<u>US government and Politics</u>

Mark on how confident you are with each topic and what you need to do, use this as a checklist for your revision notes and then to keep track of the topics you have revised. Tick and date once you have completed the tasks.

Topic ROVISO! Key topic 1: The constitution	How I could teach	I? I would need to look at my notes	I don't know	What do I need to do to improve my understanding – create a mind map, write revision note cards, use online tests, attempt some practice question papers, read and highlight my notes OR What questions do I need to ask from someone who can help me?	I have made my revision notes on this topic	I have revised this topic	I am confident on this topic	Evidence
What are the origins of the constitution?		Ī					I	1
The making of the constitution;								
What principles underpin the constitution?								
The importance and evolution of its underlying principles								
What kind of government is set out in the constitution?								
separation of powers and checks and balances the rule of law and constitutional rights								
What is the Bill of Rights?								
The rule of law and constitutional rights								
Is the constitution in need of reform?								
Constitutional amendments; the process of amendment and the need for reform								
What is federalism?								
Federalism, its features and development								
Synoptic - How do the constitutions of different countries compare?								
-The sources, nature and role of constitutions; parliamentary								

and separated;											
relationships between the centre and periphery; federal,											
devolved and unitary constitutions;											
constitutional reform; contemporary issues associated with											
constitutions and their reform											
Topic 2 - Elections											
Why is the use of Primaries and Caucuses important?											
Functions of elections: representation, participation,											
accountability, legitimacy, direct, indirect and representative											
democracy.											
The nominating process including primaries, caucuses and											
national party conventions											
What are the key features of the election campaign?											
The general election campaign including the role of parties,											
and factors influencing the campaign and voting behaviour;											
the Electoral College.											
What is the voting behaviour during congressional											
elections?											
Consumational Factors influencies the committee and veting											
Congressional: Factors influencing the campaign and voting behaviours; issues concerning incumbency, redistricting and											
gerry mandering											
gerry mandering											
Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the											
US/UK elections?											
Electoral systems, candidate selection procedures;											
conduct of general election campaigns;											
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											
Topic 3– The legislature											
What is Congress ?											
Functions of legislatures; representation, participation and											
accountability.											
Membership; leadership; committees											
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What is the role of the two main parties in Congress?											
the legislative process;											
role of political parties;											

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How do Congress check and balance the President?								
oversight of the executive; factors influencing voting in Congress								
Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the US/UK legislatures?								
Functions; internal organisation; the role and power of second chambers;								
Role of political parties within; Role of legislators as delegates or representatives; The relationships with the executive and judicial branches of								
government; Contemporary issues concerning representation, accountability, sovereignty and effectiveness								
Topic 4 – The Presidency		•					•	
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								
Topic 5 – Parties and Pressure Groups								
How have parties ideologically changed in the past 50 years?								
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 & Neo- conservatism								
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To what extent do third parties matter?						
the dominant ideology and end of history theses, Third way, New						
Democrats &						
Compassionate Conservatism. The role and impact of third parties; party renewal and decline						
Synoptic - What are the differences/similarities of the						
US/UK parties?						
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;						
current political issues in the UK and US;						
Why do some pressure groups succeed more than						
others?						
Dalag and functional types mathed as the de						
Roles and functions; types; methods used; examples of, and reasons for, success or failure;						
examples of, and reasons for, success of failure,						
What are the theoretical perspectives behind pressure						
groups?						
groups:						
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						
group						
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Topic 6 – Supreme Court and Rights						
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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;			<u> </u>			

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.					