



**St George's School**  
**POLITICS**  
**KS5 Curriculum**

<p><b>PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE &amp; SKILLS</b>  <i>The foundations needed to thrive in this subject.</i></p>	<p><b>Who should study this subject?</b>          Students with a keen interest in current affairs thrive on this course, along with those who are independent minded and prepared, within reason, to argue their point in structured class debate. The ability to think on one's feet and to be able to critically analyse and evaluate is key. This course is well-suited to independent learners because it is uniquely dependent on having a knowledge of events as they unfold, meaning that - to some extent - the content of what will be relevant has not happened at the start of the course.</p> <p><b>Key Skills developed during KS4:</b>          Literacy is key. A background in essay writing is a benefit but not a prerequisite.</p> <p><b>St George's course entry requirements:</b>          In addition to the entry requirement for sixth form, a grade 6 or above in History or English Literature.</p>
<p><b>QUALIFICATION</b>  <i>Exam Board, aims and objectives.</i></p>	<p><b>A Level Politics, AQA 7152</b>          This course offers exciting opportunities for lively debate and demands clear thinking and analysis. The course aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide students with knowledge of the processes and practices of Government in the UK and put it into context by comparison with the government of the USA.</li> <li>• To explain the roles of the Prime Minister, cabinet and Parliament and allow students to understand the way that law-making is carried out.</li> <li>• To root current political ideas within a tradition of ideological debate.</li> <li>• To develop students' skills of argument and explanation in areas where debate and communication are important.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b>  <i>Internal monitoring and final assessment.</i></p>	<p><b>Internal Assessment:</b>          Year 12 UK Politics exam (Summer term)          Year 13 Ideologies Assessment (Autumn term)          Year 13 US &amp; Comparative Politics assessment (Spring term)</p> <p><b>Final assessment:</b>          Three, equally weighted, two-hour long written exams at the end of course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper 1 - Government &amp; Politics of the UK.</li> <li>• Paper 2 - Government &amp; Politics of the USA &amp; Comparative Politics</li> <li>• Paper 3 - Political Ideas</li> </ul>
<p><b>ENRICHMENT</b>  <i>Trips &amp; Visits, wider reading, etc.</i></p>	<p><b>Visits and Events:</b>          Visit to the House of Commons and Supreme Court, Live recordings of podcasts for national newspapers; outside speakers in events including St George's Question Time; Inter-House and intra-school debating; School 'General Elections'.</p> <p><b>Wider reading:</b>          Students are encouraged to go beyond core reading to explore topics in greater detail. Weekly reading sheets include suggestions for further reading/viewing from a range of traditional and new media sources.</p>
<p><b>NEXT STEPS</b>  <i>Where this subject can take you.</i></p>	<p><b>Related University Courses:</b>          History, International Relations, Journalism, Law, Politics, Political Science, PPE</p> <p><b>Career Paths:</b>          Civil Service, International Relations, Law, Marketing, Media, Politics, PR</p>

## Year 12

### Autumn Term

#### Topics:

#### Government & Politics of the UK

- **Democracy & Participation:** How people are able to contribute to democracy and participate in political processes.
- **UK Constitution:** Understanding the foundation and historical context of the constitution and its historical and current relevance.
- **The Structure and role of Parliament:** Understanding the roles of the House of Commons and House of Lords, as well as interactions of Parliament and other branches of government.
- **Elections and referendums:** Understanding different election systems, debates around their purpose and analysing and interpreting significant election results.

**Skills:** Students develop essay skills through mid-length essay questions in the first half-term. These are developed through extract and essay writing in the second half-term.

**Assessment:** Timed essays in class and mini presentations.

### Spring Term

#### Topics:

#### Government & Politics of the UK

- **The Prime Minister and cabinet:** Understanding the relationship and dynamics between the Prime Minister and their cabinet through current and historic examples.
- **Political parties:** Looking at party ideology, structure, systems and funding.
- **The Judiciary:** The composition of the judiciary and appointments process, as well as understanding key court cases.
- **Pressure groups:** Pressure groups and their role in the democratic process, as well as links with political parties, government and the media.
- **Devolution:** The roles, powers and responsibilities of the different devolved bodies in the UK and the impact of devolution on government of the UK
- **The European Union:** Study of EU institutions, aims of the EU and the extent to which they've been achieved.

