



Pearson

AS and A level Politics 2017

Scheme of Work – Government and Politics of the USA

April 2017

Reading list

- Bennett, *US Government & Politics (4th Edition)*
- McKeever & Davies, *Politics USA (3rd Edition)*
- Bowles & McMahon, *Government & Politics of the United States*
- Lowi & Ginsberg, *American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)*
- Duncan Watts, *Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)*
- Ashbee, *US Politics Today (3rd Edition)*
- McKay, *American Politics and Society (8th Edition)*
- Singh, *Governing America: The Politics of a Divided Democracy*
- Wasserman, *The Basics of American Politics (14th Edition)*

Wk	Specification	Teaching detail	Activities (Act) Assessment/Test (AT)) and Extension paths (E)	Suggested resources
1	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Constitution</p> <p>1.1 The nature of the US Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vagueness of the document, codification and entrenchment. • The constitutional framework (powers) of the US branches of government. • The amendment process, including advantages and disadvantages of the formal process. 	<p>Introduction to the course</p> <p>Overview of Paper 3</p> <p>Overview of and background to the structure of US government at federal level</p> <p>Definitions and implications of the codification and entrenchment for the US Constitution.</p> <p>The difference between enumerated and implied powers</p> <p>Protections that the amendment process offers to the Constitution, States and Government, and the problems it creates</p>	<p>Creating a diagram of separation of powers and checks and balances with recent examples (ACT)</p> <p>Similarities and differences to the nature of the UK Constitution (ACT)</p> <p>Profiling the failure of a failed amendment including a timeline e.g. balanced budget, equal rights or flag burning (EXT)</p> <p>Essay plan assessing the impact of separation of powers and checks and balances (AT – 30 marks)</p>	<p>Edexcel Getting Started Guide</p> <p>Bennett's <i>US Government & Politics (4th Edition)</i> is good for students and staff throughout.</p> <p>Most US textbooks have a preamble that outlines the Philadelphia Convention and a potted history of the US, but McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 2, pages 12-19 is particularly good.</p> <p>Timeline activity - http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/documents/constitution/timelinequiz/</p> <p>Although designed for younger pupils, for those new to American politics this gives a basic overview of the Constitution - https://cdn.icivics.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Anatomy%20of%20Constitution_11.pdf</p> <p>For teachers, there is brilliant detail on the amendment process in Lowi & Ginsberg <i>American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)</i> on pages 43-50.</p>

2	<p>Constitution</p> <p>1.2 The principles of the US Constitution (as listed below) and an evaluation of their effectiveness today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalism. • Separation of powers and checks and balances. • Bipartisanship. • Limited government. <p>1.4 Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of democracy within the US Constitution, its strengths and weaknesses and its impact on the US government today. 	<p>Identify <i>how</i> these principles are enshrined in the US Constitution and have recent examples of them being upheld and not.</p> <p>Ensure clarity in that some of these principles do not appear in name in the Constitution.</p> <p>Explanations of why the Founding Fathers may have included these principles and what they hoped to achieve.</p> <p>Define the types of democracy relevant to the USA – especially liberal and representative.</p> <p>Review the extent to which the Constitution allows for these types of democracy today and where it fails</p> <p>Evaluation of the impact on government including what government is supposed to do and if the Constitution helps or hinders this.</p>	<p>With a copy of Articles 1-3, highlight the clauses that enshrine the principles of the Constitution (ACT).</p> <p>Group exercise creating key profiles of the successes and failures of each principle today and teaching each other (ACT)</p> <p>Review how it works directly against democracy (Electoral College, unelected Senate, etc.) (EXT)</p> <p>Assessment of how happy the Founding Fathers would be with government today (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay assessing the effectiveness of the US Constitution in achieving the principles outlined (AT – 30)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the extent of democracy under the US Constitution in the USA today (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Bowles & McMahon, <i>Government & Politics of the United States</i>, Chapter 2, pages 31-35</p> <p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 2, pages 21-23</p> <p>Lowi & Ginsberg, <i>American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)</i>, pages 50-53</p>
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3	<p>Constitution</p> <p>6.2.1 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Constitutions and the resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their nature (codified/uncodified) and their sources, provisions and principles, including separation of powers, checks and balances <p>6.1 Theoretical approaches – understanding of these three approaches and the different ways they explain similarities and differences between the government and politics of different countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rational • Cultural • Structural <p>6.2.2 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	<p>Reviewing and revising the nature of the UK Constitution including sources, flexibility, uncodified and unentrenched nature.</p> <p>Comparison of the location of sovereignty and flexibility of this concept.</p> <p>Similarities and differences in the checks and balances and separation of powers that exist.</p> <p>Explanation of the three theoretical approaches with key focus on the fact these are used to help explain comparisons and more than one theory may explain the same difference or similarity.</p> <p>For all the comparisons made, it is crucial for students to understand how these theories can be applied.</p>	<p>Comparative table of the nature and principles of the UK and US Constitution (ACT)</p> <p>Timeline graph of the changing nature of sovereignty in both countries as a comparison (EXT)</p> <p>Worked example of one similarity or difference with students applying each of the three theories to explain it (ACT)</p> <p>Short essay comparing the nature of the US and UK Constitutions (AT - 12)</p> <p>Short essay comparing the merits of the amendment process for the UK and US Constitution (AT – 12)</p> <p>Short essay comparing strengths or weakness of the US and UK Constitution (AT – 12)</p>	<p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 2</p> <p>Edexcel Getting Started document</p>
