

AS and A level **Politics** 2017



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AS and A level Politics

Information on the changes for 2017 specifications

- First teaching September 2017
- First AS assessment Summer 2018
- First A level assessment Summer 2019



Agenda

- AS and A level reforms
- Our research and approach
- Our specification: structure, content and assessments
- Support and resources
- Next steps



Edexcel AS and A level in Politics

- Our qualifications are currently being reviewed by Ofqual. You can find copies of our draft specifications on our website at <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>
- Free support materials will include a Getting Started guide, course planner, schemes of work and mapping documents and these are on our website now in draft form.



Understanding power, people and ideas

- A familiar specification within a clear and coherent structure
- A wide range of engaging and contemporary issues to choose from
- Clear assessments for students of all abilities
- Free topic specific resources to help you deliver the qualifications
- Ongoing expert support



The A level reforms

- All new AS and A levels will be assessed at the same standard as they are currently
- All new AS and A levels will be fully linear
- AS levels will be stand-alone qualifications
- The content of the AS level can be a sub-set of the A level content to allow co-teachability, but marks achieved in the AS will not count towards the A level



The change timeline

Changes for AS and A level Politics

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Current specification	Summer series as normal	Summer series as normal	Final AS resit and A2 exams	Final A2 resit
New 2017 specification		First teaching of 1 year AS and 2 year A level	First AS level assessment	First A level assessment

- The last available assessment for the current AS and A levels be June 2018
- The reformed AS first assessment is 2018 and A level is 2019



The change timeline for Pearson's A level Politics

Date	Activity
11 August 2016	Submission of draft specifications and sample assessments to Ofqual (same date for all awarding organisations) Draft specifications and sample assessments available on the Pearson website and draft support materials
September onwards	Awarding organisations will work iteratively with Ofqual on any feedback The latest draft specifications and sample assessments will be made available on the Pearson website
September to October	Free face-to-face and online launch events to walk you through all the proposed changes
After accreditation	Accredited materials and final support materials available on the Pearson website
Spring 2017	Free face-to-face and online Getting Ready to Teach events to help you prepare for first teaching



Changes to all Politics qualifications

- Content
- Skills
- Assessment



Changes to all Politics qualifications - Content

- Comprehensive and thorough study of Politics, with new contemporary content, including voter behaviour, constitutional history and role of the media, as well as much more detailed content
- Content on the role of and key issues affecting the European Union
- Content on the key ideas and thinkers of the political ideas of Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism (and one other idea from a choice of five: nationalism, feminism, multiculturalism, ecologism, anarchism)
- A choice of content routes at A level with students studying either US Government and Politics or Global Politics, with comparative elements in both
- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504014/Politics_A_level_content.pdf



Changes to all Politics qualifications - Skills

Students are required to develop:

- knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally
- a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics
- knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups
- the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgments
- an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics



Changes to all Politics qualifications - Assessment

- The changes to the assessment requirements are:
 - Assessment objective ranges

Assessment objective		Weighting AS	Weighting A level
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.	40-50%	30-40%
AO2	Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences	30-40%	35-40%
AO3	Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions	20-30%	25-35%



Pearson's new AS and A level Politics qualifications

- Our approach and research
- Our key findings
- Our design principles
- Our changes
- Our model



Our approach and research



- Our ambition is to develop a Politics qualification that:
 - teachers will know and recognise
 - allows teachers to teach topics we know students will enjoy
 - keeps what teachers like about our current qualification and changes the bits that are less popular.
- We have worked with the teaching community, higher education and subject associations to design our new qualification
- We have had hundreds of conversations with teachers and other subject specialists as we developed our new qualification.



Our key findings

- Centres like with our current specification:
 - Our straightforward specification structure and detail
 - The range of content to study
 - Our unambiguous and clear questions which are accessible for all
 - It is a motivating and engaging course for students to take
- Centres have concerns around new DfE criteria:
 - The new content, including the political ideas thinkers and comparative theoretical approaches
 - The amount of content, and ensuring that the depth and breadth of what to teach is fully explained
 - The types of sources in the questions



Our design principles

- Structure – familiar structure, with ideas split to link with rest of the content
- Options – both USA and global politics options offered
- Level of detail – content setting out precisely the depth and breadth you need to teach
- Co-teachability – the AS and A level can be taught together



