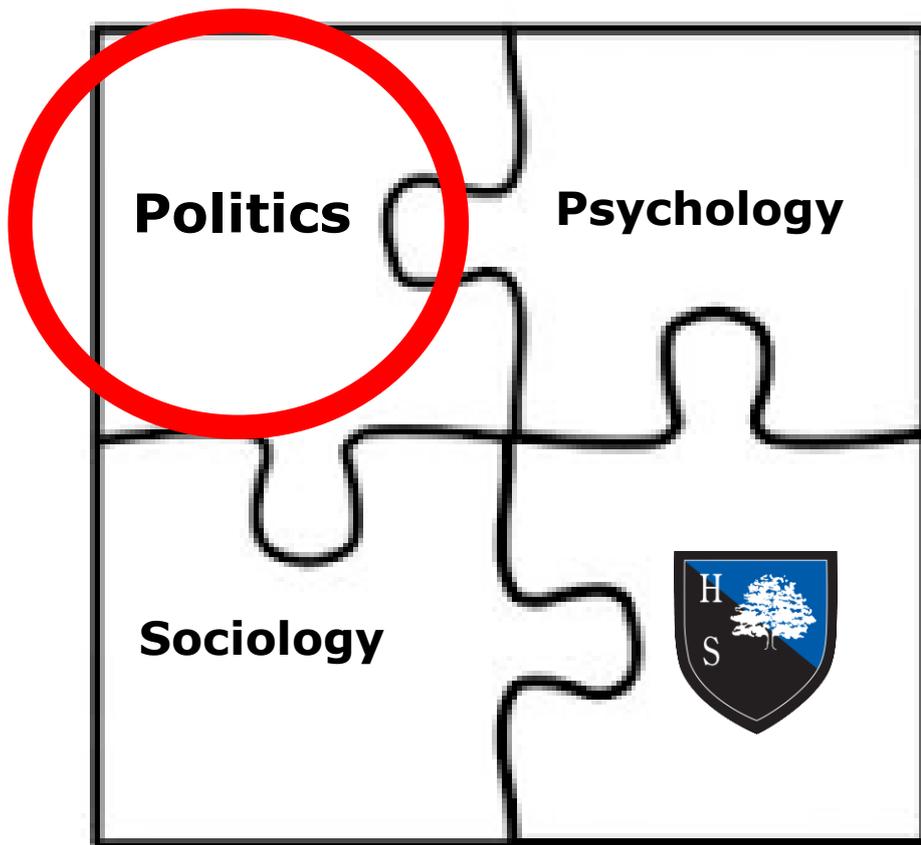


# Heathcote School and Science College

## Social Sciences Department



# Welcome to the Social Sciences Department!

Congratulations on choosing to study **Politics**, **Psychology** and/or **Sociology** at A-level!



The social sciences are a group of subjects that involve studying **SOCIETY** and analysing how people behave and influence the world around us.

So, while Politics, Psychology and Sociology address similar issues, they are distinct subjects which approach these issues in slightly **different** ways.

Take the issue of *authority* ... figures of authority exist in all areas of society, from the government, to schools to families.

When studying *authority* ...

**Psychology** questions *why* we obey figures of authority

**Sociology** explores *how* authority is exercised

**Politics** investigates *why* (or *whether*) we need figures of authority

In taking a social science subject at Heathcote, you'll develop a wide range of skills such as how to **analyse** and **interpret** data and arguments and how to *apply* theories and concepts to explain our social world.

Most crucially though, you'll gain an **understanding** of, and learn to **think critically** about, the way individuals and social groups behave.

Developing in this way will **expand** your options, both at university and in later life!

*We very much look forward to meeting you and to helping you **achieve** your potential at Heathcote Sixth Form.*

**Dr Taylor** (Head of Social Sciences)

**Ms Ayub** (Psychology teacher)

**Mr Angeletos** (EPQ co-ordinator and Sociology teacher)

**Mr Shevelew** (Psychology teacher)

# Department Expectations

To help students **achieve their potential**, it is important that staff and students meet the following expectations.

## **Student expectations:**

I will...

- i. Attend lessons, on time and with the correct equipment. If I am late, I will apologise to the class and to the teacher
- ii. Act politely and respectfully toward classmates and staff at all times
- iii. Take responsibility for catching up on any missed work
- iv. Meet all homework deadlines. If I fail to meet homework deadlines, I will complete the work at the teacher's discretion
- v. Organise my work appropriately. Folders will be checked to ensure I am managing my work effectively
- vi. Complete all work to the best of my ability.