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4	<p><i>Democracy and Participation</i></p> <p>5.1 Electoral systems in the USA.</p> <p>5.1.1 Presidential elections and their significance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main processes to elect a US president including the constitutional requirements, the invisible primary, primaries and caucuses, the role of National Party Conventions and the electoral college, and the resulting party system. The importance of incumbency on a president seeking a second term. 	<p>The Constitutional requirements for the presidential election and where in the Constitution they can be found.</p> <p>Timeline of the electoral process and the events of each stage</p> <p>Assessment of the effectiveness at choosing an adept leader</p> <p>The changing nature of this process over time, especially in terms of the invisible primary and National Party Conventions with an evaluation of their importance today</p> <p>Why a two party system results from the US electoral process</p> <p>Statistical evaluation of the importance of incumbency</p>	<p>Create a timeline of the most recent presidential election, from the final two candidates declaring the intent through to the inauguration (ACT)</p> <p>Creating a profile of the two most recent presidential candidates including policies, experience and money (ACT)</p> <p>Review of the role of the National Party Convention and evaluation of whether it should be scrapped (EXT)</p> <p>A table of pros/cons for each stage of the process with illustrative examples from 1992 onwards (ACT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the most important stage in determining electoral success (AT – 30)</p>	<p>The Internet has a wealth of information on the most recent elections, results and analysis, however this is particularly good: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/</p>
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5	<p>Democracy and Participation</p> <p>5.4 Interpretations and debates of US democracy and participation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> advantages and disadvantages of the electoral process and the Electoral College and the debate around reform the role of incumbency in elections <p>6.2.9 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the different nature of the party systems (two-party and multi-party) <p>6.2.10 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	<p>Review of the strengths and weaknesses of each of the stages, and an evaluation of the importance of each stage of the election</p> <p>Assessment of the Electoral College and what arguments exist to reform it, especially after 2000, 2016 and after the Inter-State Voter compact</p> <p>Factors that affect success at each stage beyond the election itself including incumbency (plus perhaps media, opposition, policies, name recognition, etc.) and what the advantages that incumbency brings are</p> <p>Comparison of the party system that exists in the US and UK and whether these party-system descriptions are accurate.</p> <p>Worked examples of how rational, cultural and structural theory can be applied to the UK comparison</p>	<p>Class debate over the need for reform to the Electoral College (ACT)</p> <p>Creation of a plan to reform three key areas of the US electoral process and how (EXT)</p> <p>Table showing the strengths and weakness of the electoral college with extra columns for rank order and justification of rank to develop analytical skill (ACT)</p> <p>Short essay assessing whether the UK and US have a two party system (AT – 12)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the growing need for reform to the Electoral College (AT – 30)</p> <p>Long essay assessing whether incumbents have an-inbuilt advantage in the electoral process as it stands (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 11</p>
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6	<p>Democracy and Participation</p> <p>5.1.2 Campaign finance. The role of campaign finance and the current legislation on campaign finance, including McCain-Feingold reforms 2002 and <i>Citizens United vs FEC</i> 2010.</p> <p>5.4 Interpretations and debates of US democracy and participation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the role of campaign finance and difficulty in achieving effective reform <p>6.2.9 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> debates around campaign finance and party funding <p>6.2.10 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	<p>Overview of the history of campaign finance and the growing costs of elections in the USA with explanations of why</p> <p>Draw links to the election timeline in explaining the necessity for campaign finance</p> <p>Explanations of changes in recent years including failed attempts and reasons why it has proved so difficult to reform campaign finance.</p> <p>Examples of Supreme Court rulings on campaign finance including <i>Buckley v Valeo</i>, <i>McConnell</i>, the extent and impact of <i>Citizens United</i> and the extent and impact of <i>McCutcheon</i>.</p> <p>The role of Super PACS in recent election and how the impact this has had.</p> <p>Comparison to the UK election funding and including the debate over state funding of elections.