Our new AS and A level in Politics – Our changes

- A familiar specification within a clear and coherent structure
 - A specification that is familiar with a straightforward structure and components
- A wide range of engaging and contemporary issues to choose from
 - Includes a broad range of relevant and contemporary ideas, institutions, processes and events to support students' learning about Politics
- Clear assessments for students of all abilities
 - Assessments that develop students' skills in critical thinking and analysis, using a variety of question types, sources and materials
- Free topic specific resources to help you deliver the qualifications
 - Teacher and student guides for all the content, especially new content on political thinkers, their ideas, and approaches to comparative politics
- Ongoing expert support
 - Free events and training for teachers to understand and apply the mark schemes and standard



Our new AS level in Politics

Our model



Overview	Content	Assessment
Component 1 UK Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political Participation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Democracy and Participation○ Political parties○ Electoral systems○ Voting behaviour and the media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of short and long answer questions
Component 2 UK Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UK Government<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Constitution○ Parliament○ The PM and Government○ Relations between the branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of short and long answer questions



Our new A level in Politics

Our model

Overview	Content	Assessment
Component 1 UK Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political Participation• Core ideas (Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of short and long answer questions
Component 2 UK Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UK Government• Optional ideas (choose one from anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism and nationalism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of short and long answer questions
Component 3 Comparative Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Either US Govt and Politics or• Global Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of short and long answer questions



A level Component 1 UK Politics Overview

- “AS and A level specifications must develop knowledge and understanding of levels and types of political participation in the UK including...”
- “All specifications must offer all eight political ideas”



A level Component 1 UK Politics Content

- Political Participation
 - Democracy and Participation
 - Political parties
 - Electoral systems
 - Voting behaviour and the media
- Core ideas
 - Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism



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A level Component 1 UK Politics Assessment

- Worth 33%
- 2 hours
- 84 marks

- Section A
 - Two 30 mark essay questions from a choice of four
- Section B
 - Sampled from three core ideas
 - One 24 mark questions from a choice of two



A level Component 2 UK Government Overview

- “AS and A level specifications must develop knowledge and understanding of government in the UK, its institutions, their roles, powers and interrelationships including...”
- “A level specifications must require students to know and understand:
One from ecologism, anarchism, feminism, nationalism and multiculturalism”



A level Component 2 UK Government Content

- UK Government
 - The Constitution
 - Parliament
 - The PM and Government
 - Relations between the branches
- Optional ideas
- Students choose to study one from:
 - Anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism and nationalism



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A level Component 2 UK Government Assessment

- 33%
- 2 hours
- 84 marks
- Section A
 - Two 30 mark essay questions from a choice of four
- Section B
 - Sampled from three core ideas
 - One 24 mark questions from a choice of two



A level Component 3 Comparative Politics Overview

Comparative Politics: USA

- "...Students will also be required to know and understand key similarities and differences with the UK, and their impact...."
- "...three theoretical approaches to the study of comparative politics: structural, rational and cultural, including...the extent to which they explain these similarities and differences in the UK and USA"

Comparative Politics: Global Politics

- "...Students must also know and understand the ways and extent to which contemporary global issues, such as conflict, poverty, human rights and the environment, are affected by the content..."
- "...the divisions between realism and liberalism...an evaluation of the extent to which they explain recent developments in global politics"



A level Component 3 Comparative Politics Content

- Students choose either US Government and Politics or Global Politics

US Government and Politics	Global Politics
Constitution Congress Presidency Supreme Court Democracy and Participation Civil Rights	Theories of Global Politics Sovereignty and Globalisation Global governance – political and judicial Global governance – economic and environmental Power and developments Regionalism and the EU



A level Component 3 Comparative Politics Assessment

- 33%
- 2 hours
- 84 marks
- Section A
 - One 12 mark question from a choice of two
- Section B
 - One compulsory 12 mark question
- Section C
 - Two 30 mark essay questions from a choice of three



AS and A level co-teachability

- We have designed the AS and A level qualifications, so they can be co-taught.
- The same UK Politics and UK Government content forms the AS and A level, but at A level will need to be revisited and taught at greater depth
- The political ideas can be taught in last half term of Summer of Y12 and in the first half term of Y13, then go on to the comparative politics
- There is a course planner online for co-teaching UK and US content alongside each other over two years



