

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 - Democracy and Participation Paper 2 - The UK Constitution	Paper 1 ● What is democracy and why is participation central to democratic politics in the UK? ● How much influence do groups exert on UK politics and how far does group politics enhance democracy? Paper 2 ● Is the UK Constitution fit for purpose? ● Have constitutional reforms been successful? ● Does the UK constitution need	Paper 1 ● What is democracy; direct and representative? ● Comparing advantages and disadvantages of representative and direct democracy ● Is the UK a liberal democracy ● An overall assessment of the strength of democracy in the UK ● The franchise and attempts to reform this with examples of campaigns e.g. Votesat16 ● An overall assessment of the participation crisis in the UK ● The importance of pressure groups; their functions, methods, factors affecting the success of pressure groups and different types. ● At least 3 examples of pressure groups in the UK, methods, reasons for successes, reasons for failures and extent of democracy. ● Other influential groups including think tanks, lobbyists and corporations ● The development of rights in the UK and examples of 2 civil liberty pressure groups ● Examples of conflicts between individual and collective rights ● An overall assessment of how well rights are	Across both papers in all units: ● Formative teacher assessments ● Paper 1 practice exam questions ● Paper 2 practice exam questions

			protected in the UK Paper 2 • The nature (features) of the UK Constitution • How the UK constitution operates (the sources) • How it has evolved over time • How it has changed as a result of constitutional reforms 1997-2018 • The role and powers of the devolved bodies in the UK, and their impact on the UK (including England) • The debate for further reform of the UK constitution	
	Paper 1 - Political Parties Paper 2 - UK Parliament	Paper 1 • Do political parties effectively fulfil their roles within the UK's representative democracy? • How wide is the division between and within parties over ideology and policy? Paper 2 • How does Parliament function in the UK? • What is parliamentary sovereignty?	Paper 1 • What are the features and functions of political parties? • An overall assessment of how parties are funded and how this could be improved • Examples of left wing, right wing and centre ground policies • The Conservative Party: history, ideology, factions and current policies on welfare, economy, law and order and foreign policy. • The Labour Party: history, ideology, factions and current policies on welfare, economy, law and order and foreign policy. • The Liberal Democrats: history, ideology, factions and current policies on welfare, economy, law and order and foreign policy. Paper 2 • How the House of Commons and House of Lords are structured • The roles and powers of the two Houses and how they compare • The stages through which a Bill passes to become	

			law (including the House of Lords)	
Spring	Paper 1 - Political Parties Paper 2 - UK Parliament	Paper 1 - How is the party system changing and what has been the impact of emerging and minor parties on politics in the UK? Paper 2 - How well does Parliament perform its functions?	Paper 1 - The importance of minor parties on the bigger parties and the UK electoral system - Ideas and policies of two other minor parties - The influence of the media on political parties - Factors affecting party success - Types of party system in the UK - An overall assessment Paper 2 - The ways in which Parliament interacts with (scrutinises) the Executive - The role of backbenchers in both Houses - The importance of parliamentary privilege	Across both papers in all units: - Formative teacher assessments - Paper 1 practice exam questions - Paper 2 practice exam questions
	Paper 1 - Electoral systems Paper 2 - Prime Minister and the Executive	Paper 1 - What are the different electoral systems in use in the UK? - Is FPTP still fit for purpose? Paper 2: - What is the role and function of the executive in the UK? - How does the Prime Minister exert power in the UK?	Paper 1 - Key features, advantages and disadvantages of FPTP - Key features, advantages and disadvantages of the additional member system - Key features, advantages and disadvantages of single transferable vote - Key features, advantages and disadvantages of supplementary vote - Comparison of FPTP with another electoral system from a devolved assembly - What is a referendum and how are they used? - Examples of referendums since 1997 including; turnout and impact on political life - Arguments for and against referendums in a representative democracy. - Key Information Notes Revise - Debates on the different types of government produced by different electoral systems	

