

Politics Curriculum Overview, 2021-22

Why do we teach Politics at Ark BDA?	Studying Politics empowers students to understand the distribution of power in society, and to critically analyse the impact this has on individuals, as well as a whole nation, or region. The subject equips students with the skills and knowledge required to understand electoral systems and processes in the UK, which helps students to become responsible citizens who understand the crucial role they must play in a democratic society, and the shared responsibility of holding politicians and governments to account. An understanding of how leaders are elected, impactful decisions and made and the rights and responsibilities of citizens is vital for learners to become politically engaged citizens, who exercise their right to vote and to be and stay informed. Students also develop an understanding of global politics, and the impact globalisation has had on a range of political issues, as well as the increasing interconnectedness of geo-politics in the globalised world/. This also enables them to understand and analyse current global affairs, such as issues relating to the European Union and global conflicts.
How do we deliver our Christian values in Politics?	Politics teaches students to the core values of love and compassion – to be respectful and tolerant of different perspectives, building the core value of respect which is foundational to behaviour both at BDA and beyond. It also teaches the importance of being aware of less privileged groups, and the impact policies created by a political elite can have on these groups, encouraging students to have the courage to help those who are less fortunate than themselves. It also embodies the values of resilience and commitment by challenging students to consider complex ideas, encouraging them to respond to feedback, and encouraging them to read widely outside of lessons.
How do we build core skills and knowledge over time?	Through studying political ideologies, such as socialism, conservatism, liberalism and feminism, students gain a fundamental grounding in classic and current political thought, rooted in the enlightenment, which still impacts our understanding of politics today. Through the study of British politics in Year 12, they develop a good understanding of the politics system in our own country, as well as engaging in topical debates such as whether there is a participation crisis in Politics, where sovereignty lies in the UK and whether the country is run by elective dictatorships. Students study British politics first to gain a grounding in key political ideas, before applying these to international issues. In studying global politics, students gain a much broader understanding of international relations and how politics is changing in a globalised world, for example, in analysing the diminishing power of the state and national sovereignty. Students also develop an understanding of fundamental Human Rights, and debates around development and the role of institutions like the United Nations and the World Bank. These topics build on ideas students are first exposed to in Year 12, allowing them to build a deeper knowledge of key concepts and issues. The inclusion of case studies and contemporary examples throughout the course helps students to understand the real-world impact of abstract concepts. Through studying these issues, students are well-equipped to be politically active and engaged, critical consumers of information and, importantly, responsible citizens.
How does the study of Politics prepare students for life beyond Ark BDA?	Most importantly, students become politically active and engaged citizens, who are critical consumers of the media and who exercise their right to vote. Students develop crucial skills in analysing and evaluating complex information, which helps prepare students for succeeding in other humanities and social sciences subjects, as well as English, both at A-level and beyond, at university. The ability to plan and write well-structured essays is also a transferrable skill which is crucial, also in preparing students for university level study. There are some clear links with subjects such as Sociology and History, in that students learn about overarching concepts such as nationalism and globalisation.
Implementation	Our lessons are split equally between the different topics we study in each year group, with content sequenced from foundational to more abstract and advanced. Year 12 have 6 lessons 55 minute, 3 lessons on paper 1 and 3 lessons on paper 2. Both papers are foundational knowledge for paper 3, where year 13 have 6 lessons on globalisation. Both year groups are given 3 hours of written homework a week and 1 hour of reading. Our topics are grounded in key questions about the nature of the politics and political thought (such as the true meaning of democracy and how much individual liberty should be granted), which are explicitly linked to current and relevant issues affecting our students. The structuring of topics reflects the demands of the specification, which is rooted in classic political thinkers but this is complemented by the use of contemporary examples in lessons, which are readily available and key to succeeding in this politically turbulent age. Core knowledge is explicitly planned and clear, and homework focuses on learning key concepts and ideas and practising examination technique. Regular retrieval is built into lessons to revisit and consolidate prior learning.

