



and separated; relationships between the centre and periphery; federal, devolved and unitary constitutions; constitutional reform; contemporary issues associated with constitutions and their reform								
<b>Topic 2 - Elections</b>								
<b>Why is the use of Primaries and Caucuses important?</b>								
Functions of elections: representation, participation, accountability, legitimacy, direct, indirect and representative democracy. The nominating process including primaries, caucuses and national party conventions								
<b>What are the key features of the election campaign?</b>								
The general election campaign including the role of parties, and factors influencing the campaign and voting behaviour; the Electoral College.								
<b>What is the voting behaviour during congressional elections?</b>								
Congressional: Factors influencing the campaign and voting behaviours; issues concerning incumbency, redistricting and gerry mandering								
<b>Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK elections?</b>								
Electoral systems, candidate selection procedures; conduct of general election campaigns; issues concerning the media and campaign finance; theories of voting behaviour; issues concerning representation, participation and democracy; contemporary issues associated with elections and voting behaviour								
<b>Topic 3- The legislature</b>								
<b>What is Congress ?</b>								
<i>Functions of legislatures; representation, participation and accountability. Membership; leadership; committees</i>								
<b>What is the role of the two main parties in Congress?</b>								
<i>the legislative process; role of political parties;</i>								

<p><b>How do Congress check and balance the President?</b></p> <p><i>oversight of the executive; factors influencing voting in Congress</i></p>								
<p><b>Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK legislatures?</b></p> <p><i>Functions; internal organisation; the role and power of second chambers; Role of political parties within; Role of legislators as delegates or representatives; The relationships with the executive and judicial branches of government; Contemporary issues concerning representation, accountability, sovereignty and effectiveness</i></p>								
<p><b>Topic 4 – The Presidency</b></p>								
<p><b>How powerful is the President?</b></p> <p>Functions of executives; powers of the President; presidential policy-making (both domestic and foreign)</p>								
<p><b>Is the EXOP or Cabinet more powerful?</b></p> <p>cabinet; Executive Office of the President; problems of the coordination of the Executive Branch; relations with Congress; theories and practice of presidential power</p>								
<p><b>Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK executive?</b></p> <p><i>Election, power and functions of chief executives; issues concerning the organisation of executives– as presidential, or prime ministerial, and cabinet government; issues concerning the efficiency of executives in carrying out the functions of executives; formulation and implementation of domestic and foreign policy; relationships with the legislative and judicial branches of government; contemporary issues concerning the role and power of executives; authority and accountability</i></p>								
<p><b>Topic 5 – Parties and Pressure Groups</b></p>								
<p><b>How have parties ideologically changed in the past 50 years?</b></p> <p>Roles and functions: representation, participation. Philosophy, ideology and policies of the two major parties: Social democracy / Liberalism / New Deal Democrats, Reagan and Republican Revolutions (1990s), New Right &amp; Neo-conservatism</p>								

<p><b>To what extent do third parties matter?</b></p> <p>the dominant ideology and end of history theses, Third way, New Democrats &amp; Compassionate Conservatism. The role and impact of third parties; party renewal and decline</p>								
<p><b>Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK parties?</b></p> <p>Content: Power within political parties; two-party, multi-party and dominant-party systems; issues concerning the role of ideology in political parties; the debate concerning the decline of political parties and the rise of candidate and issue centred politics; current political issues in the UK and US;</p>								
<p><b>Why do some pressure groups succeed more than others?</b></p> <p>Roles and functions; types; methods used; examples of, and reasons for, success or failure;</p>								
<p><b>What are the theoretical perspectives behind pressure groups?</b></p> <p>implications for the democratic process; issues concerning power and influence. Corporatism / elitism / pluralism / New Right views.</p>								
<p><b>Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK pressure groups?</b></p> <p>current political issues in the UK and US; the function and power of pressure groups in a modern representative democracy; contemporary issues associated with parties and pressure group</p>								
<p><b>Topic 6 – Supreme Court and Rights</b></p>								
<p><b>How are Supreme Court members appointed?</b></p> <p><i>Functions of judiciaries; the rule of law and judicial independence. Membership; appointment process;</i></p>								
<p><b>What is judicial philosophy?</b></p> <p><i>issues concerning judicial review, accountability and democratic control;</i></p>								

<p><i>theories and practice of judicial activism and judicial restraint; effectiveness.</i></p>								
<p><b>How well does the Supreme court uphold the rights granted in the Constitution?</b></p> <p>the role of the Court in the development of the rights of states and individuals, and of deciding other constitutional issues</p>								
<p><b>What are the basic examples of cases where race etc has been defended?</b></p> <p>Concerning race, religion, gender, freedom of speech and expression; the role of institutions and of the Constitution in defending rights; current issues associated with rights and liberties</p>								
<p><b>How well have recent courts protected the rights of individuals?</b></p> <p><i>Concerning race, religion, gender, freedom of speech and expression; the role of institutions and of the Constitution in defending rights; current issues associated with rights and liberties.</i></p>								