			- Debates on the impact of different electoral systems on party representation - Debates on the impact of different electoral systems on voter choice Paper 2 - The structure of the Executive (PM, the Cabinet, junior ministers and government departments) - The role and powers of the Executive - The concept of ministerial responsibility (individual and collective) - The relationship between the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and factors that affect their relationship - The powers of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet to dictate events and determine policy (PMs from both before and after 1997)	
Summer	Paper 1 - Voting Behaviour and the Media Paper 2 - The Relationship Between the Branches	Paper 1 - What have been the key factors influencing elections pre-1997, in the 1997 and post 1997? - What is the extent of the influence of the media on politics and what impact does political bias play in our politics? Paper 2 - What is the role and function of the judiciary in the UK? - How do the branches of government exert influence over one another?	Paper 1 - Case study of the 1979 election: turnout, result, key issues, impact on the parties and impact on the government. - Explain reasons for success/failure in 1979 including; manifestos, policies, techniques, political context. - Explain voting patterns in 1979 including gender, age, region, partisanship, voting behaviour etc. - Case study of the 1997 election: turnout, result, key issues, impact on the parties and impact on the government. - Explain reasons for success/failure in 1997 including; manifestos, policies, techniques, political context. - Explain voting patterns in 1997 including gender, age, region, partisanship, voting behaviour etc. - Case study of the 2010 election: turnout, result, key issues, impact on the parties and impact on the	Y12 summer politics mock exam

			government. • Explain reasons for success/failure in 2010 including; manifestos, policies, techniques, political context. • Explain voting patterns in 2010 including gender, age, region, partisanship, voting behaviour etc. • Case study of the 2017 election: turnout, result, key issues, impact on the parties and impact on the government. • Explain reasons for success/failure in 2017 including; manifestos, policies, techniques, political context. • Explain voting patterns in 2017 including gender, age, region, partisanship, voting behaviour etc. • Overall assessment of voting behaviour and how and why changes have occurred • Overall assessment of the impact of the media during and between elections including bias and persuasion • Role and importance of opinion polls for elections <u>Paper 2</u> • The role and the composition of the UK Supreme Court • The key operation principles of the UK Supreme Court (judicial neutrality and judicial independence) • How the Supreme Court influences both the Executive and Parliament (including judicial review and ultra vires) • How effectively Parliament holds the Executive to account • How the Executive attempts to exercise dominance over Parliament • The extent to which the balance of power between Parliament and the Executive has changed. • The aims of the European Union (including the four	
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			freedoms, social policy and political and economic union) and how far these have been achieved • The role and impact of the EU on the UK political system and policy making • The location of sovereignty in the UK political system (legal and political sovereignty) • How far sovereignty has moved between the different branches of government	
	Paper 3 - Unit 1: US Constitution Unit 2: US Congress	Unit 1 • What is the origin and purpose of the US constitution? • What is federalism and how has it evolved over time? • Where does power lie in the US Constitution? Unit 2 • What are the main roles of Congress and how well does it perform them? • How effectively does Congress restrict the President? • How do parties influence the role of Congress?	Unit 1: The US Constitution • Nature of the US Constitution; vagueness, entrenched, powers of the branches, the amendment process • Advantages and disadvantages of the amendment process • Principles in the US Constitution and their effectiveness today; federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, bipartisanship, limited government. • Concept of federalism and the relationship between the federal government and state governments • The strengths and weaknesses of the US Constitution for democracy • The effectiveness of the US Constitution and its impact on US government today • To what extent does the US remain a federal system today? • Comparison: UK and US Constitution in terms of; nature, source, checks and balances, separation of powers, federalism vs devolution and principles and provisions. • Comparison: Explaining the comparisons above using the structural, cultural and rational approaches. Unit 2: The US Congress	

			• Structure of Congress; bicameral nature, membership and election cycles • Powers of Congress; distribution of powers for each branch both exclusive and concurrent • How significant are and how effective are the powers that are given to Congress? • Representative functions of Congress; congressional elections and the significance of incumbency. • Factors affecting voting habits in Congress; parties, caucuses, constituencies, pressure groups, lobbyists, ideology • Legislative functions of Congress; the process, the difference between the process in each chamber • How significant is the policy function of Congress; effectiveness and significance of legislation passed? • What are the strengths and weaknesses of the legislative process? • Oversight functions of Congress; measures of oversight in both houses, checks and balances on other branches • What factors affect the relationship between the executive and the legislature? • How effective is Congress at its oversight function? • To what extent does the US remain a federal system today? • Comparison: UK Parliament and US Congress; powers, strengths and weaknesses of both houses and the extent to which both houses are equal • Comparison: Explaining the comparisons above using the structural, cultural and rational approaches	
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