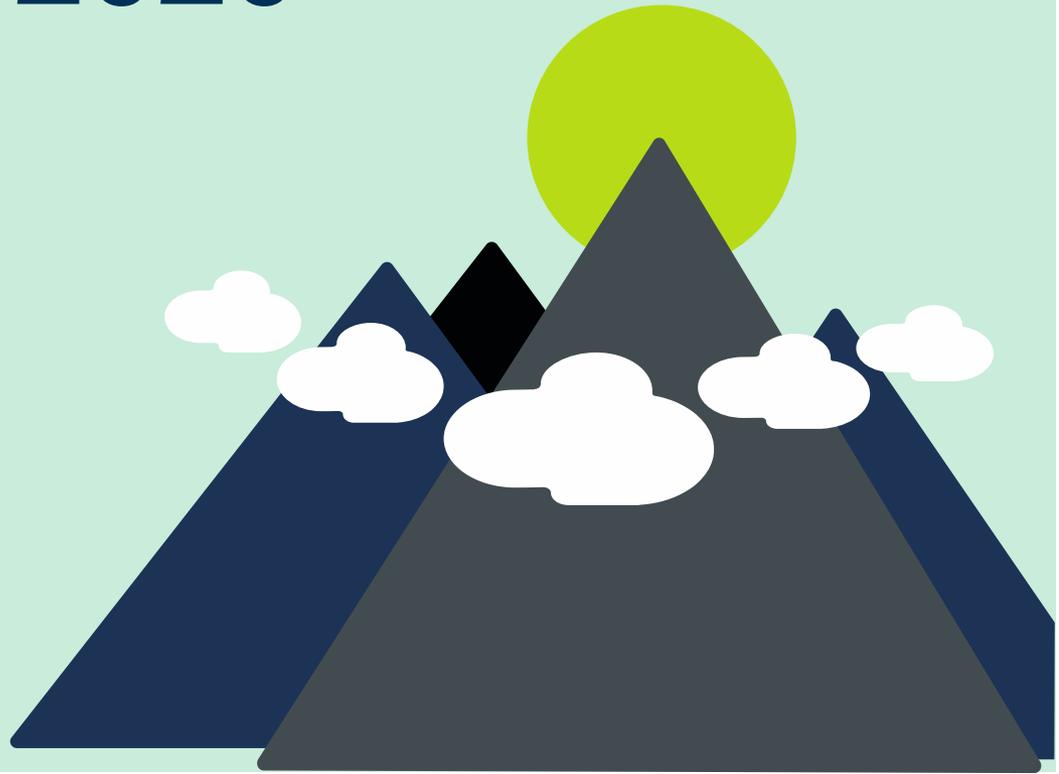


Pearson Edexcel Politics A Level online network 2 November 2020

First teaching in 2017

First assessment in 2019



Welcome – Aims of a network event...

- Unlike traditional training events, a network event is aiming to allow you as teachers to share and discuss your ideas.
- We are suggesting some areas to discuss and will begin the discussion but really we would like you to participate by using the group chat function.
- We hope that you have something to add to the debate on the many difficult issues we are facing at the current time.
- In an ideal world, our network events take place in person, where it is certainly easier to exchange ideas; alas, in the current circumstances, we will have to work hard to share our ideas using this online platform.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Ofqual update on 2021
3. Using autumn series for mocks
4. Back to school – how's it going so far and next steps
5. The benefits of AS level in 2021
6. How to use the LBMS to mark students' work
7. Help understanding AO3
8. Following current affairs – how to engage students
9. Where to find support

Ofqual update



Ofqual update on 2021

- After consultation, Ofqual decided that there would be no changes to the GCE Politics 2021 exam series.
- The exam series has been delayed by three weeks: DfE announcement [here](#).
- Provisional timetables on the Edexcel website [here](#).
For A level Politics:
 - Paper 1 – 10 June
 - Paper 2 – 17 June
 - Paper 3a & 3b – 24 June
- A level results are due to be published on Tuesday 24 August with GCSEs published on Friday 27 August.

