



Pearson

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

March 2017



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Information for current OCR centres

The information in this document is relevant if you are currently teaching the current OCR 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

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>No corresponding section on democracy.</p> <p>Elections, referenda and the democratic process, British parliamentary elections and democracy.</p> <p>Contributions (of both of the above) to the democratic process.</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>In the current OCR specification, democracy does not appear as a distinct concept or topic.</p> <p>Both elements to the left are each sections of elections. However democracy is listed as a key concept.</p>
<p>Not covered in current OCR 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>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Concepts: representation; democracy; power; influence; pluralism; elitism; corporatism</p> <p>Pressure groups: Definition, types, functions</p> <p>Methods: Direct action; pressure groups and the executive; pressure groups and the legislature; pressure groups and the courts; pressure groups and the EU; pressure groups and public opinion</p> <p>Impact and success: Definitions of success; problems of assessing success; factors influencing success and failure</p> <p>Pressure Groups and the democratic process: Contribution to the democratic process; criticisms</p> <p>Key developments within and relating to pressure groups</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>This is a mandatory section under the current specification.</p> <p>A high level of correlation with key terms (OCR uses the term 'concept').</p> <p>The OCR specification does not require case studies of two types of pressure group, this is a DFE stipulation for all exam boards.</p> <p>The requirement to break out from pressure groups to other 'collective organisations' again is new and a DFE requirement.</p>
<p>Source: Unit F582</p> <p>Rights liberties and duties in the UK</p> <p>Key developments in the judiciary and rights</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. 	<p>As with Edexcel the area of rights and civil liberties are in the second AS unit linked to the judiciary, the same with OCR.</p> <p>However the OCR trait is to look to the balance between rights and duties (we use</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>the term responsibilities) so there is continuity here.</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>Concepts: representative government; responsible government; democracy; power, authority; influence</p> <p>Definition; roles and functions</p> <p>Funding political parties:</p> <p>Main sources of party income; issues surrounding the funding of political parties; proposals for reform</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 new specification makes explicit what was implicit in the OCR specification.</p> <p>The linkage of the manifesto and mandate is noted in the section on UK parliamentary elections, so is not new.</p> <p>The political spectrum of left and right wing is not mentioned on the current OCR specification.</p> <p>This section on funding is remarkably similar to what the OCR current specification resembles.</p>

OCR	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>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>The current OCR specification does not mention what are the ‘main’ parties. It is assumed that these will be what Edexcel call the ‘major’ parties. Hence with this the correlation is very close to the current specification.</p>
<p>Not on the current OCR specification.</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>This is another key requirement from the DFE for all specifications. However, recent events with the EU level vote raises the profile of UKIP and the success of the SNP as a force in Westminster is contemporary and relevant.</p>
<p>Party Systems: One-, two-, multi-party and dominant party systems; advantages and disadvantages of various systems; the UK party system</p> <p>Parties and the democratic process</p> <p>Contribution to the democratic process; criticisms</p> <p>Key developments within and relating to political parties</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>Very close correlation with the party system models currently delivered .</p> <p>This last comment in OCR includes the overview in the new specification.</p>
<p>UK Parliamentary Elections</p> <p>Concepts: legitimacy; mandate; democracy; representation; representative government; responsible government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<p>This is a common area and although there may be differences in terminology the content is very similar.</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>The mechanics of general elections: Including: why and how elections are called; who can stand and who can vote; how candidates are selected; voting and winning Electoral Reform in the UK</p> <p>Recent reform; criticisms of the various electoral systems used in the UK; party attitudes to further reform</p> <p>Elections, referenda and the democratic process</p> <p>Contribution to the democratic process; criticisms</p> <p>Key developments relating to electoral systems and referenda</p> <p>Electoral systems</p> <p>Plurality systems; majority systems; proportional systems; hybrid systems</p> <p>Electoral systems in the UK</p> <p>European; parliamentary; regional; local</p>		

