

De Lisle College Curriculum

“Rooted and grounded in Love”.

A Level Politics



Intent – ‘Rooted and grounded in Love’

Intent – Rooted

The A Level Politics curriculum develops knowledgeable, analytical and politically literate students who understand how power, democracy and government operate in both the United Kingdom and the United States. Through the study of political institutions, ideologies and contemporary issues, students learn to think critically, evaluate evidence and construct balanced arguments. The comparative study of UK and US politics broadens students' understanding of different democratic systems, preparing them for higher education, active citizenship and informed participation in public life.

As a Catholic school, our curriculum is underpinned by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, encouraging students to evaluate political ideas and decisions through the lens of human dignity, the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity and social justice. Students are challenged to consider how political systems can promote human flourishing, protect the most vulnerable and encourage responsible participation in society, enabling them to become compassionate, reflective and engaged citizens committed to justice and the common good.



Politics

Year 12



De Lisle College
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Curriculum Outline

Link to Catholic Social Teaching:

Catholic Social Teaching is woven throughout the study of UK Politics and Core Political Ideas by encouraging students to evaluate political institutions, ideologies and public policy through principles such as human dignity, the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity and the preferential option for the poor. Students explore democracy, participation, electoral systems and the role of political parties and pressure groups while considering how these promote justice, protect individual rights and enable citizens to contribute to the common good. The study of UK government also provides opportunities to reflect on accountability, the rule of law and the responsible exercise of power.

Students examine the core ideologies of conservatism, liberalism and socialism, critically evaluating how each addresses equality, freedom, authority and social responsibility. Catholic Social Teaching provides an ethical framework through which students can compare these political ideas, encouraging thoughtful discussion about the balance between individual rights and social responsibility, the role of the state in supporting the vulnerable, and how political decisions can promote human flourishing and a more just society.

Advent 1	Democracy and Participation in the UK / Liberalism	Advent 2	Electoral Systems / Conservatism
Description	Democracy and Participation – including What is Democracy, Democratic reform, history of rights in the UK, Suffrage political participation and the role of pressure groups. Liberalism - the principles of individual freedom, rights, equality before the law and limited government. Students explore the differences between classical and modern liberalism through the ideas of thinkers including John Locke, John Stuart Mill, and Betty Friedan.	Description	Electoral Systems – How elections are conducted in the UK, the strengths and weaknesses of different voting systems, and electoral reform. Conservatism - including the key principles of tradition, authority, individual responsibility and gradual change. It values such as strong institutions, the family and the state, and the importance of providing stability and social order. Students study the development of conservatism from traditional to New Right ideas, including the work of thinkers such as Edmund Burke, Thomas Hobbes, and Ayn Rand.

Lent 1	Voting behaviour and the media / Socialism	Lent 2	The constitution and parliament
Description	Voting Behaviour and the Media – Factors influencing voting decisions, the role of the media, opinion polls and the impact of digital campaigning. Socialism – including the key principles of equality, social justice and cooperation. The course examines the role of the state in providing public services and addressing economic inequality. Students study both fundamental and revisionist socialism through the ideas of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Anthony Crosland.	Description	The UK Constitution – Sources of the constitution, constitutional reform, devolution, sovereignty and the rule of law. Parliament – The structure, roles and powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords, the legislative process, parliamentary scrutiny and the relationship between Parliament and the executive.
Pentecost 1	Political parties / Prime minister and the executive	Pentecost 2	Feminism / Relations between branches
Description	Prime Minister and Executive – The roles, powers and responsibilities of the Prime Minister, Cabinet and wider executive, including their relationship with Parliament and their role in policymaking and governance. Political Parties – The history, policies, organisation and electoral performance of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, alongside emerging parties.	Description	The Judiciary – The role of the Supreme Court, judicial independence, civil liberties and the relationship between the courts and government. Feminism – covers the key ideas of the causes of gender inequality and advocates for political, social and economic equality between men and women. Students explore the key strands of liberal, socialist and radical feminism, considering different perspectives on the state, society and the causes of women's oppression. The course introduces the ideas of key thinkers including Mary Wollstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millett, and bell hooks, enabling students to evaluate how feminist ideas have shaped political thought and contemporary debates on equality, rights and representation.

Politics

Year 13



De Lisle College
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Curriculum Outline

Link to Catholic Social Teaching:

Catholic Social Teaching complements the study of US Politics by encouraging students to evaluate American political institutions and contemporary issues through the principles of human dignity, the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity and social justice. As students examine the US Constitution, federalism, Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court, they consider how political power is distributed, how rights and freedoms are protected, and how democratic institutions promote accountability and participation. The study of civil rights, democracy and public policy also provides opportunities to reflect on the dignity of every person, the protection of the vulnerable and the pursuit of justice.

The comparative element of Paper 3 enables students to contrast the UK and US political systems while considering how different constitutional arrangements seek to balance liberty, equality and effective government. Catholic Social Teaching encourages students to critically evaluate how both systems contribute to the common good, promote responsible citizenship and respond to social, economic and ethical challenges, fostering informed, reflective and compassionate future citizens.

Advent 1	US constitution / US supreme court	Advent 2	US congress / US democracy and participation
Description	The US Constitution – The principles of the US Constitution, including federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, constitutional rights, and the processes for constitutional interpretation and amendment. The US Supreme Court – The role, powers and significance of the Supreme Court, including judicial review, the protection of constitutional rights, and its relationship with the other branches of government.	Description	The US Congress – The structure, roles and powers of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the legislative process, scrutiny of the executive, and the effectiveness of Congress. US Democracy and Participation – Elections, political parties, pressure groups, voting behaviour, campaign finance, civil rights, and the factors influencing political participation in the United States.
Lent 1	US presidency	Lent 2	Revision
Description	The US Presidency – The constitutional and political powers of the President, the relationship with Congress and the Supreme Court, leadership of the executive branch, and the factors affecting presidential effectiveness.	Description	
Pentecost 1	Revision	Pentecost 2	COURSE COMPLETED
Description	/	Description	/