



Pearson

**AS and A level Politics 2017
Content Mapping – A level – AQA**

March 2017

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Information for current AQA centres

The information in this document is relevant if you are currently teaching the current AQA GCE in Government and Politics and you intend to teach the 2017 Edexcel AS and A level qualifications in Politics from September 2017.

Changing to the new Edexcel specifications should be fairly straightforward. The current GCE content has been reviewed and refreshed in the light of extensive research and Ofqual and the DfE's current requirements to form the new 2017 AS and A level specifications.

Qualification structure

- The 2017 AS qualification has two components (UK Politics and UK Government)
- The 2017 A level qualification has three components (UK Politics, UK Government and Comparative Politics)

Detailed information

The tables below should enable tutors to see the main differences in structure and assessment between the two qualifications. For additional detail concerning the 2017 Edexcel specification, see <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>.

UK Politics

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Participation and voting behaviour</p> <p>The nature of participation in the political process.</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • politics • democracy <p>Electoral systems</p> <p>The nature of representation</p> <p>Direct and indirect (representative) democracy</p>	<p>1.1 Current systems of representative democracy and direct democracy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The features of direct democracy and representative democracy. • The similarities and differences between direct democracy and representative democracy. • Advantages and disadvantages of direct democracy and representative democracy and consideration of the case for reform. 	<p>AQA do not have a section on their current specifications devoted to democracy, as has the current Edexcel specification and the proposed 2017 specification.</p> <p>Here AQA split the topic of democracy up between the two sections participation and the electoral systems.</p>
<p>Not covered in current AQA specification</p>	<p>1.2 A wider franchise and debates over suffrage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key milestones in the widening of the franchise, in relation to class, gender, ethnicity and age, including the 1832 Great Reform Act and the 1918, 1928 and 1969 Representation of the People Acts • The work of the suffragists/suffragettes to extend the franchise • The work of a current movement to extend the franchise 	<p>This will be new to all exam boards and how this largely ‘historic’ element is dealt with will be a concern for Centres.</p>

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Pressure Groups and Protest Movements</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sectional/cause, insider/outsider • social movements, lobbying • access points, direct action • political networks/communities • internal pressure group democracy <p>The importance of pressure groups to political communication and policy making in a democracy.</p> <p>Factors likely to affect the political influence of groups, including membership and resources.</p> <p>Links with parties and government, including the EU.</p> <p>The impact of groups and movements in influencing policy and changing values.</p> <p>Role of the media in pressure group politics.</p> <p>Do pressure groups strengthen or weaken democracy?</p>	<p>1.3 Pressure groups and other influences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How different pressure group exert influence and how their methods and influence vary in contemporary politics. • Case studies of two different pressure groups highlighting examples of how their methods and influence vary. • Other collective organisations and groups including think tanks, lobbyists and corporations, and their influence on government and Parliament. 	<p>There is a huge synergy between the current AQA specification and the proposed 2017 specification.</p> <p>The overlap is the role of the media with a later section in the 2017 proposals.</p> <p>The departure is the requirement to study two different types of pressure groups – again a command of the DFE.</p> <p>This presents a wider remit on group politics than simply pressure groups, however AQA does include ‘social movements’ in the key concepts – hence there is a partial linkage.</p>

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>The impact of the Human Rights Act and European Court of Human Rights upon the British political system.</p> <p>Possibility of some citizens being excluded from pressure group politics.</p>	<p>1.4 Rights in context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major milestones in their development, including the significance of Magna Carta and more recent developments, including the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010. • Debates over the extent, limits and tensions within the UK's rights-based culture, including consideration of how individual and collective right may conflict, the contributions from civil liberty pressure groups – including the work of two contemporary civil liberty pressure groups. 	<p>Rights (and civil liberties) have a very low profile in the current AQA specification and has simply this one line in the second unit of the AS (as does OCR).</p> <p>Again looking to major historical milestones is a new departure for all examination boards and the previous comment to guidance for centres about the scope is again relevant.</p> <p>The contested point about the conflict and tension between the rights of the groups set against the rights of the individual is new – but it is a clear link between GCSE Citizenship.</p>
<p>Political Parties</p> <p>The role of political parties in a democracy</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • party system • party competition • 'catch-all' parties • ideology <p>Changing ideologies: how far do political ideas shape parties?</p> <p>Party structure: parties at local, national and EU levels.</p> <p>Programmes, policies and manifestos.</p>	<p>2.1 Political parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The functions and features of political parties in the UK's representative democracy. • How parties are currently funded, debates about the consequences of the current funding system. 	<p>The following are in the AQA current specification but do not appear in the 2017 new specification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Party structure: parties at local, national and EU levels 2. Candidate and leader selection 3. Membership: internal party democracy