Year Group	Key curriculum end point: Knowledge and skills	How does it link to future progression?
12	<p>PAPER 1 UK POLITICS</p> <p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of political vocabulary and key terms: terminology listed within course content. • UK Politics explores the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK. Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. • They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. • They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. • This section allows students to understand the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens. Students will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions. • This component will further examine the role of the media in contemporary politics. It will also give students an understanding of voting patterns and voting behaviour. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must comprehend and interpret political information in relation to areas of UK politics and core political ideas. • Students must fully understand, and critically analyse and evaluate areas of UK politics and core political ideas. • Students must identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between content studied, providing a basis for comparing the UK with the USA and appreciating the UK's position in global politics. • Students must construct and communicate arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence, and draw reasoned conclusions about UK politics and core political ideas. 	<p>PAPER 2 GOVERNING THE UK</p> <p>In paper 2, students are expected to understand the nature of UK government, since previous knowledge in paper 1 enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. Previous knowledge explored in paper 1 also gives students a base of comparison to other political systems. Paper 2 builds on this by introducing 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. 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, which builds on previous knowledge about parliamentary functions.</p>
13	<p>PAPER 3 GLOBALISATION</p> <p>Knowledge</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The state and globalisation 2. Global governance: political and economic 3. Global governance: human rights and environmental 4. Power and developments 5. Regionalism and the European Union 6. Comparative theories. <p>Global politics gives students an opportunity to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity. It also gives them the opportunity to explore the political issues that affect all of us. Students will gain understanding of abstract political concepts through grounding them in contemporary real-world examples and case studies that will develop an international awareness and knowledge of multiple perspectives. Global politics encourages discussion and debate and requires students to study and present different global perspectives, as well as interpreting competing and contestable claims. The key mainstream perspectives on global politics are liberalism and realism, and students will be expected to understand how these perspectives are applied throughout all elements of the global politics content.</p>	<p>UNIVERSITY</p> <p>If pupils choose to study a social sciences based degree in university, A-Level Politics will equip them with the skills to write engaging, fluent and critical essays.</p> <p>If pupils choose to study a Politics degree, A-Level politics will provide them with the foundational knowledge needed to excel within their modules.</p>

Skills

- Students must comprehend and interpret political information in relation to areas of global politics.
- Students must fully understand and critically analyse and evaluate areas of global politics.
- Students must identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between the content studied, providing a basis for comparing contemporary global issues, such as conflict, poverty, human rights and the environment and how these are affected by the content in each of the sections.
- Students must construct and communicate arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence, and draw reasoned conclusions about global politics.
- Students must develop knowledge and understanding of key political concepts. The content supports these skills by presenting the main content for learning in the right-hand side of the content tables.
- Students must use appropriate vocabulary and subject terminology.

		Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 12	Topic	2.1 The Constitution 1.1 Democracy suffrage 2.2 Parliament 1.1 Democracy pressure groups	1.2 Democracy pressure groups cont. 2.3 PM and executive	2.4 Relations between the branches 1.3 Political parties 1.3 Electoral systems	2.4 Relations between the branches cont. 1.3 Electoral systems 1.4 Voting behaviour and the media	2.5 Feminism 1.4 Liberalism 1.6 Conservatism	Revision and assessment 1.7 Socialism
	Key question	What is the UK constitution and how has it changed? How democratic is the UK?	How is parliament structured? How are laws made? What are the powers of the Executive branch? Are referendums democratic?	What are the powers of the Supreme Court? What different political parties exist? What influence do they have?	What impact does the EU have on the UK political system? What are the relative merits of different electoral systems? What are the powers of the Supreme Court? How does the media influence general elections? What can we learn from previous case studies of general elections?	What different types of feminism exist and how have they influenced political thought? What is liberalism and how has it impacted political thought? What is conservatism and how has it impacted political thought?	What is socialism and how has it impacted political thought?
	Content	-The nature and sources of the UK constitution -How the constitution has changed since 1997 -The role and powers of devolved bodies -Debates on further reform - Systems of democracy - Debates over suffrage	- Pressure groups and other influences - Rights in context -The structure and role of the House of Commons and House of Lords	-The structure, role and powers of the Executive -The concept of ministerial responsibility -The Prime Minister and the Cabinet -The Supreme Court and its interactions with, and	- Different electoral systems and analysis of these - Referendums and how they are used - Case studies of three general elections - influence of the media	Core ideas and principals - Differing views and tensions within liberalism - Liberal thinkers and their ideas - Differing views and tensions within conservatism	Core ideas and principals - Differing views and tensions within socialism Socialism thinkers and their ideas - Ideas and principles