## **Teacher expectations:**

We will

- i. Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge students
- ii. Promote good progress and outcomes by students
- iii. Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge
- iv. Plan and teach well-structured lessons
- v. Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all students
- vi. Make accurate and productive use of assessment
- vii. Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment
- viii. Fulfil wider professional responsibilities.

## **We, the undersigned, agree to meet these expectations:**

*Dr Taylor*

*Ms Ayub*

*Mr Angeletos*

*Mr Shevelew*

# A-level Politics

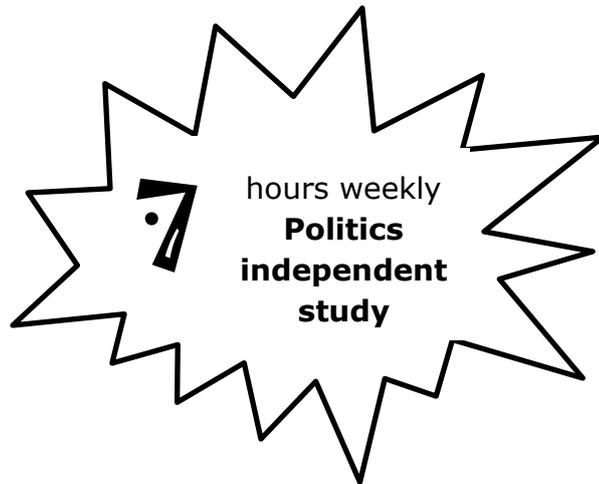
## The commitment

5

hours of **Politics classes** per week

1

piece of **Politics homework** per week



## Homework

If homework is not submitted on time, you will complete it in DEPARTMENTAL DETENTION.

## Absences

It is your responsibility to request and complete any work missed.

## Essential requirements for Year 12

### Equipment

To organise your work effectively you will need:



**A4 folders**



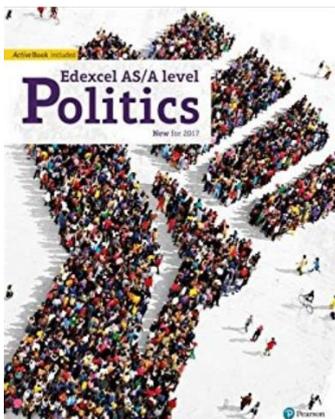
**A4 pad of lined paper**



**Stationary**

### Textbook

- It is **ESSENTIAL** that you buy this book before the start of term
- We'll use this book for the entire A-level Politics course
- It comes with a *free ebook* and an *online case study* of the 2017 General Election.



**Authors:** Colclough, Goodlad, Laycock, Levinson, Mitchell, Schindler, Tomes

**Title:** Edexcel AS & A level Politics

**Available online at:** Ebooks; amazon; wordery; Blackwell; ebay; and other online bookstores

**Cost:** A new copy is available for £30-35

Used copies may be cheaper ... bear in mind that these are likely to be marked.

# A-level Politics

## Overview of issues covered on the course



### UK Politics

- How democratic is the UK?
- Does the UK have a 'two-party, a two and a half party or a multiparty political system?
- What impact do the media have on our view and understanding of UK politics?

### Core political ideas (Liberalism, Socialism and Conservatism)

- Are humans naturally good or naturally bad?
- What is meant by 'equality'? How important is it?
- How far should the state get involved in citizens' lives?



### UK Government

- How does the UK government work?
- Where does sovereignty lie within the UK political system?
- How has the UK constitution changed in recent years? Does it require further reform?

### Non-core Political Ideas (Feminism)

- How useful is government legislation in helping to achieve gender equality?
- Can we generalise about white and non-white women's experiences of oppression?
- Do we still need feminism or has it achieved its aims?



### Government and Politics of the USA

- How does the USA government work?
- What similarities and differences are there between the USA and UK political systems?
- How powerful is the President of the USA?

# A-level Politics

## Assessment Objectives

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Students must:		% GCE A Level
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.	35
<b>AO2</b>	Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences.	35
<b>AO3</b>	Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

## Content and assessment overview

<b>Component 1: UK Politics (*Component code: 9PL0/01)</b>
<b>Written examination: 2 hours</b> <b>33½% of the qualification</b> <b>84 marks</b>
<b>Content overview</b> 1. Political Participation, students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.</li></ul> 2. Core Political Ideas, students will study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• conservatism, liberalism, socialism.</li></ul>
<b>Assessment overview</b> <b>Section A: Political Participation</b> One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3. <b>Section B: Core Political Ideas</b> One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

**Component 2: UK Government (\*Component code: 9PL0/02)****Written examination: 2 hours****33½% of the qualification****84 marks****Content overview**

1. UK Government, students will study:

- the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.