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>UK Parties</p> <p>Structure and organisation of the main parties; basic values of the main parties; party democracy within the main parties.</p> <p>Role and function of major parties: how do parties and the party system work?</p>	<p>2.2 Established Political Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The origins and development of the Conservative Party, Labour Party and Liberal Democrat Party and how this has shaped their ideas and current policies on the economy, law and order, welfare and foreign policy 	
<p>Minority parties</p>	<p>2.3 Emerging and minor UK political parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of other parties in the UK. The ideas and policies of two other minor parties. 	<p>The simple command ‘minority parties’ is all that is contained in the AQA specification.</p>
<p>Role and function of major parties: how do parties and the party system work?</p> <p>Likely effects of electoral system on party system.</p>	<p>2.4 UK political parties in context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a multi-party system and the implications of this for government. Various factors that affect party success – explanations for why political parties have succeeded or failed, including debates about the influence of the media. 	<p>The AQA specification is rather skeletal in this area and the overall indicators are quite broad for political parties.</p>

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Electoral Systems</p> <p>Key concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • majoritarian and proportional electoral systems • representation • electoral reform <p>The role of elections in a democracy.</p> <p>The nature of representation.</p> <p>Strengths and weaknesses of electoral systems used in the UK.</p> <p>Likely effects of electoral system on party system* (noted in 2.4 above).</p> <p>Majority and coalition governments.</p>	<p>3.1 Different electoral systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-past-the-post (FPTP), Additional Member System (AMS), Single Transferable Vote (STV) Supplementary Vote (SV). • The advantages and disadvantages of these different systems. • Comparison of first-past-the-post (FPTP) to a different electoral system to a devolved parliament/assembly. 	<p>The very 'broad brush' approach here by AQA encompasses both 3.1 and 3.2.</p>
<p>Referendums (under the heading of the nature of representation).</p> <p>Nature and use of referendums within the UK.</p> <p>Arguments for and against greater use of referendums within the UK.</p>	<p>3.2 Referendums and how they are used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How referendums have been used in the UK and their impact on UK political life since 1997. • The case for and against referendums in a representative democracy. 	<p>Close correlation with current AQA and 2017 specification.</p>

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>The detail provided in the 2017 specification is not replicated by AQA in its current specification - as noted it gives a very broad outline which is generic and could be said to apply to this section,</p>	<p>3.3 Electoral system analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates about why different electoral systems are used in the UK. • The impact of the electoral system on the government or type of government appointed. • The impact of different systems on party representation and of electoral systems on voter choice. 	<p>Centres will be guided here by very specific subject content in comparison to former material.</p>
<p>Participation through the ballot box</p> <p>Key concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • voting behaviour • changing patterns of voting • mass media • partisan and class alignment/dealignment 	<p>4.1 Class voting and other social factors influencing voting patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class based voting, partisanship and voting attachment • Gender, age, ethnicity and regions as factors in influencing voting behaviour • Voter turnout and trends and reasons for this 	<p>AQA do not essentially split voting behaviour in the current specification, as is done in the 2017 specification in 4.1 and 4.2.</p> <p>The new approach for 2017 is prescriptive and gives clear directions to content.</p>
<p>Theories and debates concerning the long- and short-term determinants of voting behaviour, including partisan and class identification; stability and volatility; influence of issues; campaigns; party and leaders' images.</p>	<p>4.2 Case studies of three key general elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies of three elections (one from the period 1945–92, the 1997 election, and one since 1997), the results and their impact on parties and government. • The factors that explain the outcomes of these elections, including the reasons and impact of party policies and manifestos and techniques used in their elections campaigns, and the wider political context 	

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	<p>of the elections.</p> <p>Analysis of the national voting-behaviour patterns for these elections, revealed by national data sources and how and why they vary.</p>	
Mass media	<p>4.3 The influence of the media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment of the role and impact of the media on politics – both during and between key general elections, including the importance and relevance of opinion polls, media bias and persuasion. 	<p>These two words encompass all the AQA specification has to say about mass media.</p>

