



### SUBJECT GUIDE:

Exam Board - Edexcel Level 3  
Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Politics (8PLO),  
1 year AS Level in Politics

### 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 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 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 and UK politics.

### WHAT DO WE STUDY IN AS LEVEL POLITICS?

#### Component 1: UK Politics (8PLO/01)

**Exam weighting:** 50% of the total AS Level mark total 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.

#### Component 2: UK Government (8PLO/02)

**Exam weighting:** 50% of the total AS mark

**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 of government.

### HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED FOR AS-LEVEL POLITICS:

**Component 1:** UK Politics is a written 1 hour 45 minute exam paper consisting of three sections: Section A: one 10 mark question from two. Section B: two 10-mark questions, one question focuses on a single source and the second question focuses on two comparative sources. Section C: one 30 mark question from a choice of two. The total marks awarded for Component 1 is 60 marks.

**Component 2:** UK Government is a written 1 hour 45 minutes exam paper consisting of three

sections: Section A: one 10 mark question from two. Section B: two 10-mark questions, one question focuses on a single source and the second question focuses on two comparative sources. Section C: one 30 mark question from a choice of two. The total marks awarded for Component 2 is 60 marks.

Total marks of all of the two Exam Papers, for the AS level, is 120 marks.

## AS COURSE READING LIST

**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

## THE TEACHER

Mr. Tony Burrett MSc (Econ) has taught politics, history and international relations at A level and undergraduate level since the mid-1980s.