Autumn series

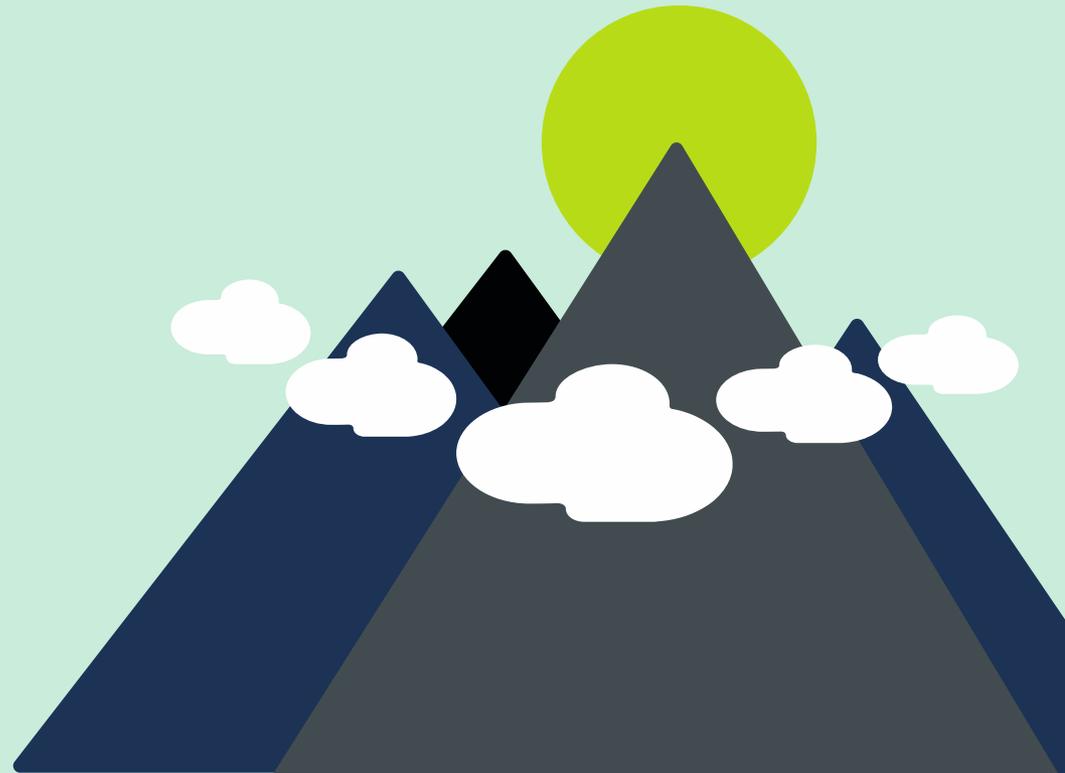


Using autumn series for mocks

Autumn Series

- Exams were sat for all four A level Politics papers in October.
- The exam papers and mark schemes will be released with a padlock (so that students cannot access them) by results day, if not before, so they can be used to support decisions about post-results services.
- We are reviewing the best time to release these materials to make sure they retain their value for mock exams.
- Results day: 17 December.
- Examiners reports will be released around the same time as results day.
- Key dates for Autumn 2020 post-results services available on our website [here](#).

Back to school – how's it going so far and next steps



Back to school – issues caused by lockdown

Year 13

- Missed content
- Content covered but not firmly entrenched with students
- Missed out on 6 months of developing their writing skills
- Slow in getting back to the studying habit

Year 12

- Less clarity over students' baseline levels
- Lack of GCSE exam experience
- Missed out on 6 months of developing their writing skills
- Slow in getting back to the studying habit

Anything else?

Back to school – ongoing issues since reopening

Both Years

- Ongoing disruption to lessons
- Blended learning – teaching students in class as well as those isolating at home
- Blended learning – teaching students when you're isolating at home and they're at school (and possibly also at home)
- Blended learning – possible further lockdown

Any other issues to consider?

Remote and blended learning – what worked?

Ensuring ongoing engagement during school/college closures:

- Putting together resources on how to help them organise their day, find motivation etc.
- Live lessons where possible
- Pre-recorded lessons to work alongside lesson slideshows and booklets for students
- Using other schools' pre-recorded lessons – YouTube is a good source.