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Referenda</p> <p>Elections, referenda and the democratic process</p> <p>Types; referenda in the UK; arguments for and against</p> <p>Key developments relating to electoral systems and referenda</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>OCR currently does not ask for a comparison between elections and referenda but the overall comparison is very close to the new specification.</p>
<p>Key developments relating to electoral systems and referenda</p> <p>Key developments relating to UK parliamentary elections</p> <p>Contribution to the democratic process; criticisms</p> <p>British parliamentary elections and democracy</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>The new specification by Pearson/Edexcel is more focused and specific whereas the comments from the current OCR are generic.</p>
<p>Voting behaviour in the UK</p> <p>Concepts: class and party de-alignment</p> <p>Factors associated with voting behaviour For example, long-term: class, age, sex, ethnicity, region, party identification; short-term: issues, recent and future performance, party principles, party leadership, party image, mass media, campaign</p>	<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>Close correlation to current OCR specification and new 2017 specification.</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Models of voting behaviour For example, social structures model; party identification model; rational choice model; dominant ideology model; voting context model</p> <p>Trends in voting behaviour For example, party support; turnout and abstention; tactical voting; protest voting</p> <p>Key developments relating to voting behaviour</p> <p>Recent general elections (knowledge of the last three elections is required)</p> <p>Reasons for holding; campaigns; results; reasons for victory/loss</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 of the elections. • Analysis of the national voting-behaviour patterns for these elections, revealed by national data sources and how and why they vary. 	<p>As above, once again close correlation to current OCR specification and new 2017 specification.</p> <p>The new specification is very similar to the current OCR specification, the difference being the detail provided by the new specification and the flexibility to cover any three general elections as opposed to the three most recent</p>
<p>Not currently on the OCR specification as a discreet topic but specifically mentioned under general election campaigns and models of voting behaviour.</p>	<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>More implicit than explicit in the OCR specification but the media was a prescribed area from the DFE to be covered.</p>

UK Government

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Not specifically included</p> <p>Unit F852 The Constitution; Characteristics of constitutions; flexible and rigid constitutions; written and unwritten constitutions; codified and uncodified constitutions and Unit F852</p> <p>The Constitution - The underlying principles of the UK constitution</p> <p>The sovereignty of parliament (in relation to 'unitary')</p> <p>Unit F852 The Constitution; sources of the UK constitution: the royal prerogatives; conventions; common law; statute law; works of authority; membership of international organisations</p>	<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. Magna Carta will likely have been taught as part of 'The Judiciary' topic.</p> <p>Sources are characterised slightly differently between specifications. Royal Prerogatives are included in Topic 3.1.</p> <p>The 'definition; nature; role and functions' of constitutions generally is not specifically in the new Edexcel specification although may be taught as useful context.</p>
<p>Unit F852 The Constitution; Constitutional Reform and Key Developments in the UK Constitution</p>	<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 OCR specification does not specifically reference particular reforms cited in the new Edexcel specification, but most or all would have been taught as part of ongoing developments. Human Rights Act and Supreme Court may also have been taught as part of Unit F852 The Judiciary; and Electoral</p>

OCR	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>will have been taught as Part of Unit F851 Elections; Electoral Reform in the UK.</p> <p>Old OCR specification does not specifically reference debates over further reform.</p>
Not specifically included in this level of detail.	<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. 	Old OCR specification does not specifically reference particular reforms. Unit F852 Constitutions; Constitutional Reform will have included an overview of devolution, but will not have required the specific role and powers of each of the devolved assemblies.
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. 	Elements may have been taught as part of Unit F852 The Constitution; Constitutional Reform and Key Developments in the UK Constitution
<p>Unit F852 The Legislature; The Commons and the Lords Role; membership; legislative, scrutiny and representative functions</p> <p>Unit F852 The Legislature; Parties in</p>	<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. 	Elements of the old OCR specification about the role of legislatures in general are not included in the new Edexcel specification.