UK Government

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not specifically included • Unit 2 The British Constitution; The nature and sources of the British constitution – key concepts • Unit 2 The British Constitution; The nature and sources of the British constitution – a knowledge of the main sources of the British constitution: statute case law, conventions, treaties 	<p>1.1 The nature and sources of the UK constitution, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overview of the development of the constitution through key historical documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Magna Carta (1215); Bill of Rights (1689); Act of Settlement (1701); Acts of Union (1707); Parliament Acts (1911 and 1949); The European Communities Act (1972) • the nature of the UK constitution: unentrenched, uncodified and unitary, and the ‘twin pillars’ of parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law • the five main sources of the UK constitution: statute law; common law; conventions; authoritative works and treaties (including European Union law). 	<p>Key historical documents may have been taught as background context.</p> <p>Sources are characterised slightly differently between specifications.</p> <p>‘How far the British constitution influences and limits the powers of government’ is not specifically in the new Edexcel specification, although there is cross-over with Topic 4 on the location of sovereignty.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2 The British Constitution; The nature and sources of the British constitution... constitutional change 	<p>1.2 How the constitution has changed since 1997.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Labour 1997–2010: House of Lords reforms, electoral reform; devolution; the Human Rights Act 1998; and the Supreme Court. • Under the Coalition 2010–15: Fixed Term Parliaments; further devolution to Wales. 	<p>Old AQA specification does not specifically reference most reforms cited in the new Edexcel specification, but most or all would have been taught as part of ongoing developments. The Human Rights Act is included as part of the judiciary topic and electoral reform as part of Unit 1 Electoral</p>

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any major reforms undertaken by governments since 2015, including further devolution to Scotland (in the context of the Scottish Referendum). 	<p>systems.</p> <p>Old AQA specification does not specifically reference debates over further reform.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Multi-level governance; elected and devolved government in the UK – the main powers of elected local government, the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly 	<p>1.3 The role and powers of devolved bodies in the UK, and the impact of this devolution on the UK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devolution in England. Scottish Parliament and Government. Welsh Assembly and Government. Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive. 	<p>Content in the old AQA specification related to the relations with Westminster and to debates on the nature and extent of devolved power is not included in the new Edexcel specification (although there is some relevance to Topic 4 in connection to the location of sovereignty).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not specifically included 	<p>1.4 Debates on further reform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview of the extent to which the individual reforms since 1997 listed in section 1.2 above should be taken further. The extent to which devolution should be extended within England. Whether the UK constitution should be changed to be entrenched and codified, including a bill of rights. 	<p>Elements may have been taught as part of Unit 2 The British Constitution; The nature and sources of the British constitution... constitutional change</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Parliament; The role of parliament in the political system - the composition and main roles and functions of Parliament: representation, legislation, scrutiny 	<p>2.1 The structure and role of the House of Commons and House of Lords.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The selection of members of the House of Commons and House of Lords, including the different types of Peers. The main functions of the House of Commons and House of Lords and the extent to which these functions are 	<p>The specific functions are characterised slightly differently between specifications but cover broadly the same ground.</p> <p>The old specification does not specifically refer to the roles listed in the new specification,</p>

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	fulfilled.	<p>although these may have been taught as part of the different elements of the Parliament topic.</p> <p>The old AQA specification does not specifically reference the extent to which these functions are successfully fulfilled.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Parliament; The role of parliament in the political system – the relative powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords 	<p>2.2 The comparative powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the exclusive powers of the House of Commons the main powers of the House of Lords debates about the relative power of the two houses 	<p>The old specification does not specifically refer to the relationship between the two houses but this would have been taught by most centres, and exam questions were set that related to it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not specifically included 	<p>2.3 The legislative process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The different stages a bill must go through to become law. The interaction between the Commons and the Lords during the legislative process, including the Salisbury Convention. 	<p>Many centres will have taught an overview of the legislative process as is specifically required in the new Edexcel specification. The interaction between the Commons and Lords may not have been taught.</p>

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Parliament; Parliament and government relationships - the roles of the House of Commons and House of Lords in scrutinising legislation and holding the government to account Unit 2 Parliament; Parliament and government relationships - the influence of backbenchers, frontbenchers, whips and the Opposition 	<p>2.4 The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role and significance of backbenchers in both Houses, including the importance of parliamentary privilege. The work of select committees. The role and significance of the opposition. The purpose and nature of ministerial question time, including Prime Minister's Questions. 	<p>Centres may not have made specific reference to terms such as 'parliamentary privilege' and 'short money' under the AQA specification and must do so under the new Edexcel specification.</p> <p>The new Edexcel specification does not include the influence of frontbenchers or of whips, except as they relate the significance of backbenchers or the effectiveness of parliament in general.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 The Core Executive; Relations within the Core Executive and the Prime Minister and the cabinet systems - the Prime Minister: main roles, powers and resources. The Cabinet system: composition, roles and functions of Cabinet...and Cabinet Ministers 	<p>3.1 The structure, role and powers of the Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the structure of the executive, including Prime Minister, the Cabinet, junior ministers and government departments the main functions of the Executive including proposing legislation, proposing a budget and making policy decisions within laws and budget the main powers of the Executive, including Royal Prerogative powers, control of most of the legislative agenda and powers of secondary legislation 	<p>Reference in the old AQA specification to the 'core executive', to cabinet committees and to the cabinet office is not specifically required in the new Edexcel specification.</p> <p>Most of the section of the old AQA specification 'Policy making and implementation', particularly that related to the civil service, is not included in the new Edexcel specification, although some elements may have relevance to the Prime Minister and Executive topic.</p>

