



<p>Synoptic - How do the constitutions of different countries compare?</p> <p>-The sources, nature and role of constitutions; parliamentary</p>								
<p>and separated; relationships between the centre and periphery; federal, devolved and unitary constitutions; constitutional reform; contemporary issues associated with constitutions and their reform</p>								
<b>Topic 2 - Elections</b>								
<p>Why is the use of Primaries and Caucuses important?</p> <p>Functions of elections: representation, participation, accountability, legitimacy, direct, indirect and representative democracy. The nominating process including primaries, caucuses and national party conventions</p>								
<p>What are the key features of the election campaign?</p> <p>The general election campaign including the role of parties, and factors influencing the campaign and voting behaviour; the Electoral College.</p>								
<p>What is the voting behaviour during congressional elections?</p> <p>Congressional: Factors influencing the campaign and voting behaviours; issues concerning incumbency, redistricting and gerrymandering</p>								

<p>Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK elections? Electoral systems, candidate selection procedures; conduct of general election campaigns;</p> <p>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</p>								
<b>Topic 3– The legislature</b>								
<p>What is Congress ?</p> <p>Functions of legislatures; representation, participation and accountability. Membership; leadership; committees</p>								
<p>What is the role of the two main parties in Congress?</p> <p>the legislative process; role of political parties;</p>								
<p>How do Congress check and balance the President?</p> <p>oversight of the executive; factors influencing voting in Congress</p>								
<p>Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK legislatures?</p> <p>Functions; internal organisation; the role and power of second chambers; Role of political parties within; Role of legislators as delegates or representatives;</p>								

The relationships with the executive and judicial branches of government; Contemporary issues concerning representation, accountability, sovereignty and effectiveness								
<b>Topic 4 – The Presidency</b>								
How powerful is the President?  Functions of executives; powers of the President; presidential policy-making (both domestic and foreign)								
Is the EXOP or Cabinet more powerful?  cabinet; Executive Office of the President; problems of the coordination of the Executive Branch; relations with Congress; theories and practice of presidential power								
Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK executive?  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								
<b>Topic 5 – Parties and Pressure Groups</b>								

<p>How have parties ideologically changed in the past 50 years?</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>To what extent do third parties matter?</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>Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK parties?</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;</p> <p>current political issues in the UK and US;</p>								
<p>Why do some pressure groups succeed more than others?</p> <p>Roles and functions; types; methods used; examples of, and reasons for, success or failure;</p>								
<p>What are the theoretical perspectives behind pressure groups?</p>								

implications for the democratic process; issues concerning power and influence. Corporatism / elitism / pluralism / New Right views.								
Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK pressure groups?  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								
<b>Topic 6 – Supreme Court and Rights</b>								
How are Supreme Court members appointed?  Functions of judiciaries; the rule of law and judicial independence. Membership; appointment process;								
What is judicial philosophy?  issues concerning judicial review, accountability and democratic control;								
theories and practice of judicial activism and judicial restraint; effectiveness.								
How well does the Supreme court uphold the rights granted in the Constitution?  the role of the Court in the development of the rights of states and individuals, and of deciding other constitutional issues								
What are the basic examples of cases where race								

etc has been defended?  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								
How well have recent courts protected the rights of individuals?  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.								