

Politics A- Level Edexcel 2017 [Specification](#)

- **Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Ideologies 9PL0/01**
- **Paper 2: UK Government and Non-core Ideologies 9PL0/02**
- **Paper 3: Comparative Politics: USA 9PL0/3A**

Timing	Unit Title	Key Question	Knowledge	Assessing understanding
Autumn	Paper 1: Core Ideologies: Liberalism Paper 3: Comparative Study USA: Presidency	Ideologies: ● To what extent is liberalism a united ideology? ● To what extent do liberals agree on the role of the state? ● To what extent do liberals support democracy? USA: ● What are the main roles of the president outlined in the US constitution? ● What are the informal sources of presidential power that help them to have control? ● What is the nature of the relationship between the President and Congress and who	Ideologies: ● Core Principles: Foundational equality, tolerance, meritocracy, and individualism ● The State: A necessary evil; mechanistic theory, social contract (Locke), and limited government. ● The Economy: Laissez-faire capitalism vs. Keynesianism. ● Tensions & Thinkers: Classical vs. Modern liberalism on the size of the state and freedom (negative vs. positive). Know Locke, Wollstonecraft, J.S. Mill, Rawls, and Friedan USA: ● Formal sources of presidential power; domestic and foreign powers ● Informal sources of presidential power; domestic and foreign powers ● Examples of informal and formal presidential power with reference to presidents since 1992; Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump ● To what extent is the power of the president to persuade? ● To what extent have the powers of the president changed over time? ● The cabinet; appointments, role and relationship to the president	Across both papers in all units: ● Formative teacher assessments ● Ideologies paper - practice exam questions ● USA paper - practice exam questions

		is more powerful?	• The EXOP; role and significance of the White House Office, the National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget • Examples of the EXOP and presidents with reference to presidents since 1992; Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump • The nature of the relationship between the President, the Supreme Court and Congress • The limits on and variation to the president's power; changing power over their term in office, congress, supreme court, constitution, election cycle and divided government • How far is the president imperial, imperilled of post imperial? Examples with reference to presidents since 1992; Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump • How effectively have presidents achieved their aims? Examples with reference to presidents since 1992; Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump • To what extent is the president accountable to congress? Examples with reference to presidents since 1992; Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump • To what extent does the president control foreign policy? Examples with reference to presidents since 1992; Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump • Comparison: US and UK executives; similarities in roles and powers, comparison of impact on government and democracy, relationships with other branches, extent of accountability to the legislature • Comparison: Explaining the comparisons above using the structural, cultural and rational approaches	
	Ideologies: Conservatism USA: Supreme Court	Ideologies: • To what extent is conservatism a coherent ideology? • To what extent does the new right support paternalism?	Ideologies: • Core Principles: Human imperfection, tradition, organic society, paternalism, and pragmatism. • The State: To maintain order and authority; the preservation of property. • The Economy: Free-market capitalism combined with	

		- To what extent do conservatives agree over their view of human nature? USA: - Is the Supreme Court nomination process fit for purpose? - How effectively has the SC protected Civil Rights? - Is the Supreme Court best described as a political or judicial body? - Is the living constitution approach more desirable than originalism?	protectionism or state intervention. - Tensions & Thinkers: Traditional vs. One-Nation vs. New Right (neo-liberalism/neo-conservatism). Know Hobbes, Burke, Oakeshott, Rand, and Nozick USA: - Nature and power of the Supreme Court; constitution, judicial review, independence. - Appointments process of the Supreme Court; strengths and weaknesses and factors affecting a presidential choice of nominee - Current composition and ideological leaning of the Supreme Court - To what extent is the Supreme Court and political/judicial institution? - Powers of the Supreme Court over public policy; nature of power, significance of power and examples including post 2005. - Role of judicial activism and restraint and the significance of both. - Debate over living constitutional ideology vs originalism - How effective are the Supreme Court's checks and balances? - How powerful is the Supreme Court? - How are rights protected in the USA today; Constitution, Bill of Rights, Amendments and subsequent Court rulings. - How effectively does the Court uphold civil and constitutional rights? - How effective is the protection of rights in the USA? - Attempts to uphold racial rights (affirmative action, voting rights, representation); methods, influence of groups, domestic policy and the role of the courts - To what extent have there been successes/failures in the protection of minority rights; immigration, equality and affirmative action? - Comparison: Compare UK and US Supreme Courts; basis for and extent of power, nature of independence, effectiveness of the protection of rights, effectiveness of the protection of	
--	--	--	---	--