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The comparative powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords -The legislative process - The ways in which parliament interacts with the Executive <p>The aims, roles and impacts of the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The location of sovereignty in the UK political system 	<p>influence over, the legislative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The relationship between the Executive and Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established political parties - Minor political parties - Political parties in context 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservative thinkers and their ideas - Core ideas and principals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Different types of feminism - key feminist thinkers and their ideas 	
Year 13	Topic	<p>The state and globalisation</p> <p>Comparative theories</p>	<p>Global governance: Political and Economic</p> <p>Global governance: HR and Environmental</p>	<p>EU and Regionalism</p> <p>Power and Development</p>	<p>Revision Ideologies</p> <p>Feminism</p> <p>Conservatism</p> <p>Socialism</p> <p>Liberalism</p>	<p>Revision</p> <p>How to write a successful 30-mark essay</p> <p>How to write a successful source question</p>	
	Key question	<p>What impact has globalisation had on the concept of a nation state?</p> <p>What are the differences between liberal and realist views of conflict</p>	<p>What role do institutions such as the UN, NATO and the World Bank play in tackling contemporary issues and poverty?</p>	<p>What different forms of regionalism exist and what impact has regionalism had on contemporary issues?</p> <p>Does multipolarity bring peace and security?</p>	<p>What different types of feminism exist and how have they influenced political thought?</p> <p>What is liberalism and how has it impacted political thought?</p> <p>What is conservatism and how has it impacted political thought?</p>	<p>What is PEACE?</p> <p>What is the success criteria for a successful essay?</p> <p>What is the purpose of an introduction?</p> <p>Why is it essential to write a conclusion?</p>	
	Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Nation state and sovereignty -Globalisation and its impact on the state system -The impact of globalisation -Debates over whether globalisation addresses and resolves contemporary issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Realism -Liberalism -Divisions between Realism and Liberalism -Anarchical society and society of states -Realism and liberalism explaining recent changes in Politics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The UN -NATO -IMF and World Bank -World Trade Organisation -Significance of how global economic governance deals with poverty -The ways in and extent to which these institutions resolve contemporary issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Human Rights -Environmental -The ways and extent to which these institutions resolve contemporary issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Different forms of regionalism and debates over the significance of regionalism -Development of regional organisations -Factors that have fostered European integration -Significance of EU as an international body/ global actor -The ways and extent to which regionalism resolves contemporary issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Different types of power -Differing significance of states in global affairs -Polarity -Different systems of government 	<p>Core ideas and principals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Differing views and tensions within liberalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liberal thinkers and their ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Differing views and tensions within conservatism - Conservative thinkers and their ideas - Core ideas and principals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Different types of feminism - key feminist thinkers and their ideas 	<p>All paper 1, 2 and 3 content applied to exam practice.</p> <p>A successful essay has: 3 PEACE paragraphs, an introduction and conclusion.</p> <p>Being conclusive means: coming to a final decision on the assessment question and making that clear.</p> <p>An introduction should: Define the key terms and answer the question.</p>	

				-Development and spread of: liberal economies, rule of law, democracy -The ways in which the changing relationships and actions of states in relation to power and developments address and resolve global contemporary issues			
	Assessment	Assessment: knowledge quizzes and exam practice questions	Assessment: Paper 1 and Paper 2	Assessment: knowledge quizzes and exam practice questions	paper 1 and 2 section b	Assessment: exam practice questions	