

THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF THE UK-UNIT 1

Topic/Content	Objectives/skills	Homework	Assessment	Success criteria	Stretch & Challenge (Thirst for Learning)
The nature and sources of the British Constitution Weeks 1-3	<p>Students should develop awareness of the significance of the following historical documents to the development of rights in the UK: Magna Carta (1215) Bill of Rights (1689) Act of Settlement (1701) Parliaments Acts (1911 and 1949) European Communities Act (1972).</p> <p>Students should analyse and evaluate: the nature and sources of the British constitution contemporary legislation and current issues regarding rights issues and debates around recent constitutional changes debates about the extent of rights in the UK two examples of constitutional changes since 1997, such as the establishment of devolved legislative bodies in constituent countries of the UK, the introduction of a Freedom of</p>	Essay –Analyse and evaluate arguments in favour of the UK adopting a codified constitution(Home based essay)	<p>1)Explain and analyse the significance of three sources of the British constitution. [9 marks]</p> <p>2) ‘Despite their weaknesses select committees play an increasingly central role in British Politics.’ Analyse and evaluate this statement. [25 marks]</p> <p>3)There are many factors that can give the prime minister power over cabinet colleagues.’ Analyse and evaluate this</p>	A Level Grades A*-E	<p>Activity page 40 in Lynch,Fairclough and Cooper –Comparison with other non UK constitutions.</p> <p>Case study page 45 on parliamentary sovereignty. Activity page 54 on New Labour 1997 and 2010 and constitutional reform. Watch a session of Prime Ministers Question Time.</p> <p>Using the website www.parliament.uk/business/committees Identify the chairs of UK Select Committees.</p> <p>Activity page 140 on ministerial resignations.</p>

	Information Act, adoption of the Human Rights Act, changing composition of the House of Lords areas where individual and collective rights are in agreement and where are in conflict.		statement(25 marks)		Activity on Prime Ministerial success criteria page 145.
The structure and role of Parliament Weeks 4-6	<p>Students should analyse and evaluate: scrutiny of the executive and how effective scrutiny of the executive is in practice parliamentary debate and the legislative process Commons Lords</p> <p>theories of representation - Burkean, delegate, mandate theories the roles and influence of MPs and peers the significance of Commons and Lords: work of committees role of the opposition the extent of Parliament's influence on government decisions: Party discipline enables the government to routinely outvote opposition government control of civil servants' appearances before Select Committees</p>	Evaluate the extent to which parliament is effective at carrying out its various functions(25 marks) Or: Case study on select committees page 103.			

	<p>membership of those committees is largely controlled by the Whips' offices.</p> <p>interactions of parliament and other branches of government.</p>				
<p>The Prime Minister and cabinet- Weeks 6-8</p>	<p>Students should analyse and evaluate:how policy is made the relationship between Prime Minister and cabinet the difference between individual and collective responsibility. Examples might include:resignation of Sir Thomas Dugdale – Crichel Down (1954) resignation of Iain Duncan Smith over Welfare Reforms (2016)</p> <p>two examples that demonstrate the power of the Prime Minister and cabinet to dictate events and determine policy making. One example must be from 1945–1997. The second example must be from 1997 to the present. Examples might include: introduction of poll tax (1990) invasion of Iraq (2003)</p> <p>government/parliament relations – accountability/interest.</p>	<p>Select one of the mid-length questions on page 157 in Lynch and Fairclough</p>			
