

Politics A Level

Transition work year 11 to 6th form

US Politics

If you have chosen this subject then you presumably have an interest in the goings-on in Washington. It will be helpful for you to familiarise yourself with the key people and events in current US Politics by reading/watching/listening to news and analysis. Some recommended places (with a range of political bias so read CRITICALLY!) to start are:

BBC News: [US politics - BBC News](#)

The New York Times: [The New York Times - Breaking News, US News, World News and Videos \(nytimes.com\)](#)

The Washington Post: [The Washington Post - Breaking news and latest headlines, U.S. news, world news, and video - The Washington Post](#)

National Review: [National Review: Conservative News, Opinion, Politics, Policy, & Current Events](#)

Fox News: [Politics | Fox News](#)



If you are on Instagram, follow @sospolitics for regular updates and breakdowns of current affairs in UK and US Politics



If you are not yet on X, I recommend you start an account and follow the above news websites as well as @whitehouse @POTUS @pressSec @SpeakerJohnson

Sign up for and listen to the following podcasts:



Task One: How much do you know about US Politics? Complete the quiz below with any answers you already know in **BLUE, adding answers you had to research in **RED**.**

- 1) Name the last 4 US Presidents _____
- 2) Who was the Democratic and Republican nominee for president in the last presidential election in 2024? _____
- 3) Presidential elections are held every _____ years? The next election is in _____
- 4) In what month do presidential elections take place? _____
- 5) The President is part of which branch of government? _____
- 6) How long can a president serve? _____
- 7) Who was the only President to resign whilst in office? _____
- 8) If the President dies in office who takes over? _____
- 10) How many judges are in the Supreme Court? _____
- 11) Who appoints Supreme Court justices? _____, who approves these appointments? _____
- 12) Who is the Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court? _____
- 13) What is the collective name for the two houses that make up the legislative branch of government? _____
- 14) Who is the speaker of the House of Representatives? _____
- 15) How many members are there in the House of Representatives? _____
- 16) How many members are there in the Senate? _____
- 17) What type of government does the USA have? _____
- 18) What type of constitution does the USA have? _____
- 19) How many articles does the US Constitution consist of? _____
- 20) How many amendments have there been to the US Constitution? _____



21) What amendment to the US constitution protects gun ownership for US Citizens?

22) Which branch of government can declare laws unconstitutional? _____

23) Who is currently the Vice President of the United States? _____

24) Who is currently the Secretary of State? _____

25) Which branch of government can start impeachment proceedings against the president?

26) How many states do you think have the death penalty? _____

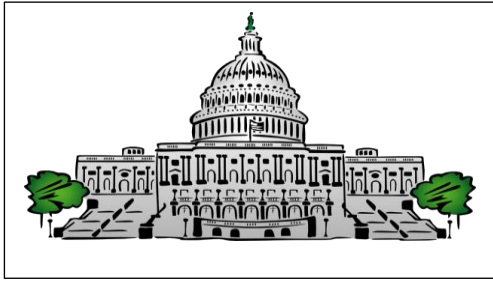
27) What was the main issue in the landmark case Roe V Wade? _____

28) What percentage of Congress are i) Women _____ ii) black _____ iii) Hispanic _____

29) Two REPUBLICAN candidates who ran for presidential nomination in 2024

30) Circle which terms you think are associated with US Politics

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Affirmative action | <input type="checkbox"/> EXOP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fusion of powers | <input type="checkbox"/> Devolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive order |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backbencher | <input type="checkbox"/> GOP | <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Activism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pork barrelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Invisible Primary | <input type="checkbox"/> Constituency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral College | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minority government | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hung Parliament | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caucus | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partisanship | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tactical voting | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gridlock | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proportional Representation | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Cabinet | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compulsory Voting | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Log Rolling | | |



Task Two: Now find out more about US History and the background to the US Constitution (which you will be studying as the first unit of the course).

Complete the timeline below

Year	Event
1775	Revolutionary War begins (the 13 Colonies revolt against the _____)
	Declaration of Independence written and approved by the Continental Congress
1781	Revolutionary _____ ends (the British lose) The Continental Congress agrees on the Articles of Confederation March 1, Continental Congress is replaced by the Congress of the Confederation
1783	Britain recognizes the independence of the _____ (Treaty of Paris)
1787	US Constitution written at the Constitutional _____ in Philadelphia, PA [May 25 - Sept. 17]
1788	US Constitution ratified by 9 _____; it becomes the supreme law of the USA
1789	George Washington elected first _____ of the USA March 4, The first Congress met (in New York, NY, then the nation's capital)
1790	First Supreme _____ assembled; the Chief Justice was John Jay Dec., US capital moves to Philadelphia
1791	The Bill of _____ (first 10 amendments) added to the Constitution
1800	US capital moves to _____, District of Columbia
1802	Marbury v. Madison - the first time that the court found that a law was unconstitutional (John Marshall was Chief Justice)
1861	Abraham Lincoln elected _____ Civil War begins (Fort Sumter)

	Civil War ends (Lee surrenders to Grant) Amendment 13 - Slavery abolished Abraham Lincoln assassinated
1868	Amendment 14 - Rights of citizenship to all people born in the _____ or naturalized
1870	Amendment 15 - Gives the right to vote to all citizens, regardless of color or race, but women are not mentioned
1913	Amendment 16 - Income tax begins
1920	Amendment 19 - Women's suffrage (women are given the right to _____)
1971	Amendment 26 - Voting age lowered to _____
1992	Amendment 27 - Congressional pay increases go into effect only during the next Congressional session

And finally, a few films, TV shows and documentaries on the subject of US Politics which will accompany your learning and might stimulate your interest...

Knock Down the House (Documentary)

RBG (Documentary)

Becoming (Documentary)

The West Wing (Drama)

Designated Survivor (Drama)

Madame Secretary (Drama)

Enjoy your summer and email me at H.Jordan@hughfaringdon.org if you have any questions!

