



SUBJECT GUIDE:

Exam Board - Edexcel Level 3
Advanced GCE in Politics (9PLO)
1 year AS, and 2 years A Level with
Comparative Politics: Global Politics (9PLO/3B)

WHY CHOOSE POLITICS?

Politics touches us at all times in our lives so the study of politics should be an essential requirement for every person living and working in the United Kingdom. With an understanding of UK government and politics and Global politics you will be empowered to criticise, challenge, defend or support or even be inspired enough to take an active part in the political discourse that shapes the very nature of the United Kingdom and the world today.

HOW WE STUDY POLITICS

Classroom teaching, discussions and debates, essay writing, audio/visual sources, analysis of past exam questions and how to answer exam questions.

LEARNING SKILLS REQUIRED

Key skills required for the study of Politics, are the ability of knowing how to think analytically, argue and defend your views and beliefs through logical and rational argument. Of equal value in a liberal-democracy like the United Kingdom is the quality of respecting a person's right to hold views that may oppose your own and accept that the only legitimate way you may be able to change their views is through coherent, logical and rational argument and nothing else.

To successfully complete this course you will need very good note taking, reading and essay writing skills and have a genuine interest in current affairs, UK politics, political ideas and philosophy and Global Politics.

WHAT DO WE STUDY IN AS AND A LEVEL POLITICS?

Component 1: UK Politics (9PLO/01)

Exam weighting: 50% of the total AS Level mark or 33⅓% of total A Level mark

This Component covers:

- Political Participation in which the student will study the following topics: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
- Core Political Ideas in which the student will study the following political ideas and philosophies: conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Component 2: UK Government (9PLO/02)

Exam weighting: 50% of the total AS mark or 33⅓ of the total A Level mark

The first part of this Component covers: the UK Government in which the student will study the following: British constitution, parliament, the prime minister and executive, relationships between the branches. The second part studies an optional Political Idea of which the student has a choice of one from the following three: anarchism, feminism or nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics: Global Politics (9POL/3B)

Exam weighting: 33⅓ of the total A Level mark

This Component covers: Global Politics in which the student will study the following: sovereignty and globalisation, political and economic, global

governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED FOR A-LEVEL POLITICS:

Component 1: UK Politics is a written 2 hour exam paper consisting of two sections: Section A: Political Participation from which the student must answer one 30-mark source based question from a choice of two plus one other 30 mark question from a choice of two and Section B: Core Political Ideas from which the student must answer one 24 mark question from a choice of two. The total marks awarded for Component 1 is 84 marks

Component 2: UK Government is a written 2 hour exam paper consisting of two sections: Section A: Political Participation from which the student must answer one 30-mark source based question from a choice of two plus one other 30 mark question from a choice of two and Section B: Non Core Political Ideas from which the student must answer one 24 mark question from a choice of two. The total marks awarded for Component 2 is 84 marks.

Component 3: Comparative Politics: Global Politics is a 2 hour written exam paper consisting of three sections: Section A from which the student must answer one 12 mark question from a choice of two, Section B in which the student must answer one compulsory 12 mark question and Section C in which the student must answer two 30 mark questions from a choice of three. The total marks awarded for Component 3 is 84 marks.

Total marks of all of the three Exam Papers, for the full A level, is 252 marks.

In addition Component 3: Comparative Politics Government and Politics of the USA is also available on request.

Edexcel UK Government and Politics for AS/A Level (5th Edition) by Neil McNaughton
ISBN-13: 9781471889318

British Politics the basics, by Bill Jones.
Routledge, (2016) ISBN: 978-0-415-83571-8
Political Ideas for A-Level: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Feminism, Anarchism by Neil McNaughton and Richard Kelly
ISBN-13: 978-1-4718-8946-2

Political Ideas for A-Level: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Nationalism, Multiculturalism, Ecologism by Neil McNaughton and Richard Kelly
ISBN-13: 978-1-4718-8951-6

Global Politics for A-Level by Robert Murphy
ISBN-13: 978-1-4718-8941-7

THE TEACHER

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COURSE READING LIST