</p> <p>Worked examples of how rational, cultural and structural theory can be applied to the UK comparison</p>	<p>Create a timeline of electoral reform both in legislation and rulings, showing the successes and failures of each event (ACT)</p> <p>Assessment of what the UK could learn from the USA and the USA could learn from the UK in terms of electoral funding (ACT)</p> <p>Evaluation of the role of the Supreme Court in their rulings and the impact on democracy in the USA (EXT)</p> <p>Profile of a Super PAC (use OpenSecrets) including what they donated and why that might have been (ACT)</p> <p>Short essay comparing the necessity for state funding in the UK And USA (AT – 12)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the extent of Congressional failure on providing effective campaign finance legislation (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Bowles & McMahon, <i>Government & Politics of the United States</i>, Chapter 2, page 93 onwards</p> <p>Ashbee. <i>US Politics Today</i> (3rd Edition) pages 18-23</p> <p>https://www.opensecrets.org/ has a wealth of data on election costs and donors.</p> <p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide</i> (2nd Edition), Chapter 11</p>
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7	<p>Democracy and Participation</p> <p>5.2 The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties.</p> <p>5.2.1, The distribution of power and changing significance of the parties:</p> <p>Democrats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progressive attitude on social and moral issues including crime • greater governmental intervention in the national economy • government provision of social welfare. <p>Republicans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservative attitude on social and moral issues • more restricted governmental intervention in the national economy while protecting American trade and jobs • acceptance of social welfare but a preference for personal responsibility. 	<p>Explanation of the meaning of 'ideology' and draws links from the ideologies unit to the Democratic and Republican core beliefs.</p> <p>Explanation of the generic key principles for each party.</p> <p>Evaluation of how well these principles have been upheld in recent elections with worked examples of policies demonstrating this.</p> <p>Analysis of the extent of cohesiveness within each party, both over time in presidential elections and across the USA.</p> <p>Analysis of which factions within each party have gained prominence and why</p> <p>Explanation of the importance of parties in elections and in Congress to illustrate the importance of parties and an evaluation of their importance over time.</p>	<p>Profile of which 'key thinker' best fits the profile of the Democratic and Republican parties and why (ACT)</p> <p>Finding examples of the key principles from the most recent party platform, and examples of these principles in action from the last president of each party (ACT)</p> <p>Graph plotting the changing importance of parties over time (ACT) (look for party polarisation in Congress)</p> <p>Venn diagrams showing the factions within each party including key figures, policies and successes or failures (ACT)</p> <p>Comparison of the party platform for Democrats or Republicans from two contrasting states (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the extent of party cohesiveness today (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Almost every textbook has history of each party, but the Internet is needed for current policies:</p> <p>https://www.democrats.org/</p> <p>https://www.gop.com/</p> <p>http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/platforms.php</p> <p>McKay, <i>American Politics and Society (8th Edition)</i>, page 100 onwards</p> <p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 10, pages 153-169</p>
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7	<p>5.2.2 The current conflicts and tendencies and the changing power and influence that exist within the parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democrats: liberals, moderates and conservatives. • Republicans: moderates, social conservatives and fiscal conservatives 	<p>Review of theories such as Broder's 'the party's over' and party renewal and an assessment of whether these are useful in assessing the role of parties today.</p>	<p>Long essay evaluating the importance of parties in US politics (AT – 30)</p>	
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8	<p>Democracy and Participation</p> <p>5.2.3 Coalition of supporters for each party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voters: how the following factors are likely to influence voting patterns and why, in relation to one recent presidential election campaign – race, religion, gender and education. <p>6.2.9 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> degree of internal unity within parties the policy profiles of the two main parties in each country <p>6.2.10 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	<p>Review the voting statistics for race, religion, gender and education and assess why each group votes the way it does with reference to party principles and ideologies.</p> <p>Analyse the extent of the influence of these factors and whether these alone explain voter behaviour</p> <p>Review the key ideology underpinning Labour, Conservatives, Democrats and Republicans and the resulting policies, identifying key similarities and differences.</p> <p>Assess whether the parties in the US or UK are more or less ideologically coherent in terms of their party platform and the extent of party factions and rebellions.</p> <p>Worked examples of how rational, cultural and structural theory can be applied to the UK comparison</p>	<p>Research the voting statistics in groups for one recent election and use to compare to as a class. (ACT)</p> <p>Venn diagram showing the overlap of ideology, principle and party policy (ACT)</p> <p>Comparative table of Conservatives and Republicans highlighting key similarities and differences, or Democrats and Labour (ACT)</p> <p>Comparison of party factions between US/UK or between Democrats and Republicans (EXT)</p> <p>Essay plan evaluating the role of each factor in voting behaviour (AT – 30)</p> <p>Short essay assessing policy similarities or differences between either Labour and Democrats or Republicans and Conservatives (AT – 12)</p>	<p>Bennett, <i>US Government & Politics (4th Edition)</i>, Chapter 2, pages 84-88</p> <p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 10</p> <p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 11</p>
