

Students following the **Edexcel GCSE Citizenship Studies** course explore what it means to be an active citizen in the United Kingdom today. **Year 10** begins with **Theme A**, which examines identity and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students investigate diversity, immigration, and community cohesion, and finish the theme by exploring local democracy and how it operates in their own area. They then move on to the political organisation of the UK in **Theme B**, learning how elections work, how governments are formed, and how laws are made. **Year 11** starts with an in-depth study of the **legal system**. Students consider the key principles of law in a democratic society and learn how the justice system functions, including the roles of courts, judges, juries, and other key participants. They also examine how and why young people are treated differently within the legal process. Later in the year, students focus on the **UK's power and influence**, exploring how individuals, groups, and the nation can shape global events. This includes studying major international organisations such as the United Nations and NATO and evaluating the UK's role on the world stage. To bring their learning to life, students research, plan, and carry out a **Citizenship Action project**, demonstrating how citizens can create positive change. Assessment is continuous, with regular exam-style practice and two formal assessments—one in Year 10 and one in Year 11—to fully prepare students for their final GCSE examinations.

Year 10	Year 11
Theme A – Living Together in the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identity: What it means to be British, the devolved nations, Diversity: the census, diversity, multiculturalism, debates on migration and community cohesion. Democracy & Participation: Rights and duties including the Human Rights declaration, political and legal rights, British values including the Rule of Law. Local democracy- the council and funding. 	Theme C – How the Law Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of Law: equality, presumption of innocence, rule of law Sources of Law: Common and Statute Law, precedent Roles in the justice system: Magistrates, Judges, Jury, Special Constables, Judges, Police, legal representatives Criminal and Civil law: The difference between Civil and Criminal Law including courts and cases. Youth Justice: the differences in the youth justice system including court and sentencing. Punishment: The aims and types of punishments.
Theme B – Democracy at Work in the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political System: Elections and voting systems, organising a government, separations of power. Devolution: the relationship and powers given to the devolved nation. Constitution: Nature and sources of the uncodified constitution. Laws: the law-making process and parliamentary sovereignty Budget: the Chancellor of the exchequer, spending and income. 	Theme D – Power and Influence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The influence and power of people and groups: petitions, pressure groups, trade unions. The influence and power of the UK: international conflict and law, changes since Brexit, mediation, sanctions and war Key groups and organisations: UN, NATO, WTO, Commonwealth, ICC and ICJ.
Theme E – Taking Citizenship Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical Project: Plan, carry out and evaluate a citizenship action to influence change linked to the course. Skills Focus: Research, debate, campaigning, teamwork, reflecting on impact and evaluation. 	

Useful resources for supporting your child at home:

- Seneca is an online platform for homework and revision. <https://app.senecalearning.com/>
- Edexcel Past Papers <https://qualifications.pearson.com/>
- Pearson Revise <https://login.pearson.com>
- The news- keeping up to date with changes that relate to our topics e.g. the government.