Supporting great Politics teaching

Guides to ideas and key thinkers

Comparative theory guides

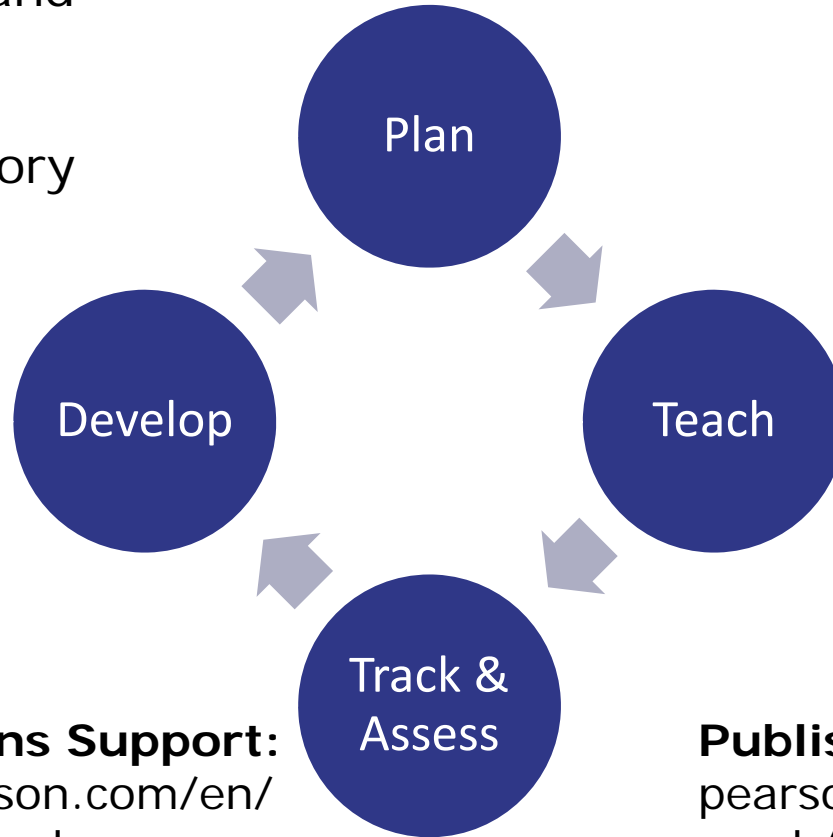
Textbook(s)

Getting started guide

Mapping

Course planners

Schemes of work



Free Qualifications Support:
qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html

Published resources:
pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/Secondary/SocialScience/GovernmentPolitics/GovernmentPolitics.aspx



Supporting you through the changes- Trusted expert support

- Comprehensive free support to help teachers plan, teach, track and assess
 - Getting Started Guide, course planners, schemes of work and mapping guides
 - Tailored support for the new content areas you told us you would like more support with (including the ideas, key thinkers and approaches to comparative politics)
 - Exemplar materials, specimen papers and ResultsPlus
- Free training events to help teachers prepare for the changes
 - Launch events to walk you through the draft specification and assessments, starting in July 2016
 - Getting Ready to Teach events, starting in spring 2017
- Expert support and guidance
 - Our subject advisor team will guide teachers through all the changes and are on hand to answer any questions.



ResultsPlus

- ResultsPlus provides the most detailed analysis available of your students' exam performance. This free online service helps you identify topics and skills where students could benefit from further learning, helping them gain a deeper understanding of Politics.



Published resources

- We are committed to helping teachers deliver our Edexcel qualifications and students to achieve their full potential. To do this, we aim for our qualifications to be supported by a wide range of high-quality resources, produced by a range of publishers.
- However, it is not necessary to purchase endorsed resources to deliver our qualifications.



Published resources

- Pearson's new AS and A level for Edexcel Politics 2017 resources* include:
 - Student Books
 - Teacher's Guides
 - Vocabulary Workbook
 - ActiveBooks
- This Student Book is also available as an ActiveBook and as an institutional ActiveBook subscription for multi-users in schools. There will also be a Kindle edition available
- These resources have not yet been endorsed.
- *You do not have to purchase any resources to deliver our qualification.



Other published resources

- We are working with a range of publishers who are looking towards getting their resources endorsed*.
- Hodder Education
- ZigZag

*These resources have not yet been endorsed. This information is correct as of 14 September 2016, but may be subject to change.

No paid-for products or services are required to deliver Pearson Edexcel qualifications.



Pearson is recruiting for Politics

- We have exciting opportunities to become an examiner for Politics and:
 - get closer to the qualification you are teaching
 - gain insight on National Standards
 - grow your career.
- To find out more please visit:
www.edexcel.com/aa-recruitment
- Email: aaresourcing@pearson.com



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Next steps

- Please complete your evaluation form for today's event.
- Sign up to subject advisor updates: email teachinggovernmentandpolitics@pearson.com
- Visit the website for support materials and sign up for updates:
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>



Questions?