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 The Core Executive; Relations within the Core Executive and the Prime Minister and the cabinet systems – collective responsibility Unit 2 The Core Executive; Policy making and implementation – individual responsibility 	<p>3.2 The concept of ministerial responsibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept of individual ministerial responsibility. The concept of collective ministerial responsibility. 	<p>The old AQA specification did not make reference to exceptions to ministerial responsibility, although these may have been taught as context.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 The Core Executive; Relations within the Core Executive and the Prime Minister and the cabinet systems - Prime ministerial and presidential systems: a brief comparison and do we have prime ministerial government in Britain? 	<p>3.3 The Prime Minister and the Cabinet.</p> <p>3.3.1 The power of the Prime Minister and cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The factors governing the Prime Minister's selection of ministers. The factors that affect the relationship between the Cabinet and the Prime Minister, and the ways they have changed and the balance of power between the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. <p>3.3.2 The powers of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to dictate events and determine policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must study the influence of one Prime Minister from 1945 to 1997 and one post-1997 Prime Minister. Students may choose any pre-1997 and any post-1997 Prime Minister, provided that they study them in an equivalent level of detail, covering both events and policy, with 	<p>The old AQA specification was much less specific on the Prime Ministers and events to be taught. Centres may therefore have covered a wide range of different Prime Ministers and events, including some that are not in the new specification and excluding some that are. The new Edexcel specification requires comparison of the power and style of different Prime Ministers but only with respect to the specific Prime Ministers studied.</p>

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	examples that illustrate both control and a lack of control.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 The British Constitution; The judiciary and its relationship to other 'powers' of government – key concepts and the relationship of the Judiciary to the Executive and legislature; Judicial appointments; the impact of the Human Rights Act ...upon the British political system 	<p>4.1 The Supreme Court and its interactions with and influence over the legislative and policy making processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role and composition of the Supreme Court. The key operating principles of the Supreme Court, including judicial neutrality and judicial independence and their extent The degree to which the Supreme Court influences both the Executive and Parliament, including the doctrine of ultra vires and judicial review. 	The new Edexcel specification has a narrower focus from 'The Judiciary', focusing specifically on the Supreme Court.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Parliament; Parliament and government relationships – Executive dominance; accountability 	<p>4.2 The relationship between the Executive and Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the influence and effectiveness of Parliament in holding the Executive to account the influence and effectiveness of the Executive in exercising dominance over Parliament the extent to which the balance of power between Parliament and the Executive has changed in recent years 	No specific reference is made in the old AQA specification to the extent to which the balance of power has changed in recent years.

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Multi-level governance; the European Union 	<p>4.3 The aims, role and impact of the European Union (EU) on UK government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aims of the EU, including the ‘four freedoms’ of the single market, social policy, and political and economic union and the extent to which these have been achieved. The role of the EU in policy making. The impact of the EU, including the main effects of the main effects of at least two EU policies’ and their impact on the UK political system and UK policy-making. 	<p>The specific cross-over of content is quite limited. The old AQA specification focuses on institutions and where power lies, rather than on the aims and impact of the EU.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Parliament; The role of parliament in the political system – Parliamentary Sovereignty in theory and practice Unit 2 Multi-level governance; the European Union, where does power lie? 	<p>4.4 The location of sovereignty within the UK political system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the distinction between legal sovereignty and political sovereignty the extent to which the location of sovereignty has been affected by constitutional reforms, the UK’s membership of the EU and the shifting relationships between Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary where sovereignty can now be said to lie in the UK 	

Political ideas

Please note that the column outlining the A level Politics 2017 has been condensed to save space. For the complete specification content please see the specification.