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
parliament ...whips and the whipping system Unit F852 The Legislature; The organisation of parliament Role of the Speaker...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main functions of the House of Commons and House of Lords and the extent to which these functions are fulfilled. 	The specific functions are characterised slightly differently between specifications but cover broadly the same ground. Old OCR specification does not specifically reference the extent to which these functions are successfully fulfilled.
Unit F852 The Legislature; Legislatures (Definitions; Role and functions); Powers	2.2 The comparative powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords <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 	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.
Not specifically included except Unit F852 The Legislature; The organisation of parliament - ... and standing committees.	2.3 The legislative process. <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. 	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.
Unit F852 The Legislature; The organisation of parliament select (and standing) committees; debates; questions Unit F852 The Legislature; The Commons and	2.4 The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role and significance of backbenchers in both Houses, including the importance of parliamentary privilege. 	The old OCR specification goes into much less detail about scrutiny but most of this content will have been taught. Centres may not have made specific reference to terms such as

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
the Lords - ...scrutiny function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	'parliamentary privilege' and 'short money' and must do so under the new Edexcel specification.
<p>Unit F852 The Executive; The Prime Minister – Role, powers, limits</p> <p>Unit F852 The Executive; The Cabinet – Role, membership, structure</p> <p>Unit F852 The Executive; Ministers (and Civil Service) – Roles</p> <p>Unit F852 The Constitution; Sources of the UK constitution: The royal prerogatives...</p>	<p>3.1 The structure, role, and powers of the Executive including:</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>Elements of the old OCR specification about the role of executives in general are not included in the new Edexcel specification.</p> <p>Reference in the old OCR specification to the 'core executive' is not specifically required in the new Edexcel specification.</p> <p>Reference in the old OCR specification to relationship between ministers and senior civil services is not required in the new Edexcel specification.</p>
<p>Unit F852 The Executive; The Cabinet...Collective responsibility</p> <p>Unit F852 The Executive; Ministers (and Civil Service)...ministerial responsibility</p>	<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. 	The old OCR specification did not make reference to exceptions to ministerial responsibility, although these may have been taught as context.

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Unit F852 The Executive; The Prime Minister...relationship with the cabinet</p> <p>Unit F852 The Executive; Key developments in the core executive</p>	<p>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 	<p>The ‘key developments’ section in the Old OCR specification is given no detail, but some of the issues covered will have been the same as those specifically included in the new Edexcel specification.</p> <p>The old OCR 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>
<p>Unit F852 The Judiciary; Role and Power of the Judiciary - Role, impact and importance of the judiciary; powers of statutory interpretation; judicial review; constitutional review</p> <p>Unit F852 The Judiciary; Judicial neutrality and</p>	<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. 	<p>Overall this element is much smaller than the Unit F852 topic ‘The Judiciary’.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <p>Elements of the old OCR specification about the role of judiciaries in general are not</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>independence - Separation of powers; appointment and removal of senior judges; relationship between the judiciary, the executive and the legislature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>included in the new Edexcel specification.</p> <p>The new Edexcel specification has a significantly narrower focus from 'The Judiciary', focusing specifically on the Supreme Court.</p> <p>The content on the old OCR specification that related to 'Rights, liberties and duties', 'Redress of grievance', and 'Key developments in the judiciary and rights' is only in the new Edexcel specification as it specifically relates to the Human Rights Act and the degree of influence of the Supreme Court – separate questions focused exclusively on rights and liberties or redress of grievance will not be set.</p> <p>Elements of Judicial Reform (HRA; Supreme Court) from the old specification are included in Topic 1 of the new specification but Judicial Reform does not otherwise need to be taught.</p>
<p>Included within Unit F852 The Legislature; The Commons and the Lords - ...scrutiny function</p> <p>Unit F852 The Legislature Key developments in parliament and parliamentary reform</p>	<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 	<p>The relationship between the Executive and Parliament should have been taught in the old specification in connection to the 'Parliament' topic and to a lesser extent the 'Prime Minister and Cabinet' topics, although this was not</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	<p>Executive in exercising dominance over Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the extent to which the balance of power between Parliament and the Executive has changed in recent years 	<p>explicit within the specification.</p> <p>Key developments in Parliament and Parliamentary reforms need only be taught in the new specification as they specifically impact on the relationship between Parliament and the Executive.</p>
<p>Unit F852 The European Union; The EU...aims and objectives</p> <p>Unit F852 The European Union; The impact of membership of the EU on the British government, politics and constitution</p>	<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>Overall this element is much smaller than the Unit F852 topic ‘The European Union’.</p> <p>Specifically the old OCR specification content on ‘the structure of the EU’, ‘how decisions are made’ and ‘key developments in the EU affecting the UK’ are not included in the new Edexcel specification.</p> <p>The old OCR specification did not included specific reference to the ‘the extent to which the aims have been achieved’.</p>
<p>Not specifically referenced but partly included within Unit F852 The Constitution; Key Developments in the UK Constitution</p>	<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 	<p>The old specification did not specifically reference legal versus political sovereignty, or this debate about the location of sovereignty in general, but it should have been taught in some form.</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	constitutional reforms, the UK's membership of the EU and the shifting relationships between Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
Liberalism and socialism (F854) Contemporary liberalism and socialism (F856)	Core Ideologies - Liberalism	Mandatory

