

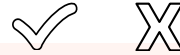
# CONSTITUTIONS

## SCHEME OF WORK

### HIGHER POLITICS

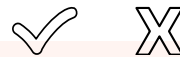
### POLITICAL SYSTEMS

#### INTRO VIDEO



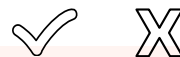
This short video introduces the concept of constitutions and discusses the concepts of codified and uncoded constitutions using relevant examples. Constitutional arrangements are linked to the political concept of democracy.

#### TASK 1



Six key historic documents task: Pupils access the pdf entitled, 'Historical documents in the UK Constitution'. They undertake independent research into the Magna Carta, Bill of Rights, Act of Settlement, Acts of Union and Parliaments Act. Hyperlinks are provided in the pdf. **CAS link: Constitutional arrangements - the origins and development of the constitutional arrangements.**

#### TASK 2



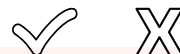
Sources of the UK Constitution task: Pupils read pages 44-49 from the pdf entitled 'Chapter 3 'UK Government and Politics''. The pdf entitled 'Questions on the Sources of UK Constitution' should be consulted. The pdf contains questions on the sources of the UK Constitution. **CAS link: Constitutional arrangements - the origins and development of the constitutional arrangements.**

#### TASK 3



Principles underpinning the UK Constitution task: Independent reading task, pages 41-44 from the pdf entitled 'Chapter 3 'UK Government and Politics' A 15 question quiz follows. **CAS link: Constitutional arrangements - key underlying principles.**

#### TASK 4



Unitary and Federal Systems comparison task: Pupils consult the pdf entitled, 'Federal and Unitary States – Britannica Online Encyclopaedia with the purpose of identifying the key differences between the two types of state and the impact on constitutional arrangements. Pupils can make their own notes, or make them online using [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com). Accounts are free. If using canva, pupils should search for the template 'Idea Book Brainstorm' and add in the main features of Federal and Unitary states by editing the brainstorming template: **CAS link: Constitutional Arrangements - the type and nature of the constitutional approach, key underlying principles & the origins and development of the constitutional arrangements.**

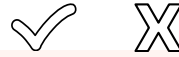
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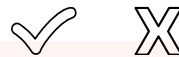
### POLITICAL SYSTEMS

#### TASK 5



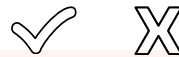
Constitutional amendments task: Pupils consult the pdf entitled, 'Constitutional Amendments LSE Article'. Pupils should consider the following questions: 1. According to Prof. Cram, how easy is it to make constitutional amendments in the UK? 2. What benefits might this bring? 3. What does the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act, 2011, reveal about the ability and ease with which constitutional change may occur in the UK? **CAS link: Constitutional Arrangements - the flexibility and adaptability in each system.**

#### TASK 6



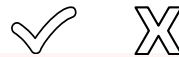
Constitutional reform task: Pupils should access the pdf entitled, 'Constitutional Reform Research Task' and carry out some independent research into the seven examples provided. Hyperlinks are included as a prompt. This task could also be a group task with the research load shared among pupils. **CAS link: Constitutional Arrangements - the flexibility and adaptability in each system.**

#### TASK 7



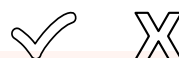
The protection of individual rights task: Pupils read the pdf entitled, 'Democratic Audit analysis'. Pupils should identify examples of instances where the UK constitution has protected individual rights or has had limited impact in protecting individual rights. Relevant case studies and/or examples should be noted. Pupils can use canva again to create engaging notes. Pupils can search for 'infographics', 'book report', 'presentations' etc to create notes in a format that suits the individual. **CAS link: Constitutional arrangements - the position of the judiciary and the role of the constitution in safeguarding individual rights.**