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
Liberalism – GOV3B	Core ideas - Liberalism	Mandatory
<p>The meaning of liberalism, particularly liberal ideas and values concerning the individual, capitalism and welfare.</p> <p>Liberal views on human nature and the State.</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within liberal ideology with particular regard to classical liberalism and modern (new/progressive) liberalism.</p> <p>Neo-liberalism and its relationship to the New Right.</p> <p>The impact of liberal thinking on the actions and policies of political parties and movements (including examples outside the UK).</p>	<p>Core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within liberalism,:</p> <p>Key ideas of the following in relation to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Locke (1632 – 1704) • Mary Wollstonecraft (1759 -97) • John Stuart Mill (1806 – 73) • John Rawls (1921 – 2002) • Betty Friedan (1921 – 2006) 	
Conservatism – GOV3B	Core ideas - Conservatism	Mandatory

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Debates about the nature of Conservatism.</p> <p>Conservative views and attitudes towards human nature, authority and private property.</p> <p>The different strands of Conservative thinking in both the UK and elsewhere.</p> <p>The significance of Conservative attitudes towards government, the free market, the State and the individual.</p> <p>The impact of Conservative thinking on the actions and policies of political parties and movements.</p>	<p>Core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within conservatism</p> <p>Key ideas of the following in relation to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) • Edmund Burke (1729-1797) • Michael Oakeshott (1901–1990) • Ayn Rand (1905-1982) • Robert Nozick (1938-2002) 	
<p>Socialism – GOV3B</p>	<p>Core ideas - Socialism</p>	<p>Mandatory</p>
<p>The contested definitions of socialism. Socialist values concerning human nature, community and the State.</p> <p>Class analysis and Marxism and debates relating to co-operation, egalitarianism and public ownership.</p> <p>The differences between revolutionary and parliamentary (democratic) socialism.</p> <p>The debate within socialism about ends and means.</p>	<p>Core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within socialism</p> <p>Key ideas of the following in relation to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karl Marx (1818-83) and Friedrich Engels (1820-95) • Beatrice Webb (1858-1943) • Rosa Luxemburg (1871-1919) • Anthony Crosland (1918-77) • Anthony Giddens (1938-) 	

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
The impact of socialist thinking on the actions and policies of political parties and movements (including examples outside the UK).		
Not previously taught	Optional ideas - Anarchism	Optional
	<p>Core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within anarchism</p> <p>Key ideas of the following in relation to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Stirner (1806 - 1856) • Pierre-Joseph Proudhon (1809-1865) • Mikhail Bakunin (1814 - 1876) • Peter Kropotkin (1842- 1921) • Emma Goldman (1869 - 1940) 	<p>Pick one from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anarchism • Ecologism • Feminism • Multiculturalism • Nationalism
The Environment – GOV4B	Optional ideas – Ecologism	Optional
<p>Political responses to the challenge of the environment.</p> <p>Quality of life: GDP wealth and green consumerism.</p> <p>The dilemma posed by the US and China regarding climate change.</p>	<p>Core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within ecologism</p> <p>Key ideas of the following in relation to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p>	<p>Pick one from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anarchism • Ecologism • Feminism • Multiculturalism • Nationalism

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>The principles of environmentalism: world approach, sufficiency, conservator economy, decentralisation and democratisation.</p> <p>Ideological divisions within the environmental movement including 'light' and 'dark' green thinking.</p> <p>Major developments including Rio and Kyoto initiatives; main environmental legislation; important initiatives on agriculture, transport, energy and the role of the EU.</p> <p>'Joined-up' government.</p> <p>Green issues in electoral politics and the role of parties and pressure groups in shaping the political agenda.</p> <p>The role of the Environment Agency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) • Rachel Carson (1907 – 1964) • E.F Schumacher (1911-1977) • Murray Bookchin (1921- 2006) • Carolyn Merchant (1936 -) 	
Gender – GOV4B	Optional ideas – Feminism	Optional
<p>Liberal and radical approaches to equal opportunities.</p> <p>Social cohesion and social justice.</p> <p>Positive discrimination/affirmative action and quotas.</p> <p>Politics of citizenship and identity.</p>	<p>Core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within feminism</p> <p>Key ideas of the following in relation to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) 	<p>Pick one from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anarchism • Ecologism • Feminism • Multiculturalism • Nationalism