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Origins and core values of liberalism; different types; liberalism – utilitarianism, classical liberalism, social Darwinism and libertarianism, new liberalism and welfare liberalism; knowledge of key liberal thinkers, e.g. Locke, Bentham, Mill, Spencer, TH Green, Beveridge, Rawls and Gray. Similarities and differences with other ideologies</p> <p>Impact of contemporary liberalism within liberal democracies, especially inside liberal-based parties; new strands of liberalism, including contemporary liberal democracy, economic and social liberalism, and tough liberalism; Fukuyama and the triumph of liberal democracy; comparison between Liberal Democratic and those of other mainstream political parties</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 modern 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) 	
<p>Conservatism and nationalism (F854) Contemporary conservatism and nationalism (F856)</p>	<p>Core Ideologies - Conservatism</p>	<p>Mandatory</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Origins and core values of each; extent to which they can be regarded as ideological; different types; conservatism – reactionary and authoritarian, paternalism and one-nation, libertarian and the New Right; knowledge of key conservative theorists, e.g. Hobbes, Burke, Disraeli, Oakeshott and Hayek; similarities and differences with other ideologies</p> <p>Impact of the New Right upon traditional conservative values, including the legacy of Thatcherism; social and liberal conservatism; the rise of neo-conservatism; debate over the future direction of the Conservative Party in the UK; comparison between the Conservative Party ideologies and policies and those of other UK mainstream political parties</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>Liberalism and socialism (F854) Contemporary liberalism and socialism (F856)</p>	<p>Core Ideologies - Socialism</p>	<p>Mandatory</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Origins and core values of each; different types; socialism – primitive and utopian, Marxism and other revolutionary forms, democratic socialism and social democracy; knowledge of key socialist thinkers e.g. Fourier, Owen, Marx, Bernstein, Crosland and Giddens; similarities and differences with other ideologies</p> <p>Impact of contemporary socialism within liberal democracies, especially inside socialist-based parties; debate between social democracy and democratic socialism; impact of New Labour ideas on the Labour Party and beyond; Is Labour still a socialist party?; the potential for alternative radical socialist parties in the UK and the EU; comparison between New Labour ideologies and policies and those of other mainstream political parties</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-) 	
Not previously taught	Optional Ideologies - Anarchism	Optional