			rights by pressure groups Comparison: Explaining the comparisons above using the structural, cultural and rational approaches	
Spring	Ideologies: Socialism USA: Democracy and Participation	Ideologies: - To what extent is socialism a coherent ideology? - To what extent do socialists agree over the need for a revolution? - To what extent do socialists agree over the ends not the means? USA: - Why is the invisible primary so significant? - What is the function of primaries and caucuses? - Why do some Americans want to reform the system?	Ideologies: - Core Principles: Collectivism, common humanity, social class, and social justice/equality. - The State: Rejection of the capitalist state; need for an interventionist or abolished state. - The Economy: Common ownership vs. managed capitalism. - Tensions & Thinkers: Fundamentalist (Marxism/Revolutionary) vs. Revisionist (Social Democracy/Third Way). Know Marx/Engels, Luxemburg, Webb, Crosland, and Giddens. USA: - Presidential elections and their significance; constitutional requirements, invisible primaries, primaries and caucuses, fundraising, the role of National Party Conventions and the electoral college. - Advantages and disadvantages of process in presidential elections - The advantages and disadvantages of the Electoral College system and possible reform - The nature of party systems in the USA; why and to what extent is the USA a two party system? - To what extent is incumbency important in presidential and congressional elections? - Campaign finance; current legislation and the importance of campaign finance in winning elections. - Why has it been hard to reform campaign finance law in the USA?	- Formative teacher assessments - Ideologies paper - practice exam questions - USA paper - practice exam questions
	Ideologies: Nationalism USA:	Ideologies: To what extent is nationalism a progressive ideology?	Ideologies: Core Ideas and Principles Define the Nation (a cultural/historical entity) vs. the State (a	

	Democracy and Participation	• To what extent do nationalists agree on their view of the nation? • To what extent do nationalists agree on their view of the state? USA: • Evaluate the view that procedures for electing US presidents and members of Congress are not fit for purpose. • Evaluate the extent to which the process for selecting presidential candidates is deeply flawed. • Evaluate the extent to which pressure groups have made a significant impact in the policy areas of abortion and gun control.	political/sovereign entity). • Explain the concept of Self-Determination and the goal of creating a sovereign nation-state. • Understand the concept of the "General Will" (how shared identity binds a community). • Differentiate between Civic Nationalism (inclusive, based on shared values/citizenship) and Ethnic Nationalism (exclusive, based on shared ancestry/culture). The Four Strands of Nationalism • Liberal Nationalism: Believe in self-determination, universal human rights, and the idea that nations can coexist peacefully in a globalized world. • Conservative Nationalism: Focused on tradition, social cohesion, and the belief that a shared national identity provides stability and order. • Anti- and Post-Colonial Nationalism: Focuses on national liberation from imperial/foreign rule, often blending with socialism to fight against economic exploitation. • Expansionist Nationalism: Aggressive and chauvinistic. Believe in national superiority, imperialism, and military dominance (e.g., integral nationalism). Key Thinkers & Their Core Texts • Ensure you can link each thinker to their view on human nature, the state, society, and the economy: • Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Focused on the Social Contract and the concept of the "General Will". • Johann Gottfried von Herder: Emphasized cultural nationalism and the Volksgeist (spirit of the people). • Giuseppe Mazzini: Believed in liberal nationalism, unifying states based on shared nationality, and moral duty to the nation. • Charles Maurras: Associated with integral nationalism; advocated for an exclusive, authoritarian state where the nation comes before the individual.	
--	---	--	--	--

			• Marcus Garvey: Promoted Pan-Africanism, black pride, and anti-colonial autonomy USA: • The key principles and policy of the Democrat and Republican party • The distribution of power and changing significance of the Republican and Democrat party • The factions and importance of the factions within the Republican and Democrat party • Coalition of support for each party; gender, region, ethnicity, religion and education. How have these factors influenced voting behaviour in the 2016 election? • Interest groups in the USA; at least 3 examples of their role, method, success, significance and debates about their impact on democracy • PACs and SuperPACs and their influence on democracy • To what extent do pressure groups influence the three branches of government, policy creation and impact democracy? • Comparison: US and UK parties and pressure groups; nature of the party systems, degree of internal unity within parties, policy profiles of the two main parties, campaign funding and finance, relative power of pressure groups, influence of pressure groups and methods of pressure groups. • Comparison: Explaining the comparisons above using the structural, cultural and rational approaches	
Summer	Revision	• Revising all five units of the USA paper • Revising all 4 ideologies		Study leave