#### TASK 8



Debate: Pupils may wish to organise a debate on the question, "Should the UK adopt a codified constitution?". Pupils read pages 57-60 from the pdf entitled 'Chapter 3 'UK Government and Politics' as a prompt. This may also be an interesting topic to explore for the Coursework aspect of the Higher Politics course. A poster is available should the debate need to be promoted in school. This can be found in the pdf entitled, 'Debate poster'. All of the tasks lead to this final discussion on the UK Constitution. **CAS link: Constitutional arrangements - the origins and development of the constitutional arrangements, key underlying principles, the flexibility and adaptability in each system, the position of the judiciary and the role of the constitution in safeguarding individual rights.**

#### TASK 9



Introduction to the US Constitution: Pupils will watch the short video, entitled, 'United States Constitution: An Overview'. A short quiz follows. **CAS link: Constitutional arrangements - the origins and development of the constitutional arrangements.**

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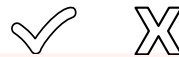
### POLITICAL SYSTEMS

#### TASK 10



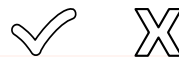
Amending the US Constitution: Pupils will watch the short Ted-Ed video by Peter Paccone, entitled, 'Why is the US Constitution so hard to amend'. A short quiz follows. **CAS link: *Constitutional arrangements - the flexibility and adaptability in each system.***

#### TASK 11



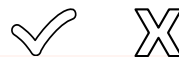
Federalism task: Pupils will watch the short 'US Law Essentials' video, entitled, 'What is Federalism'. A short quiz follows. **CAS link: *Constitutional Arrangements - the type and nature of the constitutional approach, key underlying principles & the origins and development of the constitutional arrangements.***

#### TASK 12



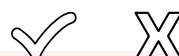
The US Supreme Court task: Pupils will watch the short video, entitled, 'The United States Supreme Court Explained In 2 Minutes'. A short quiz follows. **CAS link: *Constitutional arrangements - the position of the judiciary and the role of the constitution in safeguarding individual rights.***

#### TAKS 13



The Bill of Rights Task: Pupils will access the pdf, entitled, 'Bill of Rights -Britannica Online Encyclopaedia'. They should compare these individual rights with those contained in the Human Rights Act. **CAS link: *Constitutional arrangements - the position of the judiciary and the role of the constitution in safeguarding individual rights.***

#### TASK 14



The protection of individual rights task: Pupils will access the pdf, entitled, 'US Supreme Court Cases and Civil Liberties'. Pupils should make notes about each of the four cases. Each case should be described, linked to the constitution and an evaluation made about the way in which the judiciary was able/limited in its ability to safeguard individual rights. **CAS link: *Constitutional arrangements - the position of the judiciary and the role of the constitution in safeguarding individual rights.***

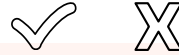
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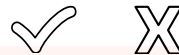
### POLITICAL SYSTEMS

#### TASK 15



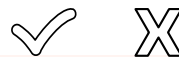
Comparative Analysis Video: Pupils will watch this video that draws together all of the concepts studied so far about the UK and US Constitutions. **CAS link: Constitutional arrangements - the origins and development of the constitutional arrangements, key underlying principles, the flexibility and adaptability in each system, the position of the judiciary and the role of the constitution in safeguarding individual rights.**

#### TASK 16



Source Question: Pupils will attempt the 2018 source question on the topic of constitutions. Pupils will have already accessed the explainer video on answering the 8-mark source question (see Democracy unit). Pupils can use the scaffolded writing frame if required. **Skills Link: comparing and contrasting different political systems, making generalisations, where appropriate, on the political process.**

#### TASK 17



Essay: Pupils attempt to answer the 20-mark essay question:

*There are significant differences between both the key features and the importance of constitutions. Discuss with reference to two political systems that you have studied. (20 marks)*

An approach is outlined in an essay writing frame.

**CAS link: Constitutional arrangements - the origins and development of the constitutional arrangements, key underlying principles, the flexibility and adaptability in each system, the position of the judiciary and the role of the constitution in safeguarding individual rights.**

**Skills Link: drawing on factual and conceptual knowledge of political systems, comparing and contrasting different political systems, making generalisations, where appropriate, on the political process and researching, analysing, evaluating and synthesising information from a wide range of political sources.**