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	<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"> • 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> <p>Anarchism</p> <p>Ecologism</p> <p>Feminism</p> <p>Multiculturalism</p> <p>Nationalism</p>
<p>Alternative ideologies (F854) The impact of alternative ideologies (F856)</p>	<p>Optional Ideologies – Ecologism</p>	<p>Optional</p>
<p>Understanding of the central beliefs of the alternative ideologies environmentalism and ecologism; similarities and differences in their critique of society; comparison with the central principles of mainstream ideologies (conservatism, liberalism and socialism)</p> <p>Post-modernism and the end of ideology debate; the debate over globalisation and the critique offered by ecologism and environmentalism</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> <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 -) 	<p>Pick one from:</p> <p>Anarchism</p> <p>Ecologism</p> <p>Feminism</p> <p>Multiculturalism</p> <p>Nationalism</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Alternative ideologies (F854) The impact of alternative ideologies (F856)</p>	<p>Optional Ideologies – Feminism</p>	<p>Optional</p>
<p>Understanding of the central beliefs of the alternative ideologies of feminism; similarities and differences in their critique of society; comparison with the central principles of mainstream ideologies (conservatism, liberalism and socialism)</p> <p>Post-modernism and the end of ideology debate; debate over gender imbalance in politics and policy initiatives dealing with gender inequality</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) • Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986) • Kate Millett (1934-) • Sheila Rowbotham (1943 -) • bell hooks (1952 -) 	<p>Pick one from:</p> <p>Anarchism</p> <p>Ecologism</p> <p>Feminism</p> <p>Multiculturalism</p> <p>Nationalism</p>
<p>Not previously taught</p>	<p>Optional Ideologies – Multiculturalism</p>	<p>Optional</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 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 -) • Bhikhu Parekh (1935 -) • Tariq Modood (1952 -) 	<p>Pick one from:</p> <p>Anarchism</p> <p>Ecologism</p> <p>Feminism</p> <p>Multiculturalism</p> <p>Nationalism</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Kymlicka (1962 -) 	
<p>The state, nation, sovereignty and globalisation (F854) The state, nation, sovereignty and globalisation in practice (F856)</p>	<p>Optional Ideas – Nationalism</p>	<p>Optional</p>
<p>Views on the nature of the state – including organic and social contract theories; its different characteristics; the different roles of the state; the meaning of the nation-state (cultural and political) and the debate over its potential demise; the meaning of sovereignty; legal and political sovereignty; internal and external sovereignty; its location and potential divisibility; the meaning and different interpretations of globalisation; the changing world order; moves towards globalisation; prospects of a world government.</p> <p>The role of the modern nation state and the growth of multinational organisations and corporations; the impact of devolution and regionalism in the UK and EU, including the impact of multi-layered governance; the prospects for the development of federalism in the UK and EU; the debate surrounding the location and continued existence of internal and external sovereignty in the UK and EU.</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 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> <p>Anarchism</p> <p>Ecologism</p> <p>Feminism</p> <p>Multiculturalism</p> <p>Nationalism</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p> Democratic theory (F854) Power, authority and legitimacy (F854) Law, order, justice and obligation (F854) Rights, liberty and equality (F854) Democracy in practice (F856) Power, authority and legitimacy in practice (F856) Rights, liberty and equality in practice (F856) Law, order, obligation and justice in practice (F856) </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No longer taught</p>	

Government and politics of the USA

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Election, presidential and congressional (F853)</p>	<p>Democracy and Participation - Elections</p>	
<p>The nominating process including primaries, caucuses and national party conventions; the general election campaign including the role of parties; the Electoral College</p>	<p>5.1 Electoral systems in the USA.</p> <p>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>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 	
<p>Congressional: Factors influencing the campaign and incumbency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of incumbency on a president seeking a second term. 	<p>Congressional elections reduced, moved to the Congress topic (2.2.1)</p>

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Voting behaviours</p> <p>Contemporary issues associated with elections and voting behaviour</p>	<p>5.2.3 Coalition of supporters for each party.</p> <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. 	
<p>Elections (F855)</p> <p>Electoral systems, candidate selection procedures; conduct of general election campaigns; issues concerning the media and campaign finance; issues concerning representation, participation and democracy</p>	<p>5.1.2 Campaign finance.</p> <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. 	
<p>Direct, indirect and representative democracy</p> <p>Functions of elections: representation, participation, accountability, legitimacy</p> <p>Redistricting and gerrymandering</p> <p>Theories of voting behaviour</p> <p>Factors influencing the campaign</p>	<p>No longer included</p>	
<p>Political Parties (F853)</p>	<p>Democracy and Participation - Parties</p>	
<p>Philosophy, ideology and policies of the two major parties: Social democracy/Liberalism/New Deal Democrats, Reagan and Republican Revolutions (1990s), New Right & Neo-conservatism: the dominant ideology and end of history theses, Third way,</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>	

