

Mapping the AQA Specification to the Edexcel in A Level Politics

1 Exams

AQA	Edexcel
100% Written Papers	100% Written Papers
Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK <i>2 hours (33.3%)</i> <i>77 marks</i>	Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas <i>2 hours (33.3%)</i> <i>84 marks</i>
Section A: 3 × 9 marks * 3 compulsory questions from the UK section of the specification * Explain and analyse	Section A: Political Participation * One 30-mark essay question from a choice of two using a source * One 30-mark essay question from a choice of two
Section B: 25 marks * Compulsory extract question * Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in a given extract * Focused on one aspect of the UK section of the specification	Section B: Core Political Ideas * One 24-mark essay question from a choice of two
Section C: 25 marks * One essay question from a choice of two * Analyse and evaluate a statement focused on one aspect of the UK section of the specification	
Paper 1: Subject content	Paper 1: Subject content
Government and Politics of the UK	UK Politics
The Government of the UK	Section A: UK Politics
The nature and sources of the British Constitution	Democracy and participation
The structure and role of Parliament	Political parties
The Prime Minister and Cabinet	Electoral systems
The judiciary	Voting behaviour and the media
Devolution	
The Politics of the UK	Section B: Core Political Ideas
Democracy and participation	Conservatism
Elections and referendums	Liberalism
Political parties	Socialism
Pressure groups	
The European Union	

AQA	Edexcel
Paper 2: The Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics <i>2 hours (33.3%)</i> <i>77 marks</i>	Paper 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas <i>2 hours (33.3%)</i> <i>84 marks</i>
Section A: 3 × 9 marks * 2 compulsory questions from the US section of the specification * Explain and analyse * 1 compulsory question on comparative politics using comparative theories to explain and analyse one aspect of US and UK government and politics	Section A: UK Government * One 30-mark essay question from a choice of two using a source * One 30-mark essay question from a choice of two
Section B: 25 marks * Compulsory extract question * Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in a given extract * Focused on one aspect of the US section of the specification	Section B: Non-core Political Ideas * One 24-mark essay question from choice of two
Section C: 25 marks * One essay question from a choice of two * Analyse and evaluate a statement comparing one aspect of US and UK government and politics	
Paper 2: Subject content The Government and Politics of the USA Comparative Politics	Paper 2: Subject content UK Government
Government and Politics of the USA	Section A: UK Government
The constitutional framework of US government	The constitution
The legislative branch of government: Congress	Parliament
The executive branch of government: President	Prime Minister and executive
The judicial branch of government	Relationships between the branches
Political parties	
Pressure groups	
Civil rights	
Comparative Politics	Section B: Non-core Political Ideas
Constitutional arrangements	Anarchism
The executives	Ecologism
The judiciaries	Feminism
Electoral and party systems	Multiculturalism
Pressure groups	Nationalism
Civil rights	

AQA		Edexcel	
Paper 3: Political Ideas <i>2 hours (33.3%)</i> <i>77 marks</i>		Paper 3: Comparative Politics <i>2 hours (33.3%)</i> <i>84 marks</i>	
Section A: 3 × 9 marks * 3 compulsory questions from the Core Ideologies section of the specification * Explain and analyse three aspects of the different Core Ideologies (conservatism, socialism, liberalism)		Section A: 12 marks * One 12-mark comparative question from a choice of two	
Section B: 25 marks * Compulsory extract question * Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments related to one Core Ideology in a given extract		Section B: 12 marks * One compulsory 12-mark comparative question focused on comparative theories	
Section C: 25 marks * One essay question from a choice of the five Other Ideologies * Analyse and evaluate a statement or viewpoint given in relation to the chosen Other Ideology		Section C: 2 × 30 marks * Two 30-mark essay questions from a choice of three. Focused on the chosen comparative topic (USA or Global Politics)	
Core Ideologies		Section A: Government and Politics of the USA	Section B: Global Politics
Liberalism		The US Constitution and Federalism	The state and globalisation
Conservatism		US Congress	Global governance: political and economic
Socialism		US presidency	Global governance: human rights and environmental
Other Ideologies		US Supreme Court and US civil rights	Power and developments
Nationalism		US democracy and participation	Regionalism and the European Union
Feminism		Comparative theories	Comparative theories
Multiculturalism			
Anarchism			
Ecologism			

2 Paper Choices

The AQA specification does not offer a choice of papers: all candidates must study the Government and Politics of the USA.

The Edexcel specification offers choice on Paper 3: centres can choose between teaching the Government and Politics of the USA **or** Global Politics.

3 Key Similarities

- 100% written examination across three 2-hour papers
- Detailed coverage of the Government and Politics of the UK and the USA, as well as three core political ideologies
- The opportunity to choose which non-core political ideology to study (choice of five)
- Co-teachability with the AS specification

4 Key benefits of the Edexcel Specification

- A familiar specification within a clear and coherent structure
- Greater choice of topics for the second year of study: option to study the Government and Politics of the USA **or** Global Politics
- Clear and explicit guidance on question paper command words
- Choice of question across all the examination papers: only the Paper 2 Comparative Theories question is compulsory
- Detailed key terminology glossary
- Dedicated published resources and free support
- Ongoing expert support and detailed guidance