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9	<p>Democracy and Participation</p> <p>5.3 Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The influence, methods and power of at least one single interest group, professional group or policy group. 	<p>Definition of interest groups and lobbying, including definitions of the differing types of interest group.</p> <p>Key distinction between lobbying in the US and the role of pressure groups in the UK</p> <p>Explanation of the role of interest groups in the USA and the democratic functions they fulfil</p> <p>A case study of one single issue group (e.g. the NRA), one professional group (e.g. the AFL-CIO) and one policy group (e.g. NAACP) showing their methods/tactics, influence and power</p> <p>Evaluation of the factors that affect the success of an interest group</p>	<p>Case study/presentation of a case study of one type of interest group (ACT)</p> <p>Advantages and disadvantages of the role of interest groups of US democracy (ACT)</p> <p>Assessment of the differences between a Super PAC and an interest group including examples (ACT)</p> <p>Essay exploring the link between interest groups and campaign finance (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the impact of interest groups and lobbying on US democracy (AT – 30)</p>	<p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA</i> (3rd Edition), Chapter 11</p> <p>https://www.opensecrets.org/ has a wealth of data on election costs and donors.</p>
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10	<p>Democracy and Participation</p> <p>5.4 Interpretations and debates of US democracy and participation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ways in which interest groups can influence the three branches of government and policy creation, including the role of PACs and Super PACs and their impact on democracy. <p>6.2.9 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the relative power, methods and influence of pressure groups. <p>6.2.10 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	<p>A review of the various access points available to US interest groups including examples of their (attempted) impact on each of the three branches of government</p> <p>Link the role of pressure groups to the varying types of democracy, including representative and liberal but also potentially direct</p> <p>Comparison of the factors that make a US and UK group more or less powerful in their respective countries.</p> <p>Analysis of the constitutional nature of each system and the separation of powers/checks and balances and the impact that this has upon the chosen and available methods and resulting power for pressure groups in the US and UK</p> <p>Worked examples of how rational, cultural and structural theory can be applied to the UK comparison</p>	<p>Diagram of access points in the USA political system with examples of success and failure in each one (ACT)</p> <p>Case study of ideologically similar US and UK interest groups and a review of similarities in methods, funding and success (ACT)</p> <p>Table showing successes and failures of interest groups in the US affecting the three identified types of democracy (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay assessing the effectiveness of US interest groups in upholding liberal or representative democracy (AT – 30)</p> <p>Short essay reviewing differences in the extent of power between US and UK groups (AT – 12)</p> <p>Short essay analysing the difference in group method in relation to the structures of each system (AT – 12)</p>	<p>Lowi & Ginsberg, <i>American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)</i>, pages 412-13</p> <p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 9</p>
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11	<p>US presidency</p> <p>3.1 Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role as the Head of State and as the Head of Government. • The significance of these powers with reference to presidents since 1992. <p>3.2 Informal sources of presidential power and their use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the electoral mandate, executive orders, national events and the cabinet • powers of persuasion including the nature/characteristics of each president • Executive Office of the President (EXOP) including the role of the National Security Council (NSC), Office of Management and Budget. (OMB) and the White House Office (WHO) • The significance of these powers with reference to presidents since 1992. 	<p>Definition of enumerated and implied powers, including explanation of the logic from the Constitution that explains implied powers.</p> <p>Definition of Head of State and Government including the roles within each of these, as well as the powers given.</p> <p>Review of the checks upon each of these powers and the extent of their effectiveness, including across the span of a president's time in office.</p> <p>Explanation of each of the sources of informal power, reviewing how they can lend power to a President but the threats they can also present.</p> <p>Definition of executive orders and what they are actually intended for.</p> <p>Definition of EXOP and the three key bodies within it, with examples of their influence.</p>	<p>Case study of the President's since 1992 with an evaluation in rank order of the most to least important source of their power (ACT)</p> <p>Timeline graph of power over the course of a chosen president with key points explained (ACT)</p> <p>Definitions flash cards for the extensive vocabulary in this section (ACT)</p> <p>An assessment of the difficulties George W. Bush would have faced had it not been for the events of 9/11 (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating whether constitutional or informal sources of power are most important for a US president (AT – 30)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the location of power within the executive branch (AT – 30)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating in which role the President has greater freedom to act (AT – 30)</p>	<p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 12</p> <p>https://www.whitehouse.gov/</p> <p>McKay, <i>American Politics and Society (8th Edition)</i>, Chapter 10</p> <p>Lowi & Ginsberg, <i>American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)</i>, page 185 onwards</p> <p>Bowles & McMahon, <i>Government & Politics of the United States</i>, Chapter 5</p> <p>Singh, <i>Governing America: The Politics of a Divided Democracy</i>, pages 177-79</p> <p>BBC's Inside the Obama White House is excellent for this topic.</p>
