particular direct, representative, and liberal democracy. They will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each. They will study the widening of the franchise in the UK.</p> <p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of the forms of democracy students will examine the work of pressure groups in the UK, and whether they aid or hinder democracy. Students will study the concept of rights and will evaluate to what extent the UK is a rights based society.</p> <p>Intent: This topic will introduce all UK topics to be studied in Unit 1</p>	<p>Retrieval: Using their understanding of the US constitution students will examine the UK constitution. They will examine the nature of the constitution in terms of it being uncodified, unentrenched and unitary.</p> <p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of representative democracy students will study parliamentary sovereignty. Students will evaluate reforms to the constitution.</p> <p>Intent: The Constitution will introduce all UK topics to be studied in Unit 2.</p>	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of representative democracy students will examine and evaluate various forms of electoral system</p> <p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of direct democracy students will examine the use of referenda in the UK</p> <p>Students will evaluate the various electoral systems in the UK in terms of their effect on party representation and voter choice.</p> <p>Intent: This topic builds on political participation and will be used in study of both political parties, and parliament</p>	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of democracy and electoral systems students will evaluate the factors that determine the outcome of general elections. They will analyse national and regional voting patterns to look for trends.</p> <p>They will study the role of the media on UK politics</p> <p>Intent: This topic builds on the study of electoral systems and will be relevant to study of both political parties and pressure groups</p>	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of democracy, rights and the role of the state students will study Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism, and Anarchism. They will look at the key themes within each idea and the tensions within the ideology. They will use the works of key thinkers to exemplify their learning.</p> <p>Intent: This topic introduces key political ideas which will be developed in study of both UK and US political parties</p>	Year 12 Exams	Students will use their exams to identify their personal areas of strength and weakness
	Assessment	<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Data Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>	<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Essay Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>	<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Data Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>	<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Essay Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>	<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Data Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>		

A01 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.

A02 Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.

A03 Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Overview 2026-2027 A Level Politics Year 13: UK Politics and Political Ideas

		Unit 1 Political Parties	Unit 2 Parliament	Unit 2 The Executive		Unit 2 The Judiciary	Revision and Consolidation	Final Examinations	
		AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1		SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2	
7	Unit description	<p>Retrieval using their knowledge of political ideas and representative democracy students will study the role of political parties in the UK. They will look at party structures and funding. They will look at the core ideas of each party and how these have been translated into policy.</p> <p>Intent: This topic builds on both participation and political ideas to examine political beliefs in the UK</p>	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of the UK constitution students will examine the role of parliament. They will study the powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords. They will evaluate how well it performs its representative, legislative, and scrutiny functions</p> <p>Intent: The parliament, executive, and judiciary topics build on study of the constitution to examine where power lies in the UK.</p>	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of the UK constitution students will study how the executive is structured in the UK. They will study the doctrines of ministerial and cabinet responsibility. They will study the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. They will evaluate the extent of prime ministerial power. Students will carry out case studies on two specific Prime Ministers</p> <p>Intent: The parliament, executive, and judiciary topics build on study of the constitution to examine where power lies in the UK.</p>	Year 13 Mock Exams	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of the UK constitution and the rights-based society students will examine the role of the Supreme Court. They will examine the extent to which the judiciary is both independent and neutral. They will evaluate the extent to which the Supreme Court protects rights in the UK</p> <p>Intent: The parliament, executive, and judiciary topics build on study of the constitution to examine where power lies in the UK.</p>	<p>Retrieval: Student will use past questions to consolidate learning from the whole of the course.</p>	<p>Final Examinations</p> <p>Unit 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas</p> <p>Unit 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas</p> <p>Unit 3: Comparative Politics: USA</p>	
	Assessment	<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Data Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>	<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Essay Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>	<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Data Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>		<p>Content, knowledge, and retrieval test</p> <p>1x 30 mark Essay Question (AO1, AO2, AO3)</p>			