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Significance of EU membership and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.</p> <p>Women in society.</p> <p>Variety of ideological approaches to feminism including 'new' feminism – significance of issues such as abortion and rape.</p> <p>Politics of the women's movement.</p> <p>Major legislation concerning equal opportunities.</p> <p>Changing public attitudes and political symbolism of language in the vocabulary of ethnicity and gender.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986) • Kate Millett (1934-) • Sheila Rowbotham (1943 -) • bell hooks (1952 -) 	
Not previously taught	Optional ideas – Multiculturalism	Optional
	<p>Core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within multiculturalism</p> <p>Key ideas of the following in relation to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah Berlin (1909-97) • Charles Taylor (1931 -) 	<p>Pick one from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anarchism • Ecologism • Feminism • Multiculturalism • Nationalism

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhikhu Parekh (1935 -) • Tariq Modood (1952 -) • Will Kymlicka (1962 -) 	
Not previously taught	Optional ideas – Nationalism	Optional
	<p>Core ideas and principles and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy</p> <p>Differing views and tensions within nationalism</p> <p>Key ideas of the following in relation to human nature, the state, society and the economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) • Johann Gottfried von Herder (1744 - 1803) • Giuseppe Mazzini (1805 - 1872) • Charles Maurras (1868-1952) • Marcus Garvey (1887-1940) 	<p>Pick one from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anarchism • Ecologism • Feminism • Multiculturalism • Nationalism
Fascism GOV3B Education GOV4B The Economy GOV4B Ethnicity GOV4B	No longer taught	

Government and politics of the USA

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;">The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Now included in Democracy and Participation</p>	
<p>The main characteristics of presidential and congressional elections and campaigns and the main influences on their outcomes.</p> <p>Candidate selection and nomination through the primary and caucus system and the role of the national nominating conventions.</p>	<p>5.1 Electoral systems in the USA. 5.1.1 Presidential elections and their significance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main processes to elect a US president including the constitutional requirements, the invisible primary, primaries and caucuses, the role of National Party Conventions and the electoral college, and the resulting party system. • The importance of incumbency on a president seeking a second term. 	<p>Congressional elections reduced and moved to the Congress topic. (2.2.1)</p>
<p>Debates concerning the workings and outcomes of the Electoral College and its impact on campaigns.</p>	<p>5.4 Interpretations and debates of US democracy and participation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advantages and disadvantages of the electoral process and the Electoral College and the debate around reform 	

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The significance of money as a factor in electoral success and the impact of the media on campaigns and candidates.	5.1.2 Campaign finance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of campaign finance and the current legislation on campaign finance, including McCain-Feingold reforms 2002 and <i>Citizens United vs FEC</i> 2010. 	
Comparisons with the UK electoral process to illustrate arguments.	6.2.9 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation and their resulting impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the different nature of the party systems (two-party and multi-party) • degree of internal unity within parties • the policy profiles of the two main parties in each country • debates around campaign finance and party funding • the relative power, methods and influence of pressure groups. 	
Direct democracy at State level through the use of referendums, initiatives, propositions and recall elections and debates concerning their use.	No longer included	
Political Parties	Now included in Democracy and Participation	

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<p>The two main political parties and their differing ideologies, values, policies and traditions.</p>	<p>5.2 The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties.</p> <p>5.2.1, The distribution of power and changing significance of the parties:</p> <p>Democrats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progressive attitude on social and moral issues including crime • greater governmental intervention in the national economy • government provision of social welfare. <p>Republicans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservative attitude on social and moral issues • more restricted governmental intervention in the national economy while protecting American trade and jobs • acceptance of social welfare but a preference for personal responsibility. 	
<p>The factionalised nature of the parties: the reasons for, and consequences of, their internal divisions.</p> <p>Party organisation.</p>	<p>5.2.2 The current conflicts and tendencies and the changing power and influence that exist within the parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democrats: liberals, moderates and conservatives. • Republicans: moderates, social conservatives and fiscal conservatives 	

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<p>Recent changes to the parties and reasons for these changes.</p> <p>Debates over party decline or renewal.</p> <p>Debates concerning the weakness of US parties.</p>		<p>‘Changing significance of parties’ now included within Congress only (2.3)</p>
<p>Reasons for two-party dominance.</p>		<p>Included in elections (5.1.1)</p>
<p>Comparisons with UK political parties to illustrate arguments.</p>	<p>6.2.9 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the different nature of the party systems (two-party and multi-party) • degree of internal unity within parties • the policy profiles of the two main parties in each country • debates around campaign finance and party funding • the relative power, methods and influence of pressure groups. 	
<p>Significance of third parties and independent candidates.</p>	<p>No longer included</p>	