Remote and blended learning – what worked?

Ensuring ongoing engagement during school/college closures:

- Ensuring students
 - submit work using virtual networks
 - which is checked by teachers,
 - and that problems are chased up.

This is a lot to do but appears to work.

- Staying engaged with both students and parents wherever possible.
- Contacting home and school/college tutors when no work is submitted.

Anything else?

Back to school – catching up

Schools catch up funding

- Has your school applied?
- Have you been approached to deliver extra lessons
- Do you have to ask/apply?
- Can lessons be done remotely on evenings of weekends?

Back to School – catching up

Teaching methods to help speed things up

- Back to chalk and talk?
- Flipped learning – making use of free teacher lessons on YouTube

Anything else?

Year 12

- Diagnostic test on the Pearson website [here](#)
- Consider sitting the AS level

Anything else?

AS Politics



Why do AS exams in 2021?

- The cancellation of the 2020 summer exams meant your current Year 12 students missed the experience of actually sitting an external assessment.
- For most students this would have been their first exam-day experience; their next opportunity will be their A levels – not ideal.
- You may want to considering entering your Year 12 students for AS level exams in 2021, in preparation for their path to A level.

Why do AS exams in 2021?

- Taking AS level exams will enable students to build valuable exam experience, help them understand their own exam-day needs, and help them manage their exam-day nerves.
- With an external assessment series under their belts, students will have a better understanding of exam techniques, time management and their own personal strengths and weaknesses in an exam setting.
- AS grades provide opportunities for students to gain UCAS points and offers a 'fallback' option if they find that the A level subject is not for them.

AS in 2021 – how to incorporate it into your teaching

- Set Q1-style questions for students to check knowledge.
- Q1-style questions also help them improve their writing style.
- AS can be taught alongside the A level if you choose to enter only some students.
- The AS content is identical to the UK politics and government sections in the A Level Politics specification.

AS in 2021 and how to incorporate it into your scheme of work

Autumn 1 – 7 weeks	Autumn 2 – 7 weeks
<p>Democracy and participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy• A wider franchise and debates over suffrage• Pressure groups and other influences• Rights in context <p>UK Elections and Voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different electoral systems• Referendums and how they are used• Electoral systems analysis	<p>Political parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political parties• Established political parties• Emerging and minor UK political parties• UK political parties in context <p>Voting Behaviour and Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class voting and other social factors influencing voting patterns• Case studies of three key general elections• The influence of the media

AS in 2021 and how to incorporate it into your scheme of work

Spring 1 – 6/7 weeks	Spring 2 – 6/7 weeks
<p>The Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and sources of the UK constitution • How the constitution has changed since 1997 • The role and powers of devolved bodies in the UK, and the impact of this devolution on the UK • Debates on further reform <p>UK Prime Minister and Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure, role and powers of the Executive • The concept of ministerial responsibility • The Prime Minister and the Cabinet 	<p>Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure and role of the House of Commons and House of Lords • The comparative powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords • The legislative process • The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive <p>Relations between Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supreme Court and its interactions with, and influence over, the legislative and policy-making process • The relationship between the Executive and Parliament • The aims, role and impact of the European Union (EU) on UK government • The location of sovereignty within the UK political system

Keeping up to date with current affairs



Keeping up-to-date with current affairs

- Crucial element of Politics specification.
- Always has been an issue trying to coax students to keep up-to-date.
- Modern technology should make it easier: everything is easily accessible online.
- How can we encourage it?

Keeping up to date with current affairs

- Weekly News Quiz – tutor2u do one and there is also another one via the Facebook group.
- Another suggestion is to send them each week:
 - one story to read
 - one thing to watch – YouTube or free-to-access catch-up TV
 - one thing to listen to
- Start one lesson a week with 10 mins of current affairs chat.
- Podcasts – there are so many excellent podcasts for US and UK politics. Students can try them out until they find one they enjoy.