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Key Stage 5 Curriculum Overview 2025-2026 A Level Politics Year 12: Comparative Politics USA

		The Constitution	Democracy and Participation: Elections	Congress	The Presidency		Revision and Consolidation		Review
		AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2		
7	Unit description	Students will study the origins of the US Constitution. They will examine the Amendment Process; the provisions of the constitution, eg. Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances; and Federalism in the USA. They will evaluate whether the US constitution is fit for purpose in the C21st Intent: The structure and workings of the US constitution underpins all topic covered in Paper 3	Retrieval: Using their knowledge of Direct and Representative democracy students will study the electoral process in the USA for both presidential and congressional elections. They will study Primaries and Caucuses, National Party Conventions, the Electoral College, and Campaign Finance. They will evaluate whether the electoral process is fit for purpose in the C21st Century Intent: Building on the Constitution this topic will lead directly into a study of parties and interest groups in the US	Retrieval: Using their knowledge of the Separation of Powers and Checks Balances students will study the US legislature, Congress. They will compare the power of the two houses of Congress and will evaluate which has most power. They will consider the three functions of Congress: Representation, Legislation, and Oversight. They will evaluate whether Congress is fit for purpose in the C21st Intent: Building on the Constitution this topic link with the Executive topic in a study of 'who has power in the US?'	Retrieval: Using their knowledge of the Separation of Powers and Checks Balances Students will study both the formal and informal powers of the US president. They will examine what makes a good president and the relationship between the President and both Congress and the Supreme Court They will complete case studies on recent US presidents. Retrieval: Using their knowledge of Congress students will evaluate how powerful a US president is in relation to Congress Intent: Building on the Constitution and the legislature, this topic links with the Executive topic in a study of 'who has power in the US?'	<i>Students will not study the USA this half term. They will be looking at political theories. See Unit 2 Curriculum Plan</i>	Retrieval: Student will use past questions to consolidate learning from the US Course	Year 12 Exams	Students will review learning from the examination
	Assessment	1x 30 mark constitution essay (AO1, AO2, AO3)	1x 30 mark elections essay (AO1, AO2, AO3)	1x 30 mark Congress essay (AO1, AO2, AO3)	1x 30 mark presidency essay (AO1, AO2, AO3)		4x 30 mark essay plans (AO1, AO2, AO3)		

AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.

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Key Stage 5 Curriculum Overview 2026-2027 A Level Politics Year 13: Comparative Politics USA

		Democracy and Participation: Political Parties	Comparative Approaches	Democracy and Participation: Interest Groups	The Supreme Court and Rights		USA/UK Comparison	Revision and Consolidation	Final Examinations
		AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2		SPRING 1		SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
7	Unit description	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of political parties in the UK students will study the development of parties in the USA. They will look at their structure and leadership.</p> <p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of political ideas they will examine the ideological views of the parties and will evaluate how this influences party policy. They will look at factions within the parties and will evaluate how united the parties are.</p> <p>Intent: Building on the Y12 electoral process, legislature, and political ideas topics this units 1&2, this subject leads to a study of the importance of ideology in US politics</p>	<p>Students will study three approaches, the rational theory, Group theory, and structural theory.</p> <p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge from the course so far, they will apply the approaches to specific questions.</p> <p>Intent: this topic links study in all 3 units</p>	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of pressure groups in the UK students will examine the role of interest groups in a democracy. They will study types of interest groups and how their techniques may differ. They will produce a case study of a US interest group. They will evaluate what factors lead to a successful interest group or campaign. They will evaluate whether interest groups are good or bad for democracy in the USA</p> <p>Intent: This topic will combine with political parties and participation in he US</p>	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge of the Separation of Powers and Checks Balances Students will study the constitutional role of the Supreme Court. They will examine the appointments process and will evaluate whether it is too political. They will examine the power of judicial review and will look at specific judgements to evaluate the scope of this power.</p> <p>Retrieval: They will evaluate the relationship the Supreme Court has with both Congress and the presidency.</p> <p>They will evaluate the influence the Supreme Court has on rights in the USA</p> <p>Intent: Using all of unit 3 so far, this topic looks at how rights are protected in the US</p>	Year 13 Mock Exams	<p>Retrieval: Using their knowledge from the whole of the Politics A level students will analyse the similarities and differences between the US and UK systems</p> <p>Intent: this topic links study in all 3 units</p>	<p>Retrieval: Student will use past questions to consolidate learning from the whole of the US course.</p>	<p>Final Examinations</p> <p>Unit 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas</p> <p>Unit 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas</p> <p>Unit 3: Comparative Politics: USA</p>
	Assessment	1x 30 mark parties essay (AO1, AO2, AO3)	1x 12 mark Approaches essay (AO1, AO2)	1x 30 mark interest group essay (AO1, AO2, AO3)	2x 30 mark Supreme Court essay (AO1, AO2, AO3)		3 x 12 mark comparison essays (AO1, AO2)		

