

## Politics at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

### What are the aims of the subject?

Politics is a lively, relevant, interesting and engaging subject, which can prepare you for your next stage in life, whether that be a university degree or a job. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how both countries are run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It's ideal if you're considering studying politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service. The aim of the course is to develop your ability to comprehend and interpret political information as well as critically analysing and evaluating. Politics will help you to construct arguments and explanations leading to reasoned conclusions.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Topic/Theme/ Focus	<p><b>Uk Politics &amp; Core Political Ideas</b></p> <p>Students will investigate how people and politics interact.</p> <p>They will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system</li> <li>the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy.</li> <li>the role and scope of political parties; the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time; their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government.</li> </ul>	<p><b>UK Government &amp; Non-Core Political Ideas</b></p> <p>This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, since it enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The component also gives students a base of comparison to other political systems.</li> <li>The component introduces students to the set of rules governing politics in the UK, the UK constitution, which is different in nature from most of the rest of the world.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Comparative Politics: Government &amp; Politics of USA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will explore the US Constitution and the arguments surrounding this guiding document of US democracy.</li> <li>In learning about the key institutions of government in the USA and analysing the manner in which they achieve this power and exercise it over their citizens, students will judge ultimately whether 'liberty and justice for all' has been achieved in the USA.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how electoral systems in the UK operate.</li> <li>• the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.</li> <li>• the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It further introduces students to the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of the government – legislative, executive, and judiciary – as well as the relationships and balance of power between them, and considers where sovereignty now lies within this system.</li> <li>• This section allows students to explore feminism. Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be expected to highlight the debates on the nature of democracy in the USA and evaluate the extent to which it remains an issue.</li> <li>• The impact of the US government on the world beyond its borders is increasingly a feature of international politics. Students will begin to engage with this interaction by comparing and contrasting politics and institutions in the US with those in the UK.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Text</b>	<p>There are a number of useful key texts that would support this unit. Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edexcel GCE Politics AS and A-level Student Book (2017)</li> <li>• Pearson REVISE Edexcel AS/A Level Politics Revision Guide &amp; Workbook</li> <li>• Essentials of UK Politics and Government: Pearson Edexcel A-Level</li> </ul>	<p>There are a number of useful key texts that would support this unit. Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edexcel GCE Politics AS and A-level Student Book (2017)</li> <li>• Pearson REVISE Edexcel AS/A Level Politics Revision Guide &amp; Workbook</li> <li>• Essentials of UK Politics and Government: Pearson Edexcel A-Level</li> </ul>	<p>There are a number of useful key texts that would support this unit. Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edexcel GCE Politics AS and A-level Student Book (2017)</li> <li>• Pearson Edexcel A Level US Government and Politics</li> </ul>
<b>Key vocabulary</b>	Legitimacy	Constitution	Bipartisanship

	<p>Direct democracy  Representative democracy  Pluralist democracy  Democratic deficit  Participation crisis  Franchise/suffrage (Third Way)  Classical liberals  Modern liberals  Party systems  Left-wing  Right-wing  First-past-the-post (FPTP)  Additional Member System (AMS)  Single Transferable Vote (STV)  Supplementary Vote (SV)  Safe seat  Marginal seat  Partisan dealignment</p>	<p>Unentrenched (entrenched)  Uncodified (codified)  Unitary (federal)  Parliamentary sovereignty  The rule of law  Statute law  Common law  Devolution  Parliament  House of Commons  House of Lords  Confidence and supply  Salisbury Convention  Parliamentary privilege  Select committees  Opposition  Executive  Cabinet  Minister  Government department</p>	<p>Checks and balances  Codification  Constitution  Entrenchment  Limited government  Principle  Separation of powers  Incumbency  Mid-term elections  Oversight  Partisanship  Unanimous consent  Domestic politics  Electoral mandate  Executive branch  Powers of persuasion  Unified Government  Conservative justice  Imperial judiciary  Judicial activism  Judicial restraint</p>
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