



The Politics Curriculum

Whole School Curriculum Intent:	Wallington County Grammar School is a highly academic but pastorally minded school which delivers a curriculum that enables all students to embody our motto - <i>Per Ardua ad Summa</i>, Through Difficulties to the Heights. Each Subject Leader has autonomy over their own curriculum and its intent, i.e. its subject content, skills content, sequencing and assessment schedule. This is vital to ensure the academic curriculum is designed by highly qualified subject experts. The intentions behind whole school approach to curriculum design taken by senior leaders are to provide: ● Breadth - We intend to provide a broad, academic and liberal curriculum that equips students with the body of human knowledge and different ways of thinking necessary to succeed in and enjoy their education, careers and wider lives. ● Depth - We do not want our students to simply study the national curriculum and examination specifications with grades being our sole focus. We aim for our students to become true scholars of the disciplines that they are learning so that they achieve a deep and sophisticated level of knowledge and understanding. ● Values - We aim for our students to develop our four core values: commitment, courage, compassion and creativity. ● Democracy - We aim for all our students to have the necessary knowledge and confidence, not just to participate in the democracy of the United Kingdom, but to lead it.
Subject Curriculum Intent:	The Politics curriculum is designed to develop students into critically aware, politically literate individuals capable of engaging with complex political systems and ideas. It equips students with an informed understanding of the structures, ideologies, and issues that shape political life in the UK and globally. Through the study of political participation, institutions, core and non-core ideologies, and comparative systems, students gain the analytical skills necessary to evaluate contemporary developments and the principles underpinning political governance. Our curriculum fosters debate, independence of thought, and a respect for diverse perspectives. It encourages students to explore how political decisions are made, the impact of political ideologies on society, and the rights and responsibilities of individuals and institutions. Through a focus on real-world case studies and political thinkers, students are challenged to engage critically with current affairs and historical context, enabling them to become active, informed citizens prepared for higher education, employment, and civic life.
Subject Curriculum Aims:	● Develop knowledge and understanding of political structures, institutions, and ideologies in the UK and US ● Foster critical awareness of contemporary political issues and their historical context ● Encourage analysis of the relationships between political ideas, institutions, and processes

	● Equip students with the ability to evaluate political arguments and sources critically ● Promote understanding of rights, responsibilities, and the role of citizens in democratic systems ● Enable students to articulate coherent arguments and judgments using appropriate political vocabulary ● Prepare students for further study in politics, international relations, law, or related fields ● Support students in becoming politically engaged, reflective, and socially responsible individuals
Politics	Pearson

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
L6th	- UK Political History - Electoral Systems - UK Parliament	- Voter Behaviour & The Media - The UK Prime Minister & Cabinet	- Liberalism - Supreme Court & Sovereignty	- Conservatism - UK Constitution	Revision, Assessment Preparation & Year 12 Exams	- Socialism - EU
	Assessment 1 Format:	One UK Politics Essay + One UK Government Essay		Assessment 2 Format:	One UK Politics Essay & One Politics Ideas Essay + One UK Government Essay & One Source Essay	
U6th	- Feminism - US Political History - US Constitution	- UK Political Parties - Congress	- Pressure Groups - US President	- Human Rights - Supreme Court - US Politics	Revision, Assessment Preparation & A Level Exams	
	Mock Format:	A full US Politics Paper + A combined UK Politics/UK Government & Political Ideas Paper				

Key Vocabulary

UK Politics & Government

1. Democracy
2. Representative democracy
3. Direct democracy
4. Suffrage
5. Franchise
6. Pressure group
7. Lobbyist
8. Think tank
9. Political party
10. Party system
11. First Past the Post (FPTP)
12. Proportional Representation (PR)
13. Referendum
14. Electoral reform
15. Parliamentary sovereignty
16. Rule of law
17. Uncodified constitution
18. Prime Minister

19. Cabinet
 20. Backbencher
 21. Opposition
 22. Judicial review
 23. Ultra vires
 24. Collective cabinet responsibility
 25. Ministerial responsibility
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Core Political Ideas (Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism)

26. Individualism
 27. Freedom (negative/positive)
 28. Equality of opportunity
 29. Paternalism
 30. Libertarianism
 31. Pragmatism
 32. Organic society
 33. Social justice
 34. Revolutionary socialism
 35. Third Way
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USA Politics & Government (Comparative Component 3A)

36. Federalism
37. Checks and balances
38. Separation of powers
39. Bill of Rights
40. Supreme Court
41. Judicial activism
42. Judicial restraint
43. Congress
44. Filibuster
45. Pocket veto
46. Presidential veto
47. Executive orders
48. Incumbency advantage
49. Electoral College
50. Partisan alignment

Suggested Reading List

The Speechwriter – Barton Swain
Prisoners of Geography – Tim Marshall
The Establishment: and how they get away with it – Owen Jones
Corbyn: the strange rebirth of radical politics – Richard Seymour
Parliament Ltd – Martin Williams

Enough Said: what's gone wrong with the language of politics? – Mark Thompson
The Silk Roads: a new history of the world – Peter Frankopan
Politics: ideas in profile – David Runciman
Postcapitalism: a guide to our future – Paul Mason
The New Spymasters: inside espionage from the Cold War to Global Terror – Stephen Grey
Grunt: the curious science of humans at war – Mary Roach
Putin's Kleptocracy: who owns Russia? – Karen Dawisha
The Churchill Factor: how one man made history – Boris Johnson
The Euro and its Threat to the Future of Europe – Joseph Stiglitz
Coalition – David Laws
The Politics of Migration and Immigration in Europe – Andrew Geddes and Peter Scholten
Global Inequality – Branko Milanovic
From Silk to Silicon – Jeffrey Garten
Politics: Between the Extremes – Nick Clegg
How to Run a Government – Michael Barber
How to be a Government Whip – Helen Jones
Small is Beautiful – Adam Lent
The Happiness Industry – William Davies
The Democracy Project – David Graeber
The War on Women – Sue Lloyd Roberts
And the Weak Suffer what they must? – Yanis Varoufakis
How the World Works – Noam Chomsky
In Order to Live – Yeonmi Park
I am Malala – Malala Yousafzai
The State of the World Atlas – Dan Smith