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12	<p>US presidency</p> <p>3.3 The presidency.</p> <p>3.3.1 Relationships between the presidency and the following institutions and why this varies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress and the Supreme Court. <p>3.3.2 Limitations on presidential power and why this varies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing nature of power over their term in office • Congress, the Supreme Court and the Constitution • the election cycle and divided government. • The significance of these limitations with reference to presidents since 1992. 	<p>Analysis of the ways in which the President can try to influence the Supreme Court and Congress and the effectiveness of this</p> <p>Review of the factors which may lead to this relationship changing including the electoral cycle, party unity, Court decisions and Court vacancies</p> <p>Identification of the limits, both formal and informal, that can be placed upon a president and the factors that influence their effectiveness</p>	<p>Timeline graph of the ideological leaning of each of the three branches since 1992 (ACT)</p> <p>Flashcards each with a limit plus an example of this limit working effectively and ineffectively for the same President (ACT)</p> <p>Review of poll ratings for one President since 1992 with annotations explaining key peaks and troughs (ACT)</p> <p>Case study of one key presidential policy (e.g. Obamacare, No Child Left Behind, etc) showing the variety of limitations a president faced in passing the policy (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the effectiveness of checks on the US President (AT – 30)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating which factor is most important in determining presidential power (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Bowles & McMahon, <i>Government & Politics of the United States</i>, Chapter 5, page 159 onwards</p> <p>McKay, <i>American Politics and Society (8th Edition)</i>, Chapter 11</p>
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13	<p>US presidency</p> <p>3.4 Interpretations and debates of the US presidency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effectively they have achieved their aims. • The imperial presidency. • The extent of presidential accountability to Congress. • The role and power of the president in foreign policy. • With reference to presidents since 1992. <p>6.2.5 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US executive branches and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key similarities and differences between the role and powers of the US President and the UK Prime Minister and their impact on politics and government • extent of accountability to the US and UK legislature. <p>6.2.6 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	<p>Review of the aims of the Presidents since 1992 – their key election promises</p> <p>Definition of imperial presidency and context of the theory.</p> <p>Review of both the constitutional (formal) and informal (e.g. election cycle) methods of accountability.</p> <p>Explanation of the key foreign policy roles beyond simply war – attending summits, treaties, ambassadors, etc.</p> <p>Assessment of all the debates with reference to comparison over time, comparison to the Constitution and the intended role of the presidency.</p> <p>How differing presidents, under similar circumstances, have had different results in terms of power.</p> <p>Review of the ability of the UK PM and US President to achieve their policy goals from government</p> <p>Effectiveness of the legislature in checking the executive</p>	<p>Profile case studies highlighting the five key policy aims of each president since 1992 (ACT)</p> <p>Timeline graph of ‘power’ over the course of one presidency showing assessment of more or less ‘imperial’ (ACT)</p> <p>Advantages and disadvantages of a President in controlling foreign policy (ACT)</p> <p>Comparison of strengths and weaknesses of the PM and President (ACT)</p> <p>What are the arguments that the Presidency is too strong today? (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating factors affecting presidential success in foreign policy (AT – 30)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the effectiveness of recent presidents in achieving their aims (AT – 30)</p> <p>Short essay analysing the differences/similarities between the UK and US executive in controlling foreign policy (AT – 12)</p>	<p>Lowi & Ginsberg, <i>American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)</i>, pages 201-203</p> <p>Wasserman, <i>The Basics of American Politics (14th Edition)</i>, Chapter 3</p> <p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 4</p>
