

KS5 Politics Curriculum Overview:

Why have we chosen Edexcel A Level Politics?

The course is structured through enquiry questions within the topics which allows learners to be engaged in the subject matter and understand how the content is relevant to them. Edexcel has listened to feedback from the politics subject community, including higher education and redesigned the qualifications so that it reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving political environment in the UK and around the world. Thus, this is a qualification that enables students to apply themselves which would give them the skills to succeed. At level 4 (AS Level), students will study UK Politics and UK Government, which will give them a set of core knowledge and understanding of politics. Students will then develop this knowledge and understanding at A Level, and study three core political ideas and another from a choice of five. They then study global politics. Edexcel A Level Politics has also been chosen because, it is an established, familiar and the course I inherited when I joined the school. Each topic is fully detailed, providing a full range of breadth and depth to teach. The specification includes a broad range of relevant and contemporary ideas, institutions processes and issues to support learning about politics. The assessments in politics develop students' skills in critical thinking and analysis, using a variety of question type, sources and materials. Edexcel provide detailed guide for teachers and students on all the content including new content on political thinkers and their ideas, and approaches to global politics.

2. Course structure and how will students be assessed in their A-Level exams?

Year 12 and 13 (year plan)

Qualification at a glance

Content and assessment overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics consists of three externally-examined papers.

Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

Component 1: UK Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/01)
Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks
Content overview 1. Political Participation, students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. 2. Core Political Ideas, students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conservatism, liberalism, socialism.
Assessment overview Section A: Political Participation One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3. Section B: Core Political Ideas One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Component 2: UK Government (*Component code: 9PL0/02)
Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks
Content overview 1. UK Government, students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches. 2. Non-core political ideas, students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.
Assessment overview Section A: UK Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3. Section B: Non-core Political Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Topic name	When we teach the topic?
Component 1: Paper 1 (UK Politics: Political Participation-democracy and participation, political parties)	Year 12 (Term 1 – first half)
Component 1: Paper 1 (UK Politics: Political Participation-electoral systems and voting behaviour /media)	Year 12 (Term 1 – second half)
Component 1: Paper 1 (Core Political Ideas-conservatism, liberalism)	Year 12 (Term 1 – whole term)
Component 1: Paper 1(Core Political Ideas-(socialism)	Year 12 (Term 2 – whole term)
Component 1: Content overview/review and revision for mock exam	Year 12 (Term 3 – first half)
Component 2: Paper 2(UK Government: the constitution, parliament)	Year 12 (Term 3 – second half)
Component 2: Paper 2 (UK Government: Prime Minister and executive and relationship between branches)	Year 13 (Term 1 – first half)
Component 2: Paper 2 (Non-Core Political Ideas-Feminism and Nationalism)	Year 13 (Term 1 – second half)
Component 3: Paper 3(Global Politics: state and globalisation, comparative theories)	Year 13 (Term 2 – first half)
Component 3: Paper 3(Global Politics-political and economic governance)	Year 13 (Term2 second half)
Component 3: Paper 3 (Global Politics-human rights and environmental governance)	Year 13 (Term 3 – first half)
Component 3: Paper (Global Politics-Power and development	Year 13 (Term – second half)
Component 3: Paper 3(Global Politics-Regionalism and the EU)	Year 13 (Term 1 – whole term)
Paper 1,2 and 3 <u>revision</u> for Summer exams	Year 13 (Term 2 – whole term)
Component 2: Content overview/review and revision for mock exam	Year 12 (Term 3 – first half)

Component 3: Comparative Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/3A or 3B)
<p>Written examination: 2 hours</p> <p>33½% of the qualification</p> <p>84 marks</p> <p>Students study either USA (9PL0/3A) or Global (9PL0/3B)</p>

OR

For Global (3B) students will study:

- sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

Assessment overview for 3A and 3B

Section A

- One 12-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1 and AO2.

Section B

- One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories, which assesses AO1 and AO2.

Section C

- Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three, which assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

*See *Appendix 6: Codes* for a description of this code and all other codes relevant to this qualification.