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
Pressure Groups	Now included in Democracy and Participation	
<p>The meaning of political pluralism and debates about its extent in the US.</p> <p>Controversies over the extent of pressure group power in the US.</p> <p>Debates concerning the methods and tactics used by pressure groups to influence decision making and the reasons for success or the lack of it.</p>	<p>5.3 Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The influence, methods and power of at least one single interest group, professional group or policy group. 	
<p>Types and classification of pressure groups, including economic, moral, environmental, ethnic, gender and issue based groups.</p> <p>The role and significance of Political Action Committees, especially regarding electoral finance.</p>	<p>5.3 Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The influence, methods and power of at least one single interest group, professional group or policy group. 	
<p>Comparisons with UK pressure groups to illustrate arguments.</p>	<p>6.2.9 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation and their resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the different nature of the party systems (two-party and multi-party) • degree of internal unity within parties • the policy profiles of the two main parties in 	

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	each country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> debates around campaign finance and party funding the relative power, methods and influence of pressure groups. 	
Sectional and cause groups. The relative power of pressure groups vis-à-vis political parties.	No longer included	
Voting Behaviour	Democracy and Participation	
Consideration of the main variables affecting the way people vote in the US and their relative importance. The long-term determinants of American electoral behaviour, including socio-economic status, gender, age, race and ethnicity, region and religion. The significance of partisan alignment and de-alignment. Links between the parties and their core voting coalitions. Recent factors in voting behaviour including differing issues and candidates at different elections and their relative importance.	5.2.3 Coalition of supporters for each party. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voters: how the following factors are likely to influence voting patterns and why, in relation to one recent presidential election campaign – race, religion, gender and education. 	

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<p>Factors causing change in voting behaviour.</p> <p>The causes and consequences of split ticket voting and high levels of abstention.</p> <p>Comparisons with UK voting behaviour to illustrate arguments.</p>		
<p>The Constitutional Framework of US Government</p>	<p>The US Constitution and Federalism</p>	
<p>The nature and significance of the US Constitution and the framework of government that it lays down.</p>	<p>1.1 The nature of the US Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vagueness of the document, codification and entrenchment. • The constitutional framework (powers) of the US branches of government. • The amendment process, including advantages and disadvantages of the formal process. 	
<p>The importance of the constitutional principles of the separation of powers and checks and balances to the operation of government and the way that these apply in practice today.</p> <p>The amendment process.</p>	<p>1.2 The principles of the US Constitution (as listed below) and an evaluation of their effectiveness today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • federalism • separation of powers and checks and balances • bipartisanship • limited government. 	

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<p>The federal system of government and its implications.</p> <p>Relationship between the federal government and the states.</p>	<p>1.3 The main characteristics of US federalism. The nature of the federal system of government and its relationship with the states.</p> <p>1.4 Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of democracy within the US Constitution, its strengths and weaknesses and its impact on the US government today. • The debates around the extent to which the USA remains federal today. 	
<p>The significance of the Bill of Rights</p>		<p>In US Civil Rights topic (4.4)</p>
<p>Constitutional change and its causes and effects.</p> <p>Debates concerning the importance of the US Constitution to the working of US government today.</p>	<p>1.4 Interpretations and debates around the US Constitution and federalism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of democracy within the US Constitution, its strengths and weaknesses and its impact on the US government today. • The debates around the extent to which the USA remains federal today. 	
<p>The Supreme Court and the Constitution.</p>		<p>In US Supreme Court topic (4.1)</p>

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Comparisons with the UK's uncodified constitution and unitary system to illustrate arguments.	<p>Similarities and differences in the UK and USA</p> <p>6.2.1 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Constitutions and the resulting impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their nature (codified/uncodified) and their sources, provisions and principles, including separation of powers, checks and balances • the similarities and differences between the US federal system and the UK system of devolution. <p>6.2.2 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	
The Legislative Branch of Government: US Congress	US Congress	
The constitutional role and power(s) of the US Congress.	<p>2.1 The structure of Congress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicameral nature, the membership of Congress and the election cycle. <p>2.1.1 The distribution of powers within Congress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • powers given to Congress in the Constitution, the exclusive powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress. 	