Keeping up to date with current affairs

- Use social media - Twitter or Facebook - create an account/page and post news stories with spec references. You can also use Teams on your class channel.
- Lots of politics teachers are on Twitter, so you can retweet their tweets or tell your students to follow them.
- Also, there are a few teachers that write A level blogs where they write about an event and show how it can be used.
- Ask students to post a story each day/week or send to you with explanation of why and where its relevant. Take turns so every student is involved.

How to apply the Levels-Based Mark Scheme to mark student answers



Using the Levels-Based Mark Scheme

Marking students work

- At a recent event we did, lots of teachers wanted more support on how to mark their students' work.
- We want to help you understand the way examiners approach marking your students answers.
- Ideally, you as teachers may broadly wish to replicate that process.
- Unsurprisingly, its all based on knowing and understanding what the Assessment Objectives measure.

Assessment Objectives

	Descriptor
Level 1	<p>AO1 - Superficial knowledge and understanding, limiting the ability to underpin analysis and evaluation (C2 essays -makes limited synoptic points)</p> <p>AO2 - Limited comparative analysis with partial logical reasoning, making simplistic connections</p> <p>AO3 - Superficial evaluation, constructing simple judgements, many which are descriptive and lead to unsubstantiated conclusions</p>
Level 2	<p>AO1 - Some accurate knowledge and understanding, some of which is selected appropriately (C2 essays -makes some relevant synoptic points)</p> <p>AO2 - Some emerging comparative analysis with some focused logical reasoning, making some relevant connections</p> <p>AO3 - Some relevant evaluation, constructing occasionally effective judgements, some are partially substantiated and lead to generic conclusions</p>
Level 3	<p>AO1 - Mostly accurate knowledge and understanding, much of which is selected appropriately (C2 essays -makes generally relevant synoptic points)</p> <p>AO2 - Mostly focused comparative analysis with focused logical reasoning, making mostly relevant connections</p> <p>AO3 - Generally relevant evaluation, constructing generally effective judgements, many of which are substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions that are sometimes justified</p>
Level 4	<p>AO1 - Accurate knowledge and understanding, which is carefully selected. (C2 essays -makes relevant and focused synoptic points)</p> <p>AO2 - Consistent comparative analysis with coherent logical reasoning, making relevant connections</p> <p>AO3 - Mostly relevant evaluation, constructing mostly effective judgements, which are mostly substantiated and lead to mostly focused, justified conclusions</p>
Level 5	<p>AO1 - Thorough and in-depth knowledge and understanding, which is selected effectively (C2 essays -makes convincing and cohesive synoptic points)</p> <p>AO2 - Perceptive comparative analysis, with sustained, logical reasoning making cohesive and convincing connections</p> <p>AO3 - Fully relevant evaluation, constructing fully effective substantiated judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to fully focused and justified conclusions</p>

The Levels

- 5 distinct levels for source, essay and political ideas essays.
- 4 levels for the 12-mark comparative questions on Component 3.

	All essays and sources	Ideas	Comparative questions
Level 1	1–6	1–4	1–3
Level 2	7–12	5–9	4–6
Level 3	13–18	10–14	7–9
Level 4	19–24	15–19	10–12
Level 5	25–30	20–24	

Applying the levels-based mark scheme (LBMS)

- You need to address each AO separately.
- For each AO you need to decide which level you think it belongs in.
- Perhaps start at the middle level and then move up or down to find the appropriate level.
- Do this for each AO.
- Once you have given each AO a level, then you have to decide on an overall level for the answer.
- If the response only just meets the requirements of the level, the mark should come from the bottom of the range.

Exploring AO3



Assessment Objective 3 (AO3)

Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.

- This AO calls for a judgement or conclusion to be reached. By providing the AO1 (K&U) and AO2 (analysis), the student is expected to reach a reasoned verdict about contested issues.
- In effect having studied this debate, what judgement have you made? No ‘fence sitting’: a judgement has to be reached.
- AO3 needs to be made continuously throughout the response – not a final concluding round of comments.

Maximising AO3

- This has proved to be the most difficult AO for candidates to come to terms with and include throughout the body of their responses.
- Weaker AO3 just makes a judgement in the introduction and/or in the conclusion.
- Weaker AO3 offers first one argument and then a contrary argument, but treats them as if they are of equal status and makes no judgement between them.
- AO3 should be a planned journey with clear signposts throughout the response, starting in the introduction throughout the essay and culminating in the conclusion.
- The judgement can be reached by a narrow or large margin, so it is fine to say that side X is only just the stronger side, but that it **is** the stronger side.

