

POLITICS LEARNING JOURNEY

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Democracy and Participation



Political Parties



UK Consti



Pressure Group Activity



Electoral Systems



Voting Behaviour



Rights in context



Prime Minister and the Executive



UK Parliament



USA Constitution



Relationships: Parliament, Executive and the location of sovereignty



Relationships: Supreme Court and European Unions



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Political Ideas: Liberalism



USA Congress



USA Presidency



Political Ideas: Conservatism



Political Ideas: Socialism



USA Democracy and Participation



Political Ideas: Feminism



Key Themes

Representation



Participation



Democracy



Legitimacy



Sovereignty



Authority



USA Supreme Court and Civil Rights

Ready, Respectful, Responsible: Be the best you can be

UK GOVERNMENT:

UK POLITICS:

Political Parties

- Origins and policies of established parties
 - Minor party representation
 - Debates on party system
- Relative success of political parties

Pressure Group Activity

- Methods / success of pressure groups
- Case studies: Extinction Rebellion + Black Lives Matter
- Influence of think tanks / lobbyists and corporations

Rights in context

- Development and codification of rights in the UK
- Importance of HRA and FOI

Prime Minister and the executive

- Structure, role and powers of the executive
- The concept of individual and collective ministerial responsibility
- The PM and the Cabinet including cabinets and PM to dictate events and determine policy (Thatcher, Blair, Johnson)

Relationships between the Branches: Supreme Court

- Interactions with and influence over legislative and policy-making processes
 - Role and composition
- Judicial neutrality/independence
- Ultra Vires and Judicial Review

Relationships between the branches: the EU

- Aims, role and impact of the EU on UK government

Relationships between the branches: Parliament and Executive

- Influence and effectiveness of Parliament holding executive to account
- Effectiveness of the executive

Relationships between the branches: Location of sovereignty

- Location of sovereignty in the UK political system

Democracy and Participation

- Features of representative and direct democracy including similarities and differences between direct and representative
- A wider franchise and debates over suffrage

Voting Behaviour

- Case studies of three different general elections (1979, 1992, 2019)
- Factors that explain these outcomes (policy, campaigns, political context)

Electoral Systems

- Different electoral systems (FPTP, AMS, STV, SV).
- The advantages and disadvantages of these differing systems
 - Comparison of FPTP to a devolved system

UK Constitution

- Nature and 5 main sources (statute law / common law / conventions / authoritative works / treaties)
- Development in history (Magna Carta, BOR, Acts of Settlement, Acts of Union, Parliament Acts and EEC Act
 - Role and power of devolved bodies
 - Debates on further reform

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USA Comparative

US Constitution

- constitution (Federalism, Separation of powers/checks and balances, bipartisanship, limited government)
- Interpretations and debates (extent of democracy, strength and weaknesses and impact of constitution today). Debates about Federalism today

US Congress

- Structure and distribution of power
- Functions (representative, legislative, oversight).

Democracy and Participation: Elections

- Electoral systems in the USA (presidential elections and their significance including campaign finance)
- Debate: advantages and disadvantages of the electoral college and reform / role of campaign finance and difficulty in achieving effective reform.

US Congress

- Debates (changing roles and powers, changing significance of parties in congress, significance and effectiveness of the powers outline in the constitution).

US Presidency

- Formal and informal sources of presidential power with reference to Presidents since 1992
 - Relationships between Presidency, Congress and Supreme Court.
 - Limitations of presidential power
- Debates (did they achieve their aims? Imperial presidency, levels of accountability and role and power of president in relation to foreign policy).

Democracy and Participation: Political Parties

- Key ideas and principles of Democrats and Republicans
- Changing significance of parties and distribution of power (social/moral issues, governmental intervention, factions within the parties).

US Supreme Court and Civil Rights

- Nature and role of the Supreme Court / Appointments process / Impact on public policy post 2005 / Protection of rights and civil liberties today
 - Race and rights in contemporary US politics
- Debates (political vs. judicial, living constitution vs. originalism, how effectively have civil and constitutional rights been upheld, extent and effectiveness of checks and balances, success and failures of measures to promote equality including affirmative action)

Democracy and Participation: Interest Groups

- Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy.

Comparative theories and comparisons taught throughout.

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Political Ideas

Liberalism

Core ideas and principles of Liberalism (individualism, freedom/liberty, state, rationalism, equality/social justice, liberal democracy).

Classical Liberalism / Modern Liberalism

Key thinkers (Locke, Wollstonecraft, Mill, Rawls, Friedan)

Conservatism

- Core ideas and principles (pragmatism, tradition, human imperfection, organic state and society, Paternalism, Libertarianism).
- Tensions (traditional, one-nation, new right)
- Key Thinkers (Hobbes, Burke, Oakeshott, Rand, Nozick)

Socialism

- Core ideas and principles (collectivism, common humanity, equality, social class, worker's control).
- Tensions (revolutionary, social democracy, third way)
 - Key thinkers (Marx and Engels, Webb, Luxemburg, Crosland, Giddens).

Feminism

- Core ideas and principles of Feminism (sex and gender, patriarchy, the personal is political, equality/difference feminism, intersectionality).
- Different types (liberal, socialist, radical, post-modern).
- Key Thinkers: Gilman, de Beauvoir, Millett, Rowbotham, hooks).

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