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
New Democrats & Compassionate Conservatism	<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. Republicans <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. 	
Party renewal and decline		'Changing significance of parties' now included within Congress only (2.3)
Political Parties and Pressure Groups (F855) Power within political parties; two-party, multi-party and dominant-party systems; issues concerning the role of ideology in political parties; current political issues in the UK and US; contemporary issues associated with parties	5.3 Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy. The influence, methods and power of at least one single interest group, professional group or policy group.	'Current political issues' is an expectation of exemplification
The debate concerning the decline of political parties and the rise of candidate and issue-centred politics	5.3 Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy.	'Changing significance of parties' now included within Congress only (2.5.1)

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	The influence, methods and power of at least one single interest group, professional group or policy group.	
Roles and functions: representation, participation The role and impact of third parties	No longer included	
Pressure Groups (F853)	Now included in Democracy and Participation	
Types; methods used; examples of, and reasons for, success or failure; implications for the democratic process; issues concerning power and influence. Elitism/pluralism	5.3 Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy. The influence, methods and power of at least one single interest group, professional group or policy group.	
Political Parties and Pressure Groups (F855) The power of pressure groups in a modern representative democracy; contemporary issues associated with pressure groups	Comparisons to the UK (5.5) The following aspects of the UK and US democracy and participation including comparison and debate of the methods and influence of pressure groups (5.5.1)	
Roles and functions New Right views Corporatism	No longer included	
Civil Rights and Liberties (F853)	US Supreme Court and civil rights	

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
Concerning race, religion, gender, freedom of speech and expression; the role of institutions and of the Constitution in defending rights; current issues associated with rights and liberties	<p>4.1 The nature and role of the Supreme Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US Constitution. • The independent nature of the Supreme Court. • The judicial review process (Marbury vs Madison 1803 and Fletcher vs Peck 1810). <p>4.3 The Supreme Court and public policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the Supreme Court on public policy in the US with a range of examples, including examples post-2005. <p>Political significance debate: the role of judicial activism and judicial restraint and criticisms of each.</p>	Refocussed onto the impact of these campaigns, rather than the methods and history
<p>Civil Rights and Liberties (F855) Issues concerning the adequacy of governmental arrangements for the effective protection of majority and minority rights, with particular reference to constitutions, bills of rights, legislatures and judiciaries; issues concerning rights, liberty and citizenship; contemporary issues concerning rights and liberties</p>	<p>4.4 The protection of civil liberties and rights in the US today: rights protected by the Constitution, by the Bill of Rights, by subsequent constitutional amendments and by rulings of the Supreme Court.</p>	Moved from Supreme Court topic
The constitution (F853)	The US Constitution and Federalism	

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
The making of the constitution	1.1 The nature of the US Constitution. <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. 	
The importance and evolution of its underlying principles; separation of powers and checks and balances, the rule of law. Constitutional amendments; the process of amendment and the need for reform	1.2 The principles of the US Constitution (as listed below) and an evaluation of their effectiveness today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • federalism • separation of powers and checks and balances • bipartisanship • limited government. 	
Federalism	1.3 The main characteristics of US federalism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of the federal system of government and its relationship with the states. 	
Constitutional rights		In US Civil Rights topic (6.1)
Constitutions (F855) The sources, nature and role of constitutions; parliamentary and separated; relationships between the centre and periphery; federal, devolved and unitary constitutions	Similarities and differences in the UK and USA 6.2.1 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Constitutions and the resulting impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their nature (codified/uncodified) and their sources, provisions and principles, 	

