

SJBC Curriculum Termly Plan: Y12 Politics– UK Politics

Term	Topic(s) and links to other subjects	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary	Assessment	Resources
Autumn 1		1. Democracy in the UK combines elements of direct democracy, where citizens vote on specific issues (e.g. referendums), and representative democracy, where elected officials make decisions on behalf of the people; each system has strengths and weaknesses, and reform debates often focus on improving participation and accountability. 2. The UK franchise (right to vote) has expanded significantly through key legislation such as the 1832 Great Reform Act, the Representation of the People Acts (1918, 1928, and 1969), and campaigning efforts by the suffragists and suffragettes; current campaigns continue to call for further extension of voting rights, particularly to younger people. 3. Pressure groups play a key role in UK democracy by seeking to influence government policy outside of elections, using varied	1. Legitimacy The idea that a government or political system has the right to rule, usually because it has been freely elected and follows the rule of law. 2. Direct Democracy A system where citizens make decisions directly, often through referendums, rather than electing representatives to do so. 3. Representative Democracy A system where citizens elect representatives to make decisions and pass laws on their behalf (e.g. the UK Parliament). 4. Pluralist Democracy A type of democracy where multiple groups compete for power and influence, ensuring that no single interest dominates and a range of views are represented.		Core resources: Shared lessons on One-Drive

		methods such as lobbying, public campaigns, and legal action; groups like the RSPB (insider) and Extinction Rebellion (outsider) highlight how strategy and influence differ across movements. 4. Other political influencers such as think tanks, corporations, and lobbyists also shape UK government policy and public debate, often operating behind the scenes and raising questions about transparency, access, and democratic accountability. 5. Rights in the UK have developed from foundational documents like Magna Carta to modern laws such as the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010; ongoing debates focus on balancing individual freedoms with collective security, and the role of civil liberties groups in defending rights against state overreach.	5. Democratic Deficit The belief that democratic institutions or processes lack accountability or transparency, meaning they do not fully represent the people's will. 6. Participation Crisis A situation where public engagement in politics is low, such as falling voter turnout or declining party membership, raising concerns about the health of democracy. 7. Franchise / Suffrage The right to vote in public elections. Over time in the UK, this has expanded to include more people regardless of class, gender, or age. 8. Think Tanks Research organisations that develop policy ideas and provide advice to political parties or governments, often influencing decision-making behind the scenes. 9. Lobbyists Individuals or groups who try to influence politicians and government officials on behalf		
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			of particular interests or causes, often working for companies or pressure groups.		
Autumn 2		1. Political parties in the UK play a vital role in representative democracy by providing policy choices, forming governments, representing public interests, and holding those in power to account. 2. The UK's political parties are funded through a mix of membership fees, donations, and public funding—raising ongoing debates about fairness, transparency, and the influence of wealthy donors on party policy. 3. The Conservative Party, Labour Party, and Liberal Democrats each have distinct historical origins and ideological traditions that shape their current policies on issues such as the economy, welfare, law and order, and foreign affairs. 4. Minor and emerging parties like the Green Party, Reform UK, or the SNP play an increasingly significant role in UK politics, often influencing debates and	1. Old Labour (Social Democracy) A traditional form of the Labour Party focused on redistribution of wealth, nationalisation of industries, strong trade union support, and a welfare state to reduce inequality. 2. New Labour (Third Way) A modernised Labour Party approach under Tony Blair that combined free-market economics with social justice, aiming to balance economic efficiency with fairness. Known as the Third Way between capitalism and socialism. 3. One Nation A strand of Conservative thinking that emphasises social cohesion, reducing inequality, and protecting the vulnerable, with the belief that the rich have a duty to help the poor to maintain national unity. 4. New Right A Conservative ideological		Core resources: Shared lessons on One-Drive

		representing voices not fully covered by the main parties. 5. The UK is evolving into a multi-party system where party success depends on leadership, policies, funding, electoral systems, and media influence—factors that determine whether parties gain power, grow support, or decline over time.	movement combining free-market economics (neoliberalism) with traditional conservative values such as law and order, strong defence, and limited government intervention in the economy. 5. Classical Liberals Believe in individual liberty, limited government, and free markets. They argue that the state should protect freedoms but interfere as little as possible in people's lives and the economy. 6. Modern Liberals Accept that the state should intervene to promote social justice and equality of opportunity, while still valuing individual freedoms and a regulated market economy. 7. Party Systems The structure of political competition in a country. The UK is often described as having a multi-party system, though traditionally dominated by two main parties (Conservative and Labour).		
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			8. Left-wing Supports social equality, government intervention, higher taxes on the wealthy, public ownership, and strong welfare policies. Associated with parties like Labour. 9. Right-wing Favors free markets, individual responsibility, low taxation, and limited government intervention. Often associated with Conservative values such as law and order and national sovereignty.		
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