

Edexcel A Level Politics Sample Assessment Materials (Issue 3) – minor update to AO2 level descriptors (February 2023)

This document is designed to provide teachers with information on minor amendments to a few of the AO2 level descriptors in the generic mark schemes.

Minor errors were picked up only after [Issue 3](#) of the Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) had been released. These amendments reflect the intended wording and will be applied to all A level Politics series from June 2023 onwards. If an Issue 4 is required, these amendments will be made to the SAMs at that point. No amendments are required to the AS level SAMs.

The amendments have no effect on the teaching or marking of the qualification.

Changes to be applied

Paper 1 UK Politics, questions 3a–3b (core ideas), pp.47,50

Paper 2 UK Government, questions 3a–7b (non-core ideas), pp.95, 98, 101, 104, 107,110, 113, 116, 119, 122

The Level 5 AO2 descriptor has been amended:

SAMs wording	Amended wording
Perceptive analysis of aspects of politics, with sustained, logical chains of reasoning making cohesive and convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).	Perceptive comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with sustained, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences , making cohesive and convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).

The core and non-core ideas questions involve comparative analysis; the text in blue bold has been added to be consistent with the equivalent AO2 descriptors for Levels 1–4.

Paper 3A Government and Politics of the USA, question 2 (comparative theories), p.151

The Level 1, 3 and 4 AO2 descriptors have been amended:

Level	SAMs wording	Amended wording
Level 1	Limited analysis of aspects of politics with partial, logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).	Limited comparative analysis of aspects of politics with partial, logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 3	Mostly focused analysis of aspects of politics with focused, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).	Mostly focused comparative analysis of aspects of politics with focused, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences within aspects of politics, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 4	Consistent analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences within aspects of politics, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).	Consistent comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences within aspects of politics, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).

This question involves comparative analysis; the text in blue bold has been added to be consistent with the equivalent AO2 descriptor for Level 2 and the AO2 descriptors on Paper 3B Global Politics, p.188.