3. How do we justify the order of our A-Level teaching plans?

There are two compulsory sections of component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas. This section explores the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK. Students investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. This section allows students to learn the new vocabulary, political terminology and political concepts appropriately. This section allows the students to understand the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens by creating a safe learning environment, where students are able to debate various contemporary political issues. In the Core Political Ideas section, students learn about the Conservatism ideology first, as it is of greater interest to the students due to the societal demographic; and it enables the students to debate how the core ideas and principles apply in practice to human nature, the state and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers. The next political idea taught is Liberalism; students can then make a link to Conservatism-neoliberalism/neo-conservatism/new right ideology and the Classical Liberalism-Modern Liberalism. Then Socialism, this is taught next because, the students have less interest in this ideology and they often find it challenging. At this stage of the course students would have developed their knowledge and understanding, by identifying parallels, connections, similarities and differences between content studied. This will further develop their skills in interpreting political information in relations to topic and content studied. Thus, creating and developing their understanding, critical analysis and evaluative skills in politics. In component 2 students' study and understand the nature of UK government, this enables the students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. It is also introducing students to the set of rules governing politics in the UK. Students also study two non-core political ideas these are feminism, this is because the class is equally divided girls/boys' ratio. The nationalism political idea, is taught to prepare the students for component 3: Global Politics. Topic 1-the state and globalisation. Further to the component 3: Global politics, the next topic taught would be; topic 6-comparative theories. Here the students will use their connectiveness and synoptic skills from component 1 and 2 for example the core and non-core political ideas. Overall, this benefits the students to enable them to excel in their exams.

4. Year 12 and Year 13 Topic outlines with justifications.

Topic name	Essential knowledge/concepts	Assessment
Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas (Paper1)	<u>Knowledge:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This section explores the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK.Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy.	See Assessment Plan for more information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifesto they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. • This section allows students to understand the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens. Students will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions. This component will further examine the role of the media in contemporary politics. This component will further examine the role of the media in contemporary politics. It will also give students an understanding of voting patterns and voting behaviour. • This section allows students to explore the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. <p><u>Content areas in UK Politics and Core Political Ideas:</u> Democracy and participation, political parties, Electoral systems, Voting behaviour and the media. Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism</p>	
Component 2: Government and Non-Core Political Ideas (Paper2)	<p><u>Knowledge:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, since it enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. The component also gives students a base of comparison to other political systems. • The component introduces students to set of rules governing politics in the UK, the UK constitution, which is different in nature from most of the world. It further introduces students to the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of the government-legislative, executive, and judiciary-as well as the relationships and balance of power between them, and considers where sovereignty now within this system. <p><u>Content areas in UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas:</u> The constitution, Parliament, PM and the executive, Relations between the branches. Feminism and Nationalism</p>	See Assessment Plan for more information
Component 2: Non-core Political Ideas (Paper 2)	<p><u>Knowledge:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This section allows students to explore two of the five additional political ideas. Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers. Students will be able to use their interpreting, critical analysis, synoptic and evaluative skills in this component. 	See Assessment Plan for more information

<p>Component 3: Global Politics (Paper 3)</p>	<p><u>Knowledge:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Global Politics students are given an opportunity to develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity. It also gives them the opportunity to explore the political issues that affect all of us. Students will gain understanding of abstract political concepts through grounding them in contemporary real-world examples and case studies that will develop an international awareness and knowledge of multiple perspectives. • Global politics encourages discussion and debate and requires students to study and present different global perspectives, as well as interpreting competing and contestable claims. The key mainstream perspectives on global politics are liberalism and realism, and students will be expected to understand how these perspectives are applied throughout all elements of the global politics content. • Students are expected to complete some independent investigation in A Level Politics provides learners with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and abilities which are applicable not only to study in Higher Education but also within the world of work and life, which, amongst others, include: • the structure and enquiry process • extended writing • innovation in investigating and presenting data • self-directed study • research techniques • making synoptic links between the real world, comparative political theory, the learners own research and the specification. <p><u>Concepts areas for Global Politics:</u> The state and globalisation, Comparative theories, Political and economic governance, Human rights and environmental governance, Power and developments, Regionalism and EU</p>	<p>See Assessment Plan for more information</p>
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