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14	<p>US Supreme Court and civil rights</p> <p>4.1 The nature and role of the Supreme Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US Constitution. • The independent nature of the Supreme Court. • The judicial review process (Marbury vs Madison 1803 and Fletcher vs Peck 1810. <p>4.2 The appointment process for the Supreme Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths and weaknesses of the process. • Factors influencing the president's choice of nominee. • The current composition and ideological balance of the Court 	<p>Constitutionality of the role of the Supreme Court – reviewing the language of Article III and the development of judicial review.</p> <p>Ways by which the Constitution protects the independence of the US Supreme Court and why this is especially important in the US</p> <p>Outline the stages of Supreme Court appointment – vacancy, nomination and ratification.</p> <p>Factors a president considers including outgoing Justice, ideology, representative factors.</p> <p>The nature or 'liberal' and 'conservative' and the unwillingness of Justices to accept these labels; reasons why they are labelled as such.</p> <p>The importance of the swing justice and how they come to be in this role.</p>	<p>Mini profile of each of the Justices on a political spectrum from left to right (ACT)</p> <p>Case study of the full appointment process of one Justice since 2005 (ACT)</p> <p>Review of three key types of case – one with notable ideological ruling, one with apparently no ideological ruling and one where a Justice has gone against their labelled ideology (ACT)</p> <p>Timeline of the appointment of Merrick Garland and essay explaining with whom the fault lay for his failure to get ratified (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the importance of judicial review (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Bowles & McMahon, <i>Government & Politics of the United States</i>, Chapter 7</p> <p>https://www.supremecourt.gov/</p> <p>Ashbee, <i>US Politics Today (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 7</p> <p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, page 284 onwards</p>
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15	<p>US Supreme Court and civil rights</p> <p>4.3 The Supreme Court and public policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of the Supreme Court on public policy in the US with a range of examples, including examples post-2005. Political significance debate: the role of judicial activism and judicial restraint and criticisms of each. <p>4.4 The protection of civil liberties and rights in the US today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rights protected by the Constitution, by the Bill of Rights, by subsequent constitutional amendments and by rulings of the Supreme Court 	<p>Definition of public policy</p> <p>Examples from different areas of public policy where Supreme Court rulings have had a notable impact either upholding or striking down key policies</p> <p>Definitions of activism and restraint</p> <p>Evaluation of how why activism and constraint can be criticised given the nature of the US Supreme Court and the Constitutional nature of government</p> <p>The rights protected in the US Constitution and Supreme Court cases which have affected the interpretation of these rights</p> <p>Extra-constitutional rights that have been granted through judicial review by the Supreme Court</p>	<p>Key cases table highlighting key rulings since 2005, with the votes for/against, ruling, impact and effectiveness (ACT)</p> <p>Evaluation of how the role of the Supreme Court can be justified and criticised in the US democracy (ACT)</p> <p>Essay reviewing the quasi-legislative nature of the US Supreme Court (EXT)</p> <p>Venn diagram of how activism and restraint can be related to liberal and conservative ideologies (ACT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating whether the Supreme Court exercises too much power in the US (AT – 30)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating which rights have been effectively upheld by the Supreme Court (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Bennett, <i>US Government & Politics (4th Edition)</i>, Chapter 7</p> <p>The Internet is a great resource for the most up-to-date and landmark cases in these areas.</p> <p>Ashbee, <i>US Politics Today (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 7</p> <p>Wasserman, <i>The Basics of American Politics (14th Edition)</i>, Chapter 6</p> <p>Lowi & Ginsberg, <i>American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)</i>, Chapter 4</p>
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16	<p>US Supreme Court and civil rights</p> <p>4.6 Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The political versus judicial nature of the Supreme Court. • Living Constitution ideology as against originalism. • How effectively civil and constitutional rights have been upheld by the Supreme Court and the effectiveness of this protection. • The extent of their powers and the effectiveness of checks and balances. <p>6.2.7 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Supreme Courts and civil rights and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basis for and relative extent for their powers • relative independence of the Supreme Court in the US and UK 	<p>Definitions of originalism, living constitutionalism, and key phrases such as ‘politicians in robes’.</p> <p>Examples of the Supreme Court cases which have had an inherently political outcome and why this may be considered both necessary and inappropriate.</p> <p>Distinguish between civil and constitutional rights, and between those rights explicitly in the constitution and subsequently interpreted from it</p> <p>Examples of effective and ineffective rights protection, especially since the ‘war on terror’ and the infringements upon rights this has created</p> <p>Comparison to UK reviewing the constitutional role of each court, their impact on public policy and the extent of their power within the political system.</p> <p>Worked examples of how rational, cultural and structural theory can be applied to the UK comparison</p>	<p>Classroom debates with group taking varying sides in the four key debates (ACT)</p> <p>Identification of five key political and judicial cases, with analysis of why the Supreme Court should and should not have intervened in each case (A02) (ACT)</p> <p>Assess whether the Supreme Court can be defended in a democracy (ACT)</p> <p>Evaluate the role and importance of Antonin Scalia given his view of constitutional interpretation (EXT)</p> <p>Short essay analysing which country better protects the independence of the Court (AT – 12)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating whether the advent of conservative activism spells the end for the living constitution (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 6</p>
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	6.2.8 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.			