Evaluate the view that elections in the UK are no longer stable and predictable

This source offers various arguments which argue that the outcomes of general elections are stable and predictable. Social factors such as class and region have an important role, alongside a partisan focus of party loyalty to the general policies of a major political party. Nevertheless, more recently the predictability has drifted, and according ~~to~~ to the source the media, leadership and manifestos have drawn out more instability in the outcome of elections. Therefore, with the ~~use of~~ advancement of social media and voter tendency ~~becoming~~ ^{more} focused on short-term rational choices, it appears that outcomes of general elections are not stable and predictable.

This **introduction** outlines the views from the sources, identifying key points and then offers a view which answers the question.

Evaluate the view that elections in the UK are no longer stable and predictable

However, the concept of ~~class~~ social factors dictating how people vote is no longer a convincing concept due to the fact that according to the source that new factors are taking over and finding new ways to influence voting. This is partly to do with the idea that the country is going through a period of partisan dealignment giving way for factors such as "capturing ideas and having media support" as well as "2017 illustrating the importance of age and education." These variable factors which

This **counter-point** shows the student using the source effectively by referencing it to illustrate their point. Also, the student is considering the different opinion of social factors (comparative analysis – AO2) to the view they considered in the first paragraph (*not shown*). Additionally, in the opening sentence they add an AO3 judgement.

Evaluate the view that elections in the UK are no longer stable and predictable

are stable and predictable. However, a limitation of this argument in the source is the fact that 2015's General Election bore 111 seat changes and 2017 had 70. 111 is nearly one 1/6th of the total seats in the House of Commons. This massive change was mainly due to the Scottish National party acquiring 56 out of 59 seats, stealing a lump sum from Labour. This statistic clearly shows the weakness of the argument that voting patterns are predictable and constant, therefore decreasing the validity of the view at hand. This is given further emphasis by the source stating that 2017 showed that opinion polls are "no longer good indicators"

This **counter-point** shows how, having recognised one side of the argument in their first section (*not shown*), they critique it with the argument they consider stronger. Their judgement can be seen throughout the paragraph.

Evaluate the view that elections in the UK are no longer stable and predictable

Overall, it is evident that general election outcomes are no longer stable and predictable. Whilst the voting demographics of age and region do guarantee some predictability, this is no longer the case with opinion polls and the media, as UK politics grows increasingly more partisan and divisive, ~~the~~ ~~stability~~ stability and predictability of general election outcomes ~~is~~ ~~lessens~~.

These **conclusions** all do the job of concluding with the view they have argued throughout the essay.

In conclusion, the view that General Elections are predictable or stable is no longer valid, in past elections it may have held true, but recent years have shown that opinion polls are just guessing at this point, because social factors are not as concrete, so voters may sway from their previous party.

In conclusion, whilst elections can be predicted by the way in which separate demographics vote and by opinion polls, these are only predictions and so can be wrong like in 2017 with Corbyn winning more than expected. Arguably any party could win an election if they "connect with the masses" like "Blair or Thatcher." This shows that elections ~~can~~ be not only this but the influence of swing seats can change the outcome of elections very easily this making elections hard to predict especially when the election is close.

Exemplars on the website

- All these extracts are from an exemplar pack for the June 2019 series.
- You will find exemplars to every question set in the 2019 exam series.
- The exemplars are [here](#).

