A Level Politics:

The aim of politics at A level is to develop political awareness and knowledge, allowing students to navigate, understand and challenge current affairs in the wider world. Students will corroborate, challenge, and analyse current events and concepts to shape their own world view. This will be done through an in depth look at Politics in both the UK and US, allowing students to understand both systems and draw lines of comparison between them. The subject is inclusive, allowing all students, regardless of need or background, to access the knowledge and skills required to flourish. At KNGS, we follow the Edexcel Politics specification, 9PLOA.

Year 12: How democratic is the UK? In Year 12, students look in-depth at UK Politics through the lenses of politics and government. Students also build knowledge linked to dominating ideologies that underpin politics. Students quickly understand and build on core political knowledge such as types of democracy and where it lies in the UK. Paper 1 and 2 are covered in Year 12, with a focus on nationalism as a non-core ideology because of the rise in the new right and right leaning ideologies in recent years. Paper 1 and 2 are interleaved together to build on concepts covered rather than paper by paper, as students need to be aware of the constitution and Parliament (Paper 2) to understand electoral systems and parties (Paper 1).

Year 13: Are the rights of all truly protected in the US? In Year 13 focus shifts from the UK as core knowledge to the US. Comparisons are drawn between the branches of government in both systems and democracy and wider participation. Year 12 core knowledge is regularly interleaved in lessons to help with the comparative element of Paper 3. The Paper is taught in the order of the Constitution- starting with the Constitution due to its sovereign nature, then Congress, then President, then Supreme Court and finally democracy and participation. This allows students to build understanding of elements that join across branches e.g., federalism and voting.

Assessment and Homework: Homework is set on the first double of the week (reading or podcasts to build current events understanding), the second double of the week (research or revision) and the single (ideologies or revision for Year 13). Students are regularly assessed with weekly quizzes based on previous knowledge and understanding, a weekly Politics League Quiz for current affairs and through mini whiteboards in lessons. Students have at least one formal assessment each half term- this can be one singular question or a full paper. Students enter quiz marks and formal assessments into trackers at front of exercise books. Assessments are done in a mixture of in books, through teams and exam style (booklet). Each lesson ends with an exam plan, meaning students are regularly planning in detail or concisely exam questions.

Key terms Y12: democracy, sovereignty, uncodified, pluralist democracy, devolution, checks and balances, fusion of powers, judiciary, core executive

Key terms Y13: republic, codified, separation of powers, checks and balances, electoral college, judiciary, executive

	Topic	Content	Rationale
	Year 12		
Autumn 1	Paper 1 Democracy and Participation	1. Democracy in the UK 2. Wider franchise 3. Group Politics 4. Rights in the UK	Best topic to start with as introduces key concepts like democracy, devolution, and rights
Autumn 1 & 2	Paper 1 Core Ideology: Liberalism	1. Key thinkers 2. Core Ideas 3. Branches	Ideologies are taught in a single lesson, to ensure it is woven throughout and not tagged on at the end.
Autumn 1	Paper 2 Constitution	1. Nature and sources of Constitution 2. Reforms 3. Devolved bodies 4. Further reform debates	Democracy interleaved here due to nature of constitution (Two Pillars)
Autumn 2	Paper 2 Parliament	1. Structure and role of Commons and Lords 2. Power and functions 3. Legislative process 4. Parliament checking executive	Democracy and group politics (influence of pressure groups recapped)
Spring 1 & 2	Paper 1 Core Ideology: Conservatism	1. Key thinkers 2. Core ideas 3. Branches	
Spring 1	Paper 1 Political Parties	1. Principles of parties 2. Established three main parties 3. Emerging and minor parties 4. Party content in the UK	Group Politics, parliament topic and wider franchise recapped in study of parties.
Spring 1	Paper 1 Electoral Systems	1. Different electoral systems 2. Referendums and how used 3. Electoral analysis and impact on UK 4. Case studies of three elections	Constitutional reforms recapped and devolution due to voting systems and impact on regions
Spring 2 & Summer 1	Paper 1 Core Ideology: Socialism	1. Key thinkers 2. Core ideas 3. Branches	
Spring 2	Paper 1 Voting Behaviour	1. Case studies of three elections 2. Impact of demographics 3. Impact of party and wider campaigns 4. Impact of media	Case studies are kept the same as the elections to allow comparison and parity.
Spring 2	Paper 2 Prime Minster	1. Structure role and powers of the executive 2. Ministerial responsibility and cabinet 3. PM and cabinet 4. Powers and case studies of three PM	Parliament recapped here.
Summer 1	Paper 2 Branches – Supreme Court and EU	1. Role and composition Supreme Court 2. Powers of Supreme Court 3. Structure and aims of EU 4. Historical look at impact on UK Politics	Rights in context recapped and built on in this topic
Summer 2	Paper 2 Non-Core Ideology: Nationalism	1. Key thinkers 2. Core ideas 3. Branches	

	Year 13		
Autumn 1	Constitution	1. Nature of US Constitution 2. Principles 3. Federalism 4. Compare to UK Constitution (all comparisons include the three lenses to compare: structural, rational, and cultural)	In the specification federalism is a separate topic. This is integrated within the topics- a key focus in the constitution and linked back throughout to maintain the need-to-know federalism and the relationships between federal government and the states.
Autumn 1 & 2	Congress	1. Structure of Congress 2. Powers of Congress 3. Legislative process and oversight 4. Comparison to UK Parliament	Topics are done in order that they appear in the Constitution. Congress is Article I
Autumn 2 & Spring 1	President	1. Formal powers 2. Informal powers 3. Relationship with other branches 4. Imperial vs Imperiled 5. Comparison to UK PM	
Spring 1 & 2	Supreme Court	1. Nature and role of SCOTUS 2. Appointment process 3. Public Policy 4. Protection of rights 5. Comparison to UK Judicial system	
Spring 2	Democracy and Participation	1. Electoral systems 2. Campaign finance 3. Democratic and Republican parties 4. Voting behaviour and Interest Groups 5. Comparison to UK Democracy and participation, finance, voting behaviour and parties	This has been ordered last, as elections, aspects of finance, parties and voting behaviour already get briefly covered in previous topics. This serves to tie everything together.