



3) How different pressure groups exert influence and how their methods and influence vary in contemporary politics.								
Case studies of two different pressure groups, highlighting examples of how their methods and influence vary.								
Other collective organisations and groups including think tanks, lobbyists and corporations, and their influence on government and Parliament.								
4) Major milestones in the development of rights including the significance of Magna Carta and more recent developments, including the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010.								
Debates on the extent, limits and tensions within the UK's rights-based culture, including consideration of how individual and collective right may conflict, the contributions from civil liberty pressure groups – including the work of two contemporary civil liberty pressure groups.								
<b>Topic 2 – Political Parties</b>								
1)The functions and features of political parties in the UK's representative democracy.								
How parties are currently funded, debates on the consequences of the current funding system.								

2) The origins and historical development of the Labour Party, and how this has shaped their ideas and current policies on the economy, law and order, welfare and foreign policy.								
The origins and historical development of the Conservative Party, and how this has shaped their ideas and current policies on the economy, law and order, welfare and foreign policy.								
The origins and historical development of the Liberal Democrat Party, and how this has shaped their ideas and current policies on the economy, law and order, welfare and foreign policy.								
3) The importance of other parties in the UK								
The ideas and policies of two other minor parties (UKIP and the SNP)								
4) The development of a multi-party system and its implications for government.								
Various factors that affect party success – explanations of why political parties have succeeded or failed, including debates on the influence of the media								
<b>Topic 3 – Electoral Systems</b>								
1) First-past-the-post (FPTP), Additional Member System (AMS), Single Transferable Vote (STV) Supplementary Vote (SV).								

The advantages and disadvantages of these different systems.								
Comparison of first-past-the-post (FPTP) to a different electoral system in a devolved parliament/assembly.								
2) How referendums have been used in the UK and their impact on UK political life since 1997.								
The case for and against referendums in a representative democracy.								
3) Debates on why different electoral systems are used in the UK.								
The impact of the electoral system on the government or type of government appointed.								
The impact of different systems on party representation and of electoral systems on voter choice.								
<b>Topic 4 – Voting Behaviour and the Media</b>								
1) Case studies of three elections (one from the period 1945– 92, the 1997 election, and one since 1997), the results and their impact on parties and government								
The factors that explain the outcomes of these elections, including: the reasons for and impact of party policies and manifestos, techniques used in their election campaigns, and the wider political context of the elections o class-based voting and								

<p>other factors influencing voting patterns, such as partisanship and voting attachment o gender, age, ethnicity and region as factors in influencing voting behaviour, turnout and trends</p>								
<p>.Analysis of the national voting-behaviour patterns for these elections, revealed by national data sources and how and why they vary</p>								
<p>2) The assessment of the role and impact of the media on politics – both during and between key general elections, including the importance and relevance of opinion polls, media bias and persuasion.</p>								