University of Birmingham School Curriculum Outline: POLITICS

Notes:

The course will be split between two teachers; one focusing on Government and the other on Politics. Unit 2 is a comparative unit, which provides an ideal opportunity to re-visit topics from Unit 1. Unit 3 differs in that it focus on three key political ideologies plus a fourth additional ideology of anarchism.

rm → ear ↓	Term1a	Term 1b	Term 2a	Term 2b	Term 3a	Term 3b
	The UK	The UK	The UK	The UK	The USA	The USA
	 Government History of the UK government (how did democracy evolve in the UK?) UK Constitution (what are the strengths and weaknesses of the UK's uncodified constitution?) 	 Government ➢ Devolution (what are the powers of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland?) ➢ The Legislature (what are the functions and powers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords?) 	 Government The Executive (what is the function, power and impact of the Prime Minister and the cabinet?) The Judiciary (what is the role and power of the UK's Supreme Court?) 	 Government The European Union (how does the EU work and what are the implications of Brexit for the UK?) 	Government The Constitution and federalism (what are the strengths and weaknesses of the US's codified constitution and the impact of its federal system?) Re-cap: compare to UK Constitution	 Government Congress (what is the structure and power of the US Congress and how effective is it as a legislative body?) The Presidency (what are the power of the president and vice president and how do they work with Congress?)
12	 Politics Democracy and participation (what does democracy look like in the UK and how can people participate in politics?) 	 Pressure groups (to what extent do pressure groups promote participation and democracy?) 	 Politics Electoral Systems (what are the strengths and weaknesses of the UK's electoral system and how democratic is it?) Voting behaviour (what affects how people in the UK vote and what role does the media play?) 	 Politics Political Parties (what are the characteristics of the UK's mainstream and minority parties and to what extent is the UK a two-party system?) 	 and devolution Politics Elections (how do presidential and congressional elections work and what is the debate about funding?) Re-cap: compare to UK elections and electoral systems 	 Re-cap: compare to UK parliament and executive Politics Political parties (what are the characteristics of the two main parties and what role do minor parties play? Re-cap: compare to UK political parties
	The USA	Ideologies	Ideologies	Ideologies		
13	 Government The Supreme Court (what are the functions of the US judiciary and how do they impact US politics?) Civil Rights (what is affirmative action and what has been done to improve the representation of minorities?) Re-cap: compare to UK Supreme Court and protection of rights 	 Liberalism What are the core values of liberalism? How has the ideology evolved over time? How do the different strands of liberalism compare? Who are the key liberal thinkers? Re-cap US constitution and federalism	 Conservatism What are the core values of conservatism? How has the ideology evolved over time? How do the different strands of conservatism compare? Who are the key conservative thinkers? Re-cap US Congress, Presidency and political parties 	 Anarchism What are the core values of anarchism? How has the ideology evolved over time? How do the different strands of anarchism compare? Who are the key anarchist thinkers? Re-cap US Supreme Court, civil rights and pressure groups 		
	 Pressure groups (what role do pressure groups play in the US and what impact do they have?) Re-cap: compare to UK pressure groups 	 Socialism What are the core values of socialism? How has the ideology evolved over time? How do the different strands of socialism compare? Who are the key socialist thinkers? Re-cap US elections 				

