

KAA Curriculum Overview		History	Year 12 Politics Paper 3	EOY Exam	Sequencing and Progression		
Rationale <i>Give an overview of what students are studying this year and why. Link directly to your overall curriculum intent.</i> The USA has been considered by some to be a 'beacon of democracy'. As a world power, understanding the nature of US democracy, and the debates surrounding it, is crucial given the considerable impact that the USA has on UK, European and global politics. Students will explore the US Constitution and the arguments surrounding this guiding document of US democracy. In learning about the key institutions of government in the USA and analysing the manner in which they achieve this power and exercise it over their citizens, students will judge ultimately whether 'liberty and justice for all' has been achieved in the USA. Students will be expected to highlight the debates on the nature of democracy in the USA and evaluate the extent to which it remains an issue. The impact of the US government on the world beyond its borders is increasingly a feature of international politics. Students will begin to engage with this interaction by comparing and contrasting politics and institutions in the US with those in the UK. This will develop a wider understanding of politics as a discipline, underpinned by the theoretical concepts of comparative politics.				<i>What content and skills will be assessed in the EOY exam?</i> Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Congress • Executive • Supreme Court • US Democracy and Participation • Comparative Approaches Question types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine... (12) • Analyse... (12) • Evaluate... (30) Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A01: Knowledge and Understanding • A02: Analysis • A03: Evaluation <i>Link to model exam papers here.</i> Model exam papers link		<i>How does this year build on what they've learnt last year?</i> Course is a mirror of the students' Y12 studies (constitution, parliament, executive and relations between branches) so links made to course themes throughout. Students are actively asked to compare systems as part of their final assessment.	<i>How will it benefit them as they move forward next year?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success at A-level • Awareness and understanding of political processes
Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Sum 1	Sum 2	
Link to MTP Overview	Autumn overview link						
Topic studied & Fertile Question	1. Is the US Constitution still effective? 2. Is congress working effectively?	2. Is congress working effectively? 3. Is the Presidency working effectively?	3. Is the Presidency working effectively? 4. Is the Supreme Court too powerful?	5. Is the Supreme Court too powerful? 6. Are elections in the US Fair?	6. Are elections in the US fair? EoY revision		
Adjustments following last assessments / evaluation.	Reviewed federalism to allow students to develop a deeper understanding of what the aims and intentions of what federalism is and how we can evaluate whether the system is working for the US.						

Key knowledge and skills students need to have gained by the end of the unit

The main characteristics of US federalism. • The nature of the federal system of government and its relationship with the states. Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism. • The extent of democracy within the US Constitution, its strengths and weaknesses and its impact on the US government today. • The debates around the extent to which the USA remains federal today. The structure of Congress. • Bicameral nature, the membership of Congress and the election cycle. 2.1.1 The distribution of powers within Congress: • powers given to Congress in the Constitution, the exclusive powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress. 2.2 The functions of Congress. 2.2.1 Representation. • Congressional elections and the significance of incumbency. • Factors that affect voting behaviour within Congress: o parties and caucuses, constituency, pressure groups and lobbyists. 2.2.2 Legislative. • 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. 2.2.3 Oversight. • 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.

2.3 Interpretations and debates around Congress. • 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. 3.1 Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use. • The role as the Head of State and as the Head of Government. The significance of these powers with reference to presidents since 1992. 3.2 Informal sources of presidential power and their use. • 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.

3.3 The presidency. 3.3.1 Relationships between the presidency and the following institutions and why this varies: • Congress and the Supreme Court. 3.3.2 Limitations on presidential power and why this varies between presidents: • 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. 3.4 Interpretations and debates of the US presidency. • 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. 4.1 The nature and role of the Supreme Court. • The US Constitution. • The independent nature of the Supreme Court. • The judicial review process (Marbury vs Madison 1803 and Fletcher vs Peck 1810). 4.2 The appointment process for the Supreme Court. • Strengths and weaknesses of the process. • Factors influencing the president’s choice of nominee. • The current composition and ideological balance of the Court.

4.3 The Supreme Court and public policy. • 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. 4.4 Race and rights in contemporary US politics. • The methods, influence and effectiveness of racial rights campaigns and the impact on current domestic policy: voting rights, affirmative action and representation 4.5 Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights. • 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. • The successes and failures of measures to promote equality, including affirmative action and immigration reform. 5.1 Electoral systems in the USA. 5.1.1 Presidential elections and their significance. • 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. 5.1.2 Campaign finance. • The role of campaign finance and the current legislation on campaign finance, including McCain-Feingold reforms 2002 and Citizens United vs FEC 2010.

5.2 The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties. 5.2.1 The distribution of power and changing significance of the parties: Democrats • progressive attitude on social and moral issues, including crime • greater governmental intervention in the national economy • government provision of social welfare. Republicans • 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. 5.2.2 The current conflicts and tendencies and the changing power and influence that exist within the parties. • Democrats: liberals, moderates and conservatives. • Republicans: moderates, social conservatives and fiscal conservatives. 5.2.3 Coalition of supporters for each party. • Voters: how the following factors are likely to influence voting patterns and why, in relation to one recent presidential election campaign (since 2000) – race, religion, gender and education. 5.3 Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy. • The influence, methods and power of at least one single interest group, professional group or policy group. 5.4 Interpretations and debates of US democracy and participation, including: • advantages and disadvantages of the electoral process and the Electoral College and the debate around reform • the role of campaign finance and difficulty in achieving effective reform • the role of incumbency in elections • 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>How is understanding assessed at the end of the unit?</p> <p>Question types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examine... (12) ● Analyse... (12) ● Evaluate... (30) <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A01: Knowledge and Understanding ● A02: Analysis ● A03: Evaluation 	<p>Class essay: Evaluate the view that the system of Federalism works effectively in the US.</p> <p>Class comparative: Analyse the differences the constitutional amendments process in the US and UK</p>	AP4 essay	<p>Class essay: Evaluate the view that congress performs its scrutinising function well.</p> <p>Class comparative: Examine the ways in which the structure of the US and UK cabinet are different.</p>	AP5 essay and comparatives	<p>AP6 essay and comparatives</p> <p>Full paper 3 practice in class (2x essays, 2x comparatives)</p>	