

KS5 Long Term Curriculum Plan: Year 12 A Level Politics (Edexcel Specification)

Curriculum Aim:

The Edexcel A Level in Politics will enable learners to:

- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally (for global issues see Year 13 plan)
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups
- develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements
- develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.
- *Students will also be confident in applying the 3 assessment skills needed to succeed in the course, namely AO1 (to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues), AO2 (Analysis of aspects of politics, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences) and AO3 (Evaluation of aspects of politics, including to construct arguments and make substantiated judgements).

Link to prior learning: Despite being a new subject at A-Level, the subject will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in the range of Humanities subjects that students study at GCSE (9–1), particularly History when they study the historical background of the UK political system, Sociology when students study Voting Behaviour and Geography when they study global politics (see Year 13 plan for the global aspect).

Rationale of sequencing:

Students initially study component 1 UK Politics, with Democracy and Political Parties being taught concurrently followed by electoral systems and voting behaviour. This gives students (who are all new to the subject) a good initial grasp of the fundamental building blocks of politics in this country. They then move on to the more complex component 2 study of Government in the UK which requires a level of prior understanding that they will have built up from their initial component 1 studies. Finally in the summer term they study different Ideologies which require students to make synoptic links with their prior component 1 learning.

	Focus / Topic	Knowledge & Skills (from NC/Programme of Study)	Assessment*
Autumn 1	Component 1 Democracy Political Parties	<p>Students will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government.</p> <p>Students must comprehend and interpret political information relating to the historical development of Democracy and the main political parties in the UK, critically analysing and evaluating these areas. Students must identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between content studied. Students must construct and communicate arguments with clarity and coherence using appropriate political vocabulary.</p>	<p>30-mark source questions and 30-mark essay questions on the development of Democracy and Political Parties in the UK. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3. Regular past paper exam questions developing source and essay skills</p>

Autumn 2	<p>Component 1 Elections</p> <p>Voting Behaviour (3 elections, '79,'97 & '17)</p>	<p>Students will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions. This component will further examine the role of the media in contemporary politics. It will also give students an understanding of voting patterns and voting behaviour.</p> <p>Students must comprehend and interpret political information relating to Electoral systems and voting behaviour in UK elections (focusing on 3 election case studies, 1979, 1997 and 2017), critically analysing and evaluating these areas. Students must identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between content studied. Students must construct and communicate arguments with clarity and coherence using appropriate political vocabulary.</p>	<p>30-mark source questions and 30-mark essay questions on the various UK Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3. Regular past paper exam questions developing source and essay skills</p> <p>Assessment week (November)</p>	
Spring 1	<p>Component 2 Constitutions</p> <p>Relationship between the branches</p>	<p>The component introduces students to the set of rules governing politics in the UK, the UK constitution, which is different in nature from most of the rest of the world. It further introduces students to the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of the government – legislative, executive, and judiciary – as well as the relationships and balance of power between them, and considers where sovereignty now lies within this system.</p> <p>Students must comprehend and interpret political information relating to Constitutions and the relationship between the different branches of Government, critically analysing and evaluating these areas. Students must identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between content studied. Students must construct and communicate arguments with clarity and coherence using appropriate political vocabulary. As students study component 2 they are expected to make synoptic links with earlier component 1 topics.</p>	<p>30-mark source questions and 30-mark essay questions on the UK Constitution and the Relationship between the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3. Regular past paper exam questions developing source and essay skills</p>	
Spring 2	<p>Component 2 Parliament</p> <p>PM & Cabinet</p>	<p>Students will look at the functions, powers, strengths and limitations of the UK Parliamentary system in Westminster and the formal and Informal powers of the UK Prime Minister and Cabinet (Executive).</p> <p>Students must comprehend and interpret political information relating to the UK Parliamentary system and the role of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, critically analysing and evaluating these areas. They need to focus in on 2 particular Prime Ministers in their studies. Students must identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between content studied. Students must construct and communicate arguments with clarity and coherence using appropriate political vocabulary. As students study component 2 they are expected to make synoptic links with earlier component 1 topics.</p>	<p>30-mark source questions and 30-mark essay questions on the UK Parliament and the role of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3. Regular past paper exam questions developing source and essay skills</p> <p>Assessment week (February)</p>	

Sum mer 1	Component 1&2 Conservatism & Nationalism Socialism and Liberalism	<p>Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.</p> <p>Students will need to construct theoretically led arguments regarding the differing stands of each Ideology, using 5 key thinkers to build their arguments.</p>	24-mark essay 'To what Extent' style questions, continuing to assess AO1, AO2 and AO3 skills. Regular past paper exam questions developing theory-based essay skills.
Sum mer 2	Mock exams preparation and beginning	Component 1&2 re-cap sessions. .	Students tested on all content from the year and all essay styles (30 mark source, 30 mark essay and 24 mark essay). Assessment week (June)

Further Information: A Level Politics specification: [A-level-Politics-Specification accredited.pdf](#)