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	including separation of powers, checks and balances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the similarities and differences between the US federal system and the UK system of devolution. 6.2.2 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.	
Constitutional reform; contemporary issues associated with constitutions and their reform	No longer included	
Congress (F853)	US Congress	
Functions of legislatures	The nature of the US Congress (2.1)	
Representation Membership Factors influencing voting in Congress	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: powers given to Congress in the Constitution, the exclusive powers of each House and the concurrent powers of Congress.	Representation only discussed at national level, not state level
Legislative process	2.2.2 Legislative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legislative process including the strengths and weaknesses of this process. The differences between the legislative process in each chamber. The policy significance of Congress – 	

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
	impact and effectiveness of laws passed.	
The role of political parties	The changing significance of parties in Congress (2.3)	Party systems of reduced importance and moved to Presidency (5.1.1)
Oversight of the Executive	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.	
Legislatures (F855) Functions; internal organisation; the role and power of second chambers; role of political parties within; role of legislators as delegates or representatives; the relationships with the executive and judicial branches of government; contemporary issues concerning representation, accountability, sovereignty and effectiveness	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 structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.	
Committees Leadership Participation and accountability	No longer included	
The presidency (F853)	US Presidency*	*Since 1992 only

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
Powers of the President; presidential policy-making (both domestic and foreign); cabinet**; Executive Office of the President**	<p>3.1 Formal sources of presidential power as outlined in the US Constitution and their use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role as the Head of State and as the Head of Government. <p>The significance of these powers with reference to presidents since 1992. Limitations on presidential power (3.3)</p> <p>3.2 Informal sources of presidential power and their use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the electoral mandate, executive orders, national events and the cabinet • powers of persuasion including the nature/characteristics of each president • Executive Office of the President (EXOP) including the role of the National Security Council (NSC), Office of Management and Budget. (OMB) and the White House Office (WHO). <p>The significance of these powers with reference to presidents since 1992.</p>	**Now only included as an informal source of presidential power
Relations with Congress	<p>3.3 The presidency.</p> <p>3.4 Interpretations and debates of the US presidency.</p>	
Theories and practice of presidential power	The imperial presidency (3.4)	

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
<p>Executives (F855) Election and power chief executives; issues concerning the efficiency of executives in carrying out the functions of executives; formulation and implementation of domestic and foreign policy; relationships with the legislative and judicial branches of government; contemporary issues concerning the role and power of executives; authority and accountability.</p>	<p>6.2.5 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US executive branches and their resulting impact:</p> <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. <p>6.2.6 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.</p>	
<p>Functions of executives problems of the coordination of the Executive Branch Functions of chief executives Issues concerning the organisation of executives – as presidential, or prime ministerial, and cabinet government;</p>	<p>No longer included</p>	
<p>The Supreme Court (F853)</p>	<p>US Supreme Court</p>	
<p>The rule of law and judicial independence, issues concerning judicial review, theories and practice of judicial activism and judicial restraint</p>	<p>4.1 The nature and role of the Supreme Court.</p>	
<p>Membership and the appointment process</p>	<p>4.2 The appointment process for the Supreme Court.</p>	

OCR	A Level Politics 2017	Notes
The role of the Court in the development of the rights of states and individuals, and of deciding other constitutional issues	4.3 The Supreme Court and public policy.	Constitutional rights and the role of the Supreme Court now in US Civil Rights topic (6)
Accountability and democratic control	4.6 Interpretations and debates of the US Supreme Court and civil rights.	
Judiciaries (F855) Political influence and significance; selection and accountability of judges, role of courts in democracies; issues of neutrality and independence; relationships with the legislative and executive branches of government; contemporary issues concerning the role of courts	6.2.7 Compare and debate the following aspects of the UK and US Supreme Courts and civil rights and their resulting impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basis for and relative extent for their powers • relative independence of the Supreme Court in the US and UK • effectiveness of the protection of rights in each country • effectiveness of interest groups in the protection of civil rights in the USA and the UK. 6.2.8 The extent to which rational, cultural and structural approaches can be used to account for these similarities and differences.	
Functions of judiciaries	No longer included	