Support and where to find it



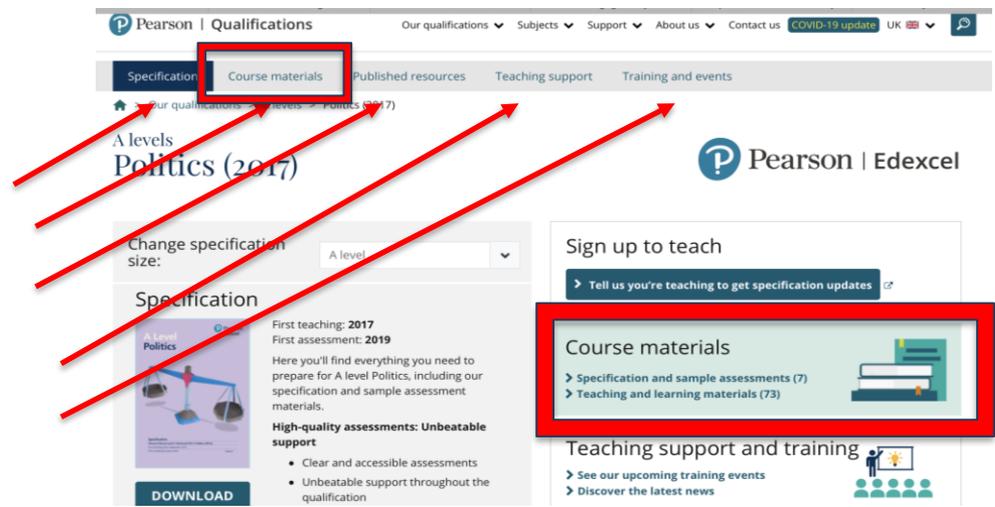
Politics Subject Advisor

- Mark Battye
- Mark is our subject advisor for our History and Politics qualifications.
 - qualifications.pearson.com/contactus
 - Live chat via contact us page
 - [@PearsonHistory](https://twitter.com/PearsonHistory)
 - [Sign up](#) to regular subject advisor updates
 - New online [community](#) for Politics teachers
 - qualifications.pearson.com/politics



The Politics websites

- Did you know we have **TWO** politics pages on our website.
- The first one pictured below is probably the one you may be more familiar with, this is our '**Qualification**' [page](#).
- On this page you will find many of the essential guides you will need to help you find your feet teaching A level Politics.
- As you toggle through the tabs you will find a huge amount of guidance.
- A good place to start is '[Course Materials](#)'. The following slides will show you what you can find there.



<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

Course materials tab on the Qualification page

On the course materials tab:

- You can find all the documents shown here today plus many more – numbering nearly one hundred currently
- Resources and recordings of Pearson training events
- All exam materials from June 2019 and the Autumn 2020 exam series.

Specification Course materials Published resources Teaching support Training and events

Home > Our qualifications > A levels > Politics (2017)

A levels
Politics (2017)

Pearson | Edexcel

Find course materials

Filters

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Categories

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- Teaching and learning materials (73)

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- All
- Assessment guidance (2)
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- Exemplar material (7)
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Level

- All
- A Level (9)
- AS Level (15)

Assessment guidance

Course planner

Examination guidance

Exemplar material

Guide

Mapping document

Past training content

Scheme of work

The Politics Subject page

- The [Subject page](#) changes more frequently than the Qualification page and is a good place to look for updates or new documents as they will often appear here first.
- It's also a good place to start to make contact with the subject advisor.

Pearson | Qualifications

Overview News Our qualifications ▾ Subjects ▾ Support ▾ About us ▾

Subjects > Politics

Politics

Update from Pearson regarding the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak

Update from Pearson regarding the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak

In response to the recent Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, we would like to reassure the global schools' community that we are monitoring the situation extremely closely. We understand the impact this situation is having, and our thoughts are with everyone affected.

[read more](#)

A Level Politics network event

Finding useful Politics resources on our website

The scope of the EU and its application in A level Politics

Subject advisor

Mark Battye
Government and Politics

Call me : UK: 0333 016 4155
Intl: +44 (0)333 016 4155

Useful link : [Please have a look at your new community](#)

Twitter : [@PearsonHistory](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Sign up for subject advisor updates](#)

The Politics Subject page

- Here there are some new documents which have been added, in this case there is a document with some exemplar scripts with commentary, updated guidance on source questions, and synopticity and assessment guidance.
- Right at the bottom are some useful links.