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
The composition of Congress and the different terms of office.	2.1 The structure of Congress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicameral nature, the membership of Congress and the election cycle. 2.1.1 The distribution of powers within Congress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • powers given to Congress in the Constitution, the exclusive powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress. 	
The differences between the House and the Senate	2.1 The structure of Congress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicameral nature, the membership of Congress and the election cycle. 2.1.1 The distribution of powers within Congress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • powers given to Congress in the Constitution, the exclusive powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress. 	
Debates concerning the functions, powers and effectiveness of Congress in legislation, oversight and the power of the purse.	The debates surrounding Congress, including the significance and effectiveness of the powers outlined in the Constitution and the changing powers of Congress (2.3)	
The importance of the party system.	2.3 Interpretations and debates around Congress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing roles and powers of Congress and their relative importance, and debates about adequacy of its representative role. 	Party systems of reduced importance and moved to the Presidency (5.2)

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing significance of parties in Congress • Significance and effectiveness of the powers outlined in the Constitution. 	
Debates concerning the social composition of Congress.	The effectiveness of representation within Congress at a national level only (2.3)	
The representative role of Senators and Representatives	2.2.1 Representation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congressional elections and the significance of incumbency. • Factors that affect voting behaviour within Congress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ parties and caucuses, constituency, pressure groups and lobbyists. 	Representation only discussed at national level, not state level.
The relationship of Congress with the Executive Branch of government and the Supreme Court.	2.2.3 Oversight. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors that influence the relationship between Congress and the presidency. • The checks on the other branches of government and the extent of its institutional effectiveness. 	
Comparisons with the Westminster Parliament to illustrate arguments.	6.2.3 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US legislative branches and their resulting impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • powers, strengths and weaknesses of each of the Houses • the extent to which each of the Houses are equal. 6.2.4 The extent to which rational, cultural and	

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.	
The relationship between the two houses. The importance of the Committee system within Congress.	No longer included	
The Executive Branch of Government	US Presidency*	*Since 1992 only
The Constitution and the executive branch of government.	3.1 Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role as the Head of State and as the Head of Government. The significance of these powers with reference to presidents since 1992.	
Debates concerning Presidential power, both formal and informal and the ability to actually exercise it in both domestic and foreign policy.	The nature of the US presidency – formal sources power (3.1) The nature of the US Presidency – informal sources power (3.2) The role and power of the President in foreign policy (3.4)	
Limitations and constraints on executive power from the Constitution, Congress and the Supreme Court.	3.3.2 Limitations on presidential power and why this varies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> changing nature of power over their term in office Congress, the Supreme Court and the 	

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the election cycle and divided government. • The extent of presidential accountability to Congress. 	
Debates concerning the main determinants of Presidential/Congressional relations. The ebb and flow of power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of presidential accountability to Congress. 	
The nature of the exercise of power within the executive branch.	The imperial presidency (3.4)	
Comparisons with the UK Executive to illustrate arguments.	6.2.5 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US executive branches and their resulting impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key similarities and differences between the role and powers of the US President and the UK Prime Minister and their impact on politics and government • extent of accountability to the US and UK legislature. 6.2.6 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.	

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>The role of the federal bureaucracy and the federal agencies.</p> <p>Debates concerning the relative power and influence of the Cabinet** and the Executive Office of President**.</p>	No longer included	**Now only included as an informal source of presidential power
<p>The Judicial Branch of Government: The Supreme Court</p>	<p>US Supreme Court</p>	
<p>The constitutional role of the Supreme Court and the nature of judicial power.</p>	<p>The nature of the Supreme Court (4.1)</p>	
<p>The Supreme Court's power of judicial review from 1803.</p>	<p>The nature of the Supreme Court (4.1)</p>	
<p>Debates and controversies surrounding the selection and appointment process of Supreme Court Justices.</p>	<p>The appointment process for the Supreme Court (4.2)</p>	
<p>The political significance of the Supreme Court and the impact of its landmark judgments.</p>	<p>The Supreme Court and public policy (4.3)</p> <p>4.6 Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The political versus judicial nature of the Supreme Court. • Living Constitution ideology as against originalism. • How effectively civil and constitutional rights have been upheld by the Supreme Court and the effectiveness of this protection. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of their powers and the effectiveness of checks and balances. • The successes and failures of measures to promote equality, including affirmative action and immigration reform. 	
The protection of citizens' rights by the Supreme Court.		Now in US Civil Rights topic (4.4 and 4.5)
Relationship of the Supreme Court with the other branches of government.	<p>4.6 Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The political versus judicial nature of the Supreme Court. • Living Constitution ideology as against originalism. • How effectively civil and constitutional rights have been upheld by the Supreme Court and the effectiveness of this protection. • The extent of their powers and the effectiveness of checks and balances. • The successes and failures of measures to promote equality, including affirmative action and immigration reform. 	
Comparison with the senior judiciary in the UK to illustrate arguments.		

AQA	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
The Supreme Court's role as guardian of the Constitution through constitutional interpretation.	No longer included	