**Skills:** Students will write an essay for each topic, developing skills acquired in term one. They will develop their public speaking and presentation skills by producing a group presentation on 'Pressure Groups'

**Assessment:** Timed essays, knowledge tests and assessed presentation.

### Summer Term

#### Topics:

#### Political Ideas

- **Liberalism:** Key thinkers within the ideology. Strands of Liberalism. Views of Liberal key thinkers on human nature, the state, society and the economy. Evolution of Liberalism as an ideology and its role in modern western democracies.
- **Conservatism:** Key thinkers within the ideology. Strands of Conservatism. Views of Conservative key thinkers on human nature, the state, society and the economy. Role of Conservatism in today's society.
- **Socialism:** Key thinkers within the ideology. Strands of Socialism. Views of Socialist key thinkers on human nature, the state, society and the economy. Evolution of Socialism and role in today's society.
- **Feminism:** Key thinkers within the ideology. Strands of Feminism. Views of Feminist key thinkers on human nature, the state, society and the economy. Debates on the role of Feminism in today's society.

**Skills :** Students will develop critical thinking through critiquing of key ideas and key thinkers. Development of extract analysis and comparative skills plus building on knowledge and using synoptic links from Paper 1.

**Assessment :** Students complete their UK paper in the early part of the summer term. They will also be assessed on timed essays and class debate.

## Year 13

<b>Autumn Term</b>	<p><b>Topics:</b> <b>Government &amp; Politics of the USA &amp; Comparative Politics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>The U.S Constitution/Comparing constitutional arrangements:</b> The nature and significance of the US Constitution and comparison between US and UK constitutions.</li><li>● <b>The Judiciary/comparing the judiciaries:</b> Selection processes for judges, nature of judicial power, key court cases. Comparison between US and UK judiciary.</li><li>● <b>The Electoral process and direct democracy/comparing electoral and party systems:</b> Electoral systems, campaign finance, voting behaviour and concept of direct democracy.</li><li>● <b>The Executive branch of government: the president/Comparing the US and UK executives:</b> Sources of Presidential power, constraints on Presidential power, case studies of Presidencies. Comparison between US President &amp; UK Prime Minister.</li></ul> <p><b>Skills:</b> Development and consolidation of skills acquired earlier in the course, comparative analysis and evaluation.</p> <p><b>Assessment:</b> Students will complete timed essays and an assessed presentation on the Electoral College. Formal assessment on 'Ideologies'.</p>
<b>Spring Term</b>	<p><b>Topics:</b> <b>Government &amp; Politics of the USA &amp; Comparative Politics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>US Political parties:</b> The study of the two main political parties in the United States (ideologies, values, policies, tradition and party organisation). Significance of third parties and independent candidates.</li><li>● <b>Pressure Groups :</b> Typologies and methods of pressure groups and their impact on democracy. Comparison with UK pressure groups.</li><li>● <b>Civil Rights :</b> Bill of Rights, Civil Rights movement. Landmark cases and movements in US Civil Rights including race, religion and freedom of speech.</li></ul> <p><b>Skills:</b> Development and consolidation of skills acquired earlier in the course, comparative analysis and evaluation.</p> <p><b>Assessment:</b> Students will complete timed essays and an assessed presentation on the Electoral College. Final Year 13 exam on Comparative Politics.</p>
<b>Summer Term</b>	<p><b>Government &amp; Politics of the USA &amp; Comparative Politics/Course revision</b></p> <p><b>Skills:</b> consolidation of course content, focus on synoptic links between the three constituent parts of the course - regular timed assessments on short answer responses, extract and essay questions.</p> <p><b>Final assessment as detailed above</b></p>