



# Politics at Parkstone

# What will I learn?

Areas of Study: Year 12

## **UK Politics Unit**

Students will study 4 politics topics within this unit:

- Democracy and Participation
- Electoral Systems
- Political Parties
- Voter Behaviour

## **UK Government Unit**

### **Section A: UK Government**

Students will study 4 topics within this unit:

- The Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and the Executive
- Relations between the Branches of Government

Summer Term: Students will begin to study their Core Political ideas such as Conservatism/ Liberalism and Socialism

Areas of Study: Year 13

## **US Politics:**

Year 13 will focus on American politics and will draw comparisons between the American Systems and the British Systems looked at in Year 12. The core topics are:

- The US Constitution and federalism
- US Congress
- US Presidency
- US Supreme Court and US civil rights
- US democracy and participation
- Comparative theories.

Non-Core Political ideas:

Students will also study feminism as their political idea

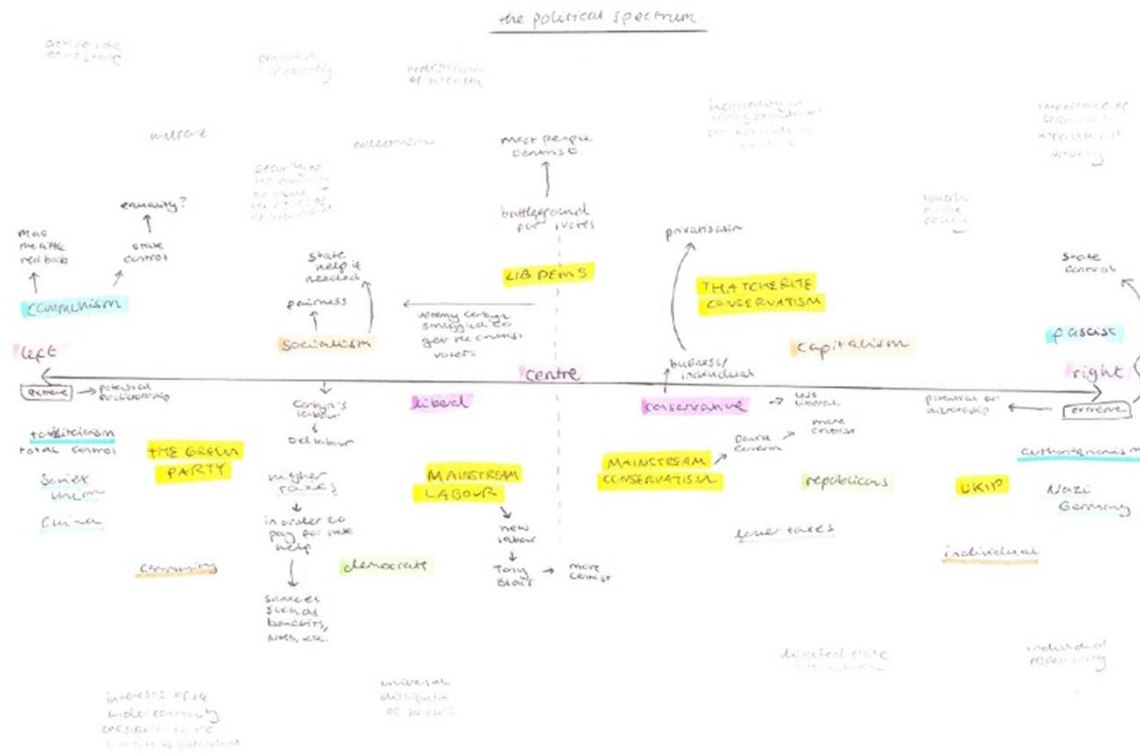
# How will I be taught?

Students will be taught in a range of ways including:

- ▶ Teacher led activities and Q+A
- ▶ Watching an engaging with news and current affairs
- ▶ Graphs and Diagrams to draw and analyse
- ▶ Debates and discussion feature heavily
- ▶ Listening to politics podcasts
- ▶ Group/ Pair work
- ▶ Guided Reading activities



# Examples of students work



## TONY BLAIR 1997 - 2007

### RISE TO POWER:

- Blair was privately educated and went on to study law at Oxford and became a barrister, he then became involved in politics
- He was first elected as MP for Sedgefield in 1983, he was appointed to the frontbench in 1988 and became shadow home secretary in 1992
- He became leader of the opposition following his election as shadow party leader in 1994
- In 1997, he won an as tight landslide general election in its history

Party	Seats	Gain	Loss	Vote share
Labour	418	145	0	43.2
Conservative	165	0	278	30.7
Liberal Democrat	48	30	2	16.8
Other	20	8	2	9.1

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### PERSONALITY:

- Tony Blair was extremely good with the media, he gained support from many newspapers that were previously conservative supporters - it was even alleged that Blair was godson to Rupert Murdoch's child
- Blair appeared to have labour and conservative supporters - he could relate to the average man, but was also well educated and diplomatic
- He chose a presidential style of going to Downing

### POLITICAL POWER / CHALLENGE:

- Blair's labour party dominated parliament - they had a huge parliamentary majority (418 seats following the 1997 election!!!)
- They had large support from the public (approach to those + very voters)
- He chose a presidential style of government leadership, which was helped by his charisma and popularity - Blair famously said about John Major "I lead my party, he follows his"
- Blair convinced people individually rather than as a whole cabinet - Blair was known as the "top government" and believed there needed to be a strong centre of power for cabinet to exercise properly
- Cabinet meetings were short and most of a summary of policy that had already been decided beforehand - not an big policy discussions
- Blair didn't see cabinet as a good place to make important decisions or debates - cabinet was not very powerful - Blair made his closest advisors were much more powerful
- Blair was close to Thatcherite with his chancellor Gordon Brown.

### POLITICAL AGENDA:

- Blair shifted the labour party from the left towards the centre - he coined the term "new labour" to show he shift in the party
- He supported the "third way" which reads many views of labour such as social justice and distance itself from the labour views of socialism and ex-left perspectives
- Blair's charm smile helped him gain support from both labour supporters and Tories.
- In 2001, Blair said "we are a left of centre party, parting economic prosperity and social justice as partners and not opposites"
- Blair wanted to strengthen the economy following John Major, impose constitutional reform and committed to the government and the EU - Blair remained trade union influence in the party and wanted the reform to come!

# Where can I go with Politics?

- Law
- Politics and Civil Service
- Business
- Advertising/ Publishing
- Social Media Marketing
- Journalism
- Economics
- Market research
- Community work
- Teaching
- Academia