17	<p><i>US Supreme Court and civil rights</i></p> <p>4.5 Race and rights in contemporary US politics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The methods, influence and effectiveness of racial rights campaigns and the impact on current domestic policy: voting rights, affirmative action and representation. 	<p>Overview of the political history of race relations in the USA, including both African Americans and Hispanics.</p> <p>Examples of groups that have fought for equality of race and the effectiveness of their campaigns and the ensuing policy</p> <p>Review of the inequalities which remain today and the extent to which they have attempted to overcome them but failed.</p>	<p>Creation of overlapping timelines showing the changes in African American and Hispanic relations (ACT)</p> <p>Case study of one interest group from African Americans and Hispanics showing their methods and influence (ACT)</p> <p>Review the party policies towards minorities explain why the parties would act this way towards minorities (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the success minority participation in US government and politics today (AT – 30)</p>	<p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 7</p> <p>Singh, <i>Governing America: The Politics of a Divided Democracy</i>, Chapter 24</p>

18	<p>US Supreme Court and civil rights</p> <p>4.6 Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The successes and failures of measures to promote equality, including affirmative action and immigration reform. • How effectively civil and constitutional rights have been upheld by the Supreme Court and the effectiveness of this protection. <p>6.2.7 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Supreme Courts and civil rights and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectiveness of the protection of rights in each country • effectiveness of interest groups in the protection of civil rights in the USA and the UK. 	<p>Review the varying measures which have been enacted to ensure equality from desegregation and affirmative action (including Supreme Court cases) as well as immigration reform including recent actions such as DAPA and DACA</p> <p>Effectiveness of the role of the Court in using judicial review to protect rights and the limitations of this power.</p> <p>Comparison with the UK evaluating which country is more effective given the constitutional guarantees and location of sovereignty in each country</p> <p>Debates over the roles of interest groups to be the vehicle for upholding rights, including their ability to bring cases to the Court and influence the Court directly, as well as advancing rights through the other branches of government</p>	<p>Create a graph timeline showing success and failure of actions over time designed to promote equality (ACT)</p> <p>Case study of one key constitutional right showing the associated legislation and Supreme Court rulings which either help or hinder this right (ACT)</p> <p>Explain the relationship between the Supreme Court and sovereignty (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating whether the Supreme Court have been the key defenders of constitutional rights in the US system of government (AT – 30)</p> <p>Short essay analysing the impact of judicial review in the UK and US (AT – 12)</p>	<p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 3</p>
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18	6.2.8 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.	Worked examples of how rational, cultural and structural theory can be applied to the UK comparison		
19	<p>US Congress</p> <p>2.1 The structure of Congress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicameral nature, the membership of Congress and the election cycle. <p>2.1.1 The distribution of powers within Congress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> powers given to Congress in the Constitution, the exclusive powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress. <p>2.2 The functions of Congress.</p> <p>2.2.1 Representation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congressional elections and the significance of incumbency. Factors that affect voting behaviour within Congress: parties and caucuses, constituency, pressure groups and lobbyists. 	<p>Review the changing nature of the membership of Congress including the most recent to a previous Congress, focussing on representation of women, minorities and age amongst other factors.</p> <p>Review of the Constitutional powers of congress and comparison over which House is arguable more powerful.</p> <p>The congressional election timeline and explanation of factors which affect election to Congress including incumbency</p> <p>Key factors which affect voting behaviour, including examples, such as party, constituents and lobbyists</p> <p>Definition of caucuses in Congress and examples of their role and power</p>	<p>Create a graph breakdown of the last five Congress' by age, gender, ethnicity and other significant factors (ACT)</p> <p>Venn diagram of powers given to the House of Representatives and Senate including power exercised by both (ACT)</p> <p>Review the number of times Congress has been divided since 1900 either by House or between President and Congress; what patterns are evident? (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the success at Congress in fulfilling the functions of a representative democracy (AT – 30)</p>	<p>Bowles & McMahon, <i>Government & Politics of the United States</i>, Chapter 6</p> <p>http://www.house.gov/ www.senate.gov</p> <p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 14</p> <p>The Congressional Research Service produces excellent guides to the membership of each Congress</p> <p>MSNBC's 'Inside Congress' is an excellent documentary for this topic</p>

