

# AS and A level **Politics** 2017



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# AS and A level Politics

Information on the changes for 2017 specifications

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



# Agenda

- AS and A level reforms
- Our research and approach
- Our specification
- Support and resources
- Next steps



# Empowering people and ideas

- A familiar and manageable new specification for centres
- Engaging and contemporary issues for students through a range of options
- Accessible assessments for students of all abilities
- Free support resources to help teachers deliver the qualifications
- Ongoing expert support for the lifetime of the qualifications



## The A level reforms

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



# The change timeline

## Changes for AS and A level Politics

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

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



# The change timeline

## Submission timeline for A level Politics

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



# Changes to all Politics qualifications

- Content
- Skills
- Assessment objectives



# Changes to all Politics qualifications - Content

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



# Changes to all Politics qualifications - Skills

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



# Changes to all Politics qualifications – Assessment objectives

- The changes to assessment are finalised. The changes are to:
  - No requirement about correct vocabulary and communicating coherent arguments
  - Assessment objective ranges

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



# Pearson's new AS and A level Politics qualifications

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



# Our approach and research



- Our ambition is to develop a Politics qualification that:
  - teachers will know and recognise
  - allows teachers to teach topics we know students will enjoy
  - keeps what teachers like about our current qualification and changes the bits that are not popular.
- We are working with the teaching community, higher education and subject associations to design our new qualification
- We have had hundreds of conversations with teachers and other subject specialists so far and are continuing to engage as we work on developing our new qualification.



# Our key findings

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



# Our new AS and A level in Politics – Our design principles



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



# Our new A level in Politics

## Our specification model

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



# Our new AS level in Politics

## Our specification model

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



# Supporting teachers

- Our range of free materials support
- Our free training events
- ResultsPlus
- Pearson's published materials
- Other published materials
- How to contact us



# Supporting great Politics teaching

Guides to ideas and key thinkers

Comparative theory guides

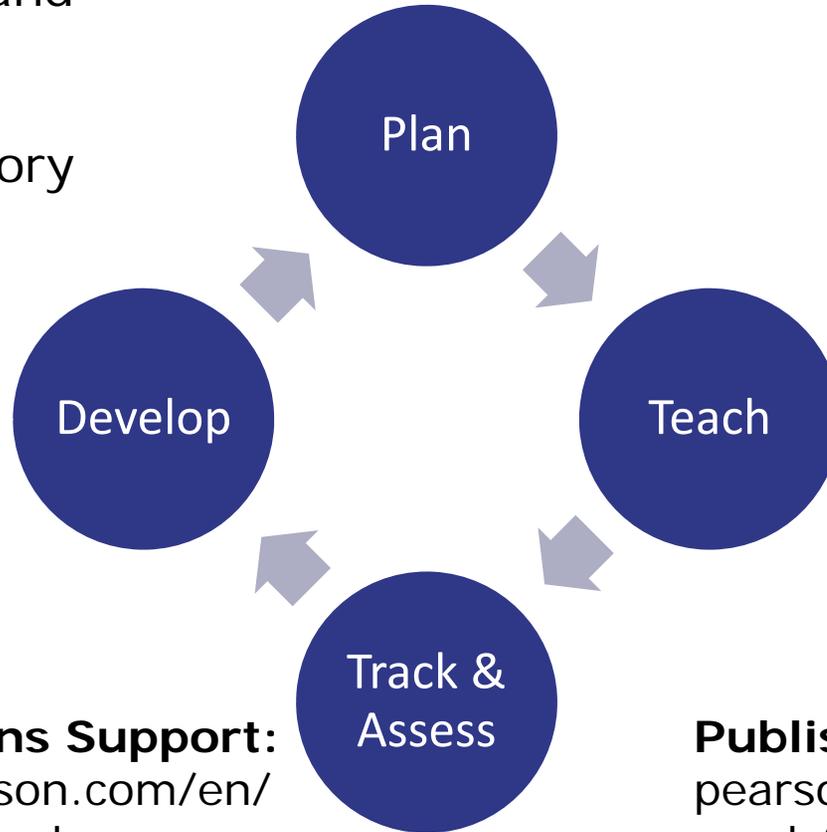
Textbook(s)

Getting started guide

Mapping

Course planners

Schemes of work



**Free Qualifications Support:**  
[qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html](http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html)

**Published resources:**  
[pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/Secondary/SocialScience/GovernmentPolitics/GovernmentPolitics.aspx](http://pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/Secondary/SocialScience/GovernmentPolitics/GovernmentPolitics.aspx)



# Supporting you through the changes- Trusted expert support

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



# ResultsPlus

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



## Published resources

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



# Published resources

- Pearson's new AS and A level Politics qualifications resources\* include:
  - student book
  - online support for teachers
  - topical updates to help teachers draw on recent events and developments in the political sphere

\*These resources have not yet been endorsed.



## Other published resources

- We are working with a range of publishers who are aiming to have their resources endorsed\*, this includes:
- Hodder Education
- ZigZag

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

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



# Pearson is recruiting for Politics

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



## Contact details

- Subject Advisor - Mark Battye
- Email: [teachinggovernmentandpolitics@pearson.com](mailto:teachinggovernmentandpolitics@pearson.com)
- Telephone: 0207 190 4784
- <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>
- Product manager – Thomas Harding
- [Thomas.harding@pearson.com](mailto:Thomas.harding@pearson.com)
- Telephone: 0207 190 4328



## Next steps

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



# Questions?

- Thank you for listening