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>Something More?

Curriculums at BSS are designed to nurture not only intellectual and physical development but also the spiritual growth of students. This will be through:

- Encouraging students to reflect on their experiences, beliefs and purpose and to contemplate the big Questions of Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose?
- Highlighting extraordinary people, events, and discoveries that inspire awe or investigating how a sense of awe has led to breakthroughs and creativity.
- Using art, music, literature, and nature to inspire awe, wonder, and spiritual insight.
- Encouraging creative expression to connect with the inner self and the transcendent.
- Fostering a sense of belonging and interconnectedness with others, nature, and the universe.
- Encouraging self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and moral reasoning.
- Promoting open-ended investigations rather than just seeking right answers.
- Using hands-on activities, field trips and experiments to immerse students in learning and evoke wonder.

How does our curriculum do >Something More?

POLITICS

1. Fostering a Sense of Belonging and Interconnectedness with Others, Nature, and the Universe

The curriculum powerfully explores human connectedness, democratic participation, and shared values. Explores political engagement, representation, and inclusivity. Students reflect on how participation (e.g., voting, activism, civil liberties) connects individuals to their society.

Civil Rights Movement (US Politics – Paper 3): Examining the struggle for racial equality (e.g., MLK, Civil Rights Act) highlights how interconnectedness and solidarity drive systemic change. Encourages empathy and an understanding of shared human struggles.

The Constitution and Individual Rights (UK & US Politics): Studying how rights are protected (or threatened) fosters respect for shared legal and moral principles across societies. Draws attention to the global struggle for justice and liberty.

Pressure Groups & Civic Participation: Encourages reflection on how people connect to causes bigger than themselves—climate justice, LGBTQ+ rights, healthcare access. Environmental and social justice groups like Greenpeace, NAACP, Extinction Rebellion, and the ACLU.

2. Using Hands-On Activities, Field Trips, and Experiments to Immerse Students in Learning and Evoke Wonder

Mock Elections or Referendums: Students campaign, vote, and count ballots on real or fictional issues. Visits from local candidates, sparks curiosity about democratic systems and political strategy.

Visit to the UK Parliament, EU: Offers firsthand experience of political institutions and decision-making.

Student Debates: Debate UK/US policy issues allowing for participation, and development and sharing of ideas and learning tolerance and respect for alternative views.

3. Highlighting Extraordinary People, Events, and Discoveries That Inspire Awe or Show How Awe Leads to Breakthroughs and Creativity

UK and US Politics introduces Iconic Leaders and Activists

UK: Prime Ministers in the UK since 1979 to the present, charting the rise of females and ethnicity in political representation

US: Martin Luther King Jr., Barack Obama, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Their stories foster admiration, curiosity, and discussion about leadership, justice, and moral courage.

Constitutional Moments

UK: The 2019 prorogation of Parliament, Human Rights Act, Equalities Act, Brexit and the impact of Covid

US: Founding Fathers and the Constitution, landmark amendments, Watergate