20	<p>US Congress</p> <p>2.2.2 Legislative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legislative process including the strengths and weaknesses of this process. • The differences between the legislative process in each chamber. • The policy significance of Congress – impact and effectiveness of laws passed. <p>2.2.3 Oversight.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors that influence the relationship between Congress and the presidency. • The checks on the other branches of government and the extent of its institutional effectiveness. 	<p>Overview of the legislative process within each House from introduction to presidential action.</p> <p>Review the impact that Congressional law has once passed – the limitations of Congress on a national stage.</p> <p>Key factors affecting the relationship such as the timing of the election cycle, the party control of each branch and the poll ratings.</p> <p>Checks on the President and the Supreme Court, both Constitutional and implied and the factors that determine whether these checks will be effective</p>	<p>Create a flow chart showing the variety of routes a bill can go through in becoming a law (ACT)</p> <p>Outline the top five reasons a bill is more likely to ‘die’ than pass Congress and give examples (ACT)</p> <p>Watch SchoolHouse Rocks ‘I’m Just a Bill’ – is this an accurate explanation of the legislative process? (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating whether congressional power only extends to the power over domestic policy (AT – 30)</p>	<p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 15</p> <p>Lowi & Ginsberg, <i>American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)</i>, Chapter 5</p> <p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 14</p>
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21	<p>US Congress</p> <p>2.3 Interpretations and debates around Congress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing roles and powers of Congress and their relative importance, and debates about adequacy of its representative role. • Changing significance of parties in Congress. • Significance and effectiveness of the powers outlined in the Constitution. <p>6.2.3 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US legislative branches and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • powers, strengths and weaknesses of each of the Houses • the extent to which each of the Houses are equal. <p>6.2.4 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	<p>Review of the role and power of Congress since 1992, as a comparison to the President's over this time.</p> <p>Review its membership figures as a comparison to national demographics but also the legislation passed which helps or hinders demographic sectors.</p> <p>Comparison of powers of Congress to Parliament, Lords to Senate and Commons to Representatives, and the relative strengths and weaknesses in each of the key functions of the legislature – legislative, representation and oversight</p> <p>Worked examples of how rational, cultural and structural theory can be applied to the UK comparison</p>	<p>Comparison chart showing the powers and limitations of each of the two Houses in Congress and Parliament (ACT)</p> <p>Timeline graph to show the changing amount of power Congress has to exercise over an eight year presidential term (ACT)</p> <p>'The Lords and Senate are only effective in times of weak government majorities'. Discuss (EXT)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating whether parties remain an important force in Congress carrying out its functions (AT – 30)</p> <p>Short essay analysing whether the Lords or the Senate is more effective in providing scrutiny (AT – 12)</p>	<p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 5</p>
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22	<p>US Federalism</p> <p>1.3 The main characteristics of US federalism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of the federal system of government and its relationship with the states. <p>1.4 Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The debates around the extent to which the USA remains federal today. <p>6.2.1 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Constitutions and the resulting impact on politics and government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the similarities and differences between the US federal system and the UK system of devolution. 	<p>Definition of federalism as compared to devolution and explanation of the direction in which power flows</p> <p>What powers the Constitution reserves to the States and to the Federal Government</p> <p>Examples of areas in which the US is federal e.g. death penalty, marijuana, civil age limits, etc.</p> <p>Example of controversies between the federal and state government and debate over where the balance of power lies</p> <p>How the changing nature of devolution in the UK since 1997 can be likened to and delineated from federalism in the USA</p> <p>Worked examples of how rational, cultural and structural theory can be applied to the UK comparison</p>	<p>Case study of one area of public policy in which the states seem to have control, showing the developments of this policy over time and the clashes it has caused with government (ACT)</p> <p>Who is more sovereign, legally and/or politically, Texas or Scotland? (ACT)</p> <p>What would happen if the DEA decided to crack down on marijuana possession in the USA today? (EXT)</p> <p>Short essay analysing the location of political sovereignty in the UK and US (AT – 12)</p> <p>Long essay evaluating the extent of federalism in the USA today (AT – 30)</p>	<p>McKeever & Davies, <i>Politics USA (3rd Edition)</i>, Chapter 3</p> <p>Lowi & Ginsberg, <i>American Government: Power & Purpose (Brief 12th Edition)</i>, Chapter 3</p> <p>Duncan Watts, <i>Understanding: US/UK Government & Politics, a Comparative Guide (2nd Edition)</i>, Chapter 7</p>
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