

Politics

Exam board: EDEXCEL

Specification no: 8PL0 (AS) / 9PLP0 (A LEVEL)

Link to the Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf>



Content:

AS level

Component	Code	Assessment	AS%
1.UK Politics	8PL0/01	1 hour 30 minute written exam – one ten mark question from a choice of 2; 2 ten mark questions based on a source and one 30 mark question	50%
2.UK Government	8PL0/02	1 hour 30 minute written exam – one ten mark question from a choice of 2; 2 ten mark questions based on a source and one 30 mark question	50%

A Level (Topic A)

Component	Code	Assessment	A Level%
1. UK Politics	9PL0/01	Section A: Two 30-mark questions. Section B: One 24-mark question from a choice of two.	33.3%
2. UK Government	9PL0/02	Section A: Two 30-mark questions. Section B: One 24-mark question from a choice of two.	33.3%
3. Comparative Politics	9PL0/3B	One 12-mark question from a choice of two. One compulsory 12-mark question based on a source. Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three.	33.3%

Course Delivery:

Students participate in a range of lesson activities and formal and informal writing practice.

Course Content:

Component 1: UK Politics

Key debates include how democratic is the UK? Should we change the electoral system for Westminster elections? How important is the media in influencing how people vote? How socialist is the modern Labour Party?

In addition, students study the core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Each one will involve learning about the core ideas and principles of the idea and the views of five key thinkers in relation to the themes of the state, society, economy and human nature. Students will examine the extent to which there is agreement or disagreement within each political idea, for example, “To what extent are liberals afraid of the state?”

Component 2: UK Government

Students examine the sources of the UK constitution and analyse the relative power of Parliament, the prime minister and the executive. This unit includes detailed case study investigations on three prime ministers: Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and David Cameron and involves in-depth analysis of the powers of the prime minister and the ways in which they are constrained. Students also examine the relationships between the various branches of government (parliament, the executive and the judiciary) and consider questions such as does it matter that the House of Lords is unelected? Is the prime minister overly powerful?

Students will also have the opportunity to study the additional political idea of Nationalism. Nationalist Populism is a significant force globally in politics today and draws in thinkers from across the political spectrum.

Component 3: Comparative Politics

Students develop an understanding of the local, national, international and global dimensions of political activity. They gain an understanding of abstract political concepts through contemporary real-world case studies that develop knowledge of multiple perspectives.

Students learn about key international political and economic institutions, such as the UN, IMF and World Bank. They seek to understand why these institutions were established and how effectively they fulfil their roles and help to solve a range of complex global problems. Students also examine how effectively the international community upholds human rights and protects the environment. What happens when one state 'breaks the rules'? Are all states just seeking to maximise their own power at the expense of everyone else? Have international efforts failed to achieve sufficient progress over climate change? How effectively is international human rights-based law enforced?

The main content areas for global politics are: The state and globalisation; Global governance: political and economic; Global governance: human rights and environmental; Power and developments; Regionalism and the European Union; Comparative theories of international relations.

Entry requirements:

Grade 6 or above in English/Humanity/Social Science

Skills & personal qualities required / developed by course:

A nuanced and critical understanding of current events in their broader historical context. Critical thinking and analysis. Articulate and sophisticated academic writing that draws together and analyses multiple disparate threads of carefully chosen evidence from effective research. Articulatory and debating skills. The ability to consider a complex question from multiple perspectives and come to a well-reasoned judgement based on fact.

Resources:

Pearson Edexcel A Level Politics 2nd edition: UK Government and Politics, Political Ideas and US Government and Politics

Recommended reading / websites:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html>

- Quality newspapers - The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph, The Independent, The Washington Post, The New York Times (all available online)
- Television/internet - BBC News, Channel 4 News, CNN
- Radio – The Today Programme (Radio 4)
- Quality weeklies – The Economist, New Statesman, Time Magazine, The Spectator

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