Popular topics

Advice about essay writing and evaluation in A level Politics

Summer 2019 Exemplar Scripts

Useful documents

Academic



A level Politics Source Question Guidance

PDF | 67.9 KB

DOWNLOAD

Academic



A level Politics Synopticity Guidance

PDF | 69.0 KB

DOWNLOAD

Academic



A level Politics Assessment Guidance

PDF | 316.2 KB

DOWNLOAD

Useful links

ResultsPlus

Free online results analysis tool

Past papers

Search for past exam papers and mark schemes

[A level Politics teachers Facebook group](#)

Join A level Politics teachers on Facebook

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/politics.html>

Where to find our training schedule

- The best way to find the training on offer is to go to the main Pearson [training page](#) and type “politics” into the keyword search.
- This will show all the available training events.

Training from Pearson

Find and book

Our training hub makes it easy to find and book events. Whether you're looking for online, face-to-face, centre-based or pre-recorded sessions, we've got you covered.

Use our search-and-book tool to find live training events. If you're an Edexcel Online (EOL) customer, you can log in using your EOL account. If you're new to Pearson, you'll need to create an account. For more help, [download our step by step guide \(PDF, 0.9 MB\)](#).

If you're looking for training videos or courses to be delivered at your centre, visit our [pre-recorded and centre-based training pages](#).

Step by step guide

Want to book a training course? Download our step by step guide to securing your place.

[Download the guide](#)

If registration is closed for an event you wish to attend - continue through to register to be added to the wait list.

For all online events taking place before 25 October 2020, the time zone is British Summer Time (BST). The time zone will also be confirmed in your event confirmation email received upon booking.

Keyword: Politics

Date: []

Filter Events: October 2020

Point of Interest: [Places, Cities...]

International or UK: All, International, United Kingdom

Qualification: []

Pearson Edexcel A level Politics: New to Edexcel
01 October 2020 at 16:00 - 18:00 GMT
Online, UK
This online event is designed for teachers who are moving to Edexcel or delivering the Pearso...
More Details

January 2021

Pearson Edexcel A level Politics: New to Edexcel
25 January 2021 at 16:00 - 18:00 GMT
Online, UK
This online event is designed for teachers who are moving to Edexcel or delivering the Pearso...
More Details

Where to find our training schedule

- You can also find pre-recorded training, for example feedback from the Summer 2019 exams, on the Subject page.
- You can also find a handy video helping you to find the most useful resources and support materials.
- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/training-from-pearson-uk.html>

Update from Pearson regarding the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak	<h2>A Level Politics network event</h2> <p>We have made available a recording of an online network event for A level Politics. The event provides feedback on the Summer 2019 exam series and looks at some marked exemplar work. Teachers who were unable to attend a face-to-face event can watch this recording.</p>  <p>> Watch network event</p>
A Level Politics network event	
Finding useful Politics resources on our website	
The scope of the EU and its application in A level Politics	

Subject advisor

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Government and Politics

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Useful link : Please have a look at your new community

Twitter : @PearsonHistory



> Contact us

> Sign up for subject advisor updates

Summary of free support

As we outlined at the beginning of the training, there is a great deal of free support on our website.

- [Exam materials tab](#)
 - past papers, mark schemes and examiner reports
- [Sample assessment materials](#) and [specimen papers](#)
- [Teaching and learning materials tab](#), including
 - getting started guide, course planner and schemes of work, assessment guide, synopticity and source guidance, assessment FAQs, exemplar answers, general election case studies, and more!
- Ask the Expert – contact senior examiners
- Subject specialist video digest (on carousel [here](#))
- [Post-results services](#), including free [access to exam scripts](#)
- [Results Plus](#) – exam analysis tool
- [Exam Wizard](#) – create practice papers

Development support: network events

- Pearson offers network events to help you teach A level Politics. Currently we are offering network events online only.
- When we are able to return to face-to-face events, please contact the Politics Team if you are interested in hosting an event at your centre with other Politics teachers from your area.
- If enough teachers are available to attend, Pearson will send a subject expert, free of charge, to deliver support and answer questions.
- Please contact mark.anstee@pearson.com.

Become an examiner

- We have exciting opportunities to be become an examiner for Politics and get a closer understanding of the qualification you are teaching.
- To find out more, please visit <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-for-you/teachers/work-with-us/roles.html>

Thank You

