

Politics and Participation

1. Values underpinning democracy	Rights, responsibilities, freedoms, equality, rule of law
2. Concept of democracy	What does democracy mean?
	Democratic and non-democratic – monarch, totalitarian, dictatorship, federal.
	Different forms of democracy – representative, classical, liberal, direct.
3. The British Constitution	Magna Carta – roots of the BC
	Its uncodified, unwritten and flexible nature
	Comparison with the US constitution
4. Institutions of the British Constitution	Government vs Parliament – differences
	Government roles and responsibilities
	PM and cabinet
	Opposition
	Monarch/Head of State
	Law making process – roles of legislature
	Political parties**
	Citizens active role in democracy
	Judiciary, police and civil service
5. Executive, legislature and judiciary	Difference between executive, legislature, judiciary, monarchy.
	Nature of bicameral Westminster parliament
	Roles and relationships between HoC, HoL and the role of the monarch – <i>building on and showing a deeper understanding of the knowledge acquired for the first part of the unit.</i>
6. How Parliament works	Scrutinising government, making it accountable; parliamentary questions, committees and debates.
	Role of MPs – representing their constituencies, debating policy and scrutinising legislation.
	Ceremonial roles – Black Rod Parliamentary roles – the Speaker, whips, front bench and back bench MPs.
	Legislative process; parliamentary debates and deliberation of public issues and policy. <i>Review law-making process.</i>
	Formation of government – political party with the majority or a coalition of parties.
	Roles and powers of PM, cabinet and ministers.
	Organisation of government administration into departments, ministers and agencies – review the role of the civil service.
7. Budgeting, taxes and the chancellor pg. 113	How public taxes are raised and spent by government locally and nationally.

	Budgeting & managing risk – how governments use to manage complex decisions regarding public funding.
	Differing viewpoints on how the government makes provision for welfare, health, elderly and education. How do they ensure value for money?
8. Voting in the UK pg. 111	Who can stand for election and how are candidates selected?
	Who can and cannot vote? Lowering the voting age and prisoners voting.
	Voter turnout, voter apathy and suggestions for increasing voter turnout. Compulsory voting, electronic voting, changing election day and hours, 100% postal voting.
9. Voting systems pg. 121	First past the post – how it is used throughout the UK. Benefits and negatives of FPTP.
	Proportional and non-proportional voting systems
	Other voting systems used in the UK – advantages and disadvantages of each.
10. Regional and devolved government pg. 106	Devolved government in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales
	How powers are organised between CG and devolved government.
	Difference between devolved and federal system
	Changing relations between the four home nations – ‘English votes for English laws?’ and the Scottish demand for independence.
11. Local Government pg. 102	Role and structure
	Services provided by local government
	Roles and accountability of local councillors
12. Democratic and non-democratic political systems (outside the UK) pg.144	What makes a democratic system? Comparison between how citizens can participate in democratic and non-democratic systems.
	Case study USA vs North Korea – what are the key differences?
13. **Political parties in the UK pg. 129	What are the major political parties in the UK, how do they operate and what do they stand for?
	Key ideological differences – looking at left and right wing politics.
14. How do others govern themselves? pg. 143	Electoral systems used in European elections – impact on composition of political parties representing EU citizens.
	Transnational party groupings in EU parliament.
15. How can citizens bring about political change? pg. 149	Citizen’s contribution to parliamentary democracy and holding those in power to account.

	How can citizens participate? What is the impact if they don't?
16. E-media and democracy	Other than elections, how can citizens hold those in power to account? How digital democracy and social media are being developed as a means to improve voter engagement and political participation. What are the positive and negative aspects of e-democracy?
Action to bring about political change pg.152 <i>Links to Active Citizenship project next unit)</i>	Joining interest groups/political parties, standing for election, campaigning, advocacy, lobbying, petitions, joining a demonstration or volunteering. Case studies. Roles played by public institutions, interest and pressure groups, voluntary groups.