2. Non-core political ideas, students will study:

- one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

**Assessment overview****Section A: UK Government**

- One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these.
- All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

**Section B: Non-core Political Ideas**

- One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

**Component 3: Comparative Politics (\*Component code: 9PL0/3A or 3B)****Written examination: 2 hours****33½% of the qualification****84 marks****Students study either USA (9PL0/3A) or Global (9PL0/3B)****Content overview**

For USA (3A), students will study:

- the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

OR

For Global (3B) students will study:

- sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

**Assessment overview for 3A and 3B****Section A**

- One 12-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1 and AO2.

**Section B**

- One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories, which assesses AO1 and AO2.

**Section C**

- Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three, which assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

# A-level Politics

## Getting Started project

**\*\*\* This project *must* be submitted by the end of the first week of term \*\*\***

### TASK

- Read the passage below
- Use the information *and your own judgement* to answer the that follow on a separate piece of lined A4 lined paper.

#### Can the people be trusted?

The UK is a representative democracy. At general elections, eligible voters cast their vote to elect a Member of Parliament to represent their interests and take decisions on their behalf. However, occasionally, we supplement our representative democracy with direct democracy. This involves the people making decisions directly on an issue, usually in the form of a 'yes' or 'no' response. The most common form of direct democracy is a referendum. Since 1997, the UK has increasingly used referendums on important political issues.

In June 2016, the UK held a referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. Turnout (*i.e. the percentage of eligible voters who cast their vote*) was 72%, of whom 52% voted to leave. As a result, the UK government is pursuing a policy - "Brexit" - that will completely change the way the UK works, politically, socially and economically. Such a huge decision was effectively made by only 37.7% of the voting population.

Many of the people who voted based their decisions on issues such as immigration or on their dissatisfaction with the government at the time. It is claimed there was a lack of understanding of the issues involved. Much has been made of a claim that £350 million that was sent to the EU every week was contested before the vote and, after the vote, UKIP leader Nigel Farage said the claim should never have been made, because there is no guarantee that money can be redirected in this way. Arguably, people had therefore made a decision based on emotion, lack of understanding, poor education or misinformation.

- 1)** TRUE or FALSE ... the UK is a referendum democracy?
- 2)** How does representative democracy differ from direct democracy?
- 3)** If a campaign uses false information, should the result of the vote be ignored?
- 4)** Why do you think the UK uses referendums?
- 5)** 'The UK shouldn't use referendums as the people can't be trusted on important political issues!'. To what extent do you agree with this view? (*Aim to write at least half a side of A4 for this answer*).

# Letter to parents / carers

Dear Parent / Carer,

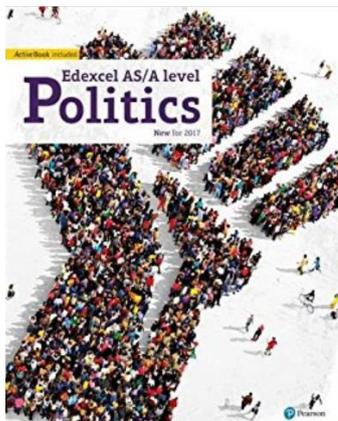
**Re: Year 12 Politics textbook**

Your child has chosen to study A-level Politics. In order to help your child achieve their full academic potential, it is *essential* that they own a copy of the course textbook.

This is:

**Colclough, Goodlad, Laycock, Levinson, Mitchell, Schindler & Tomes (2017) *Edexcel AS / A-level Politics*, Pearson.**

This textbook covers material that your child will study in Year 12 and Year 13; therefore it will be used throughout their time at Heathcote.



This book is available at online suppliers such as [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk), [Ebooks wordery.com](http://Ebookswordery.com).

A new copy costs around £30-35

*Your child must have this in time for their first lesson in September.*

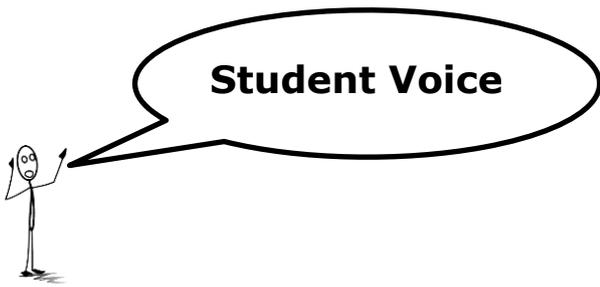
I look forward to helping your child achieve his / her potential; please do contact me or a member of the Social Sciences team using the email addresses on the next page if you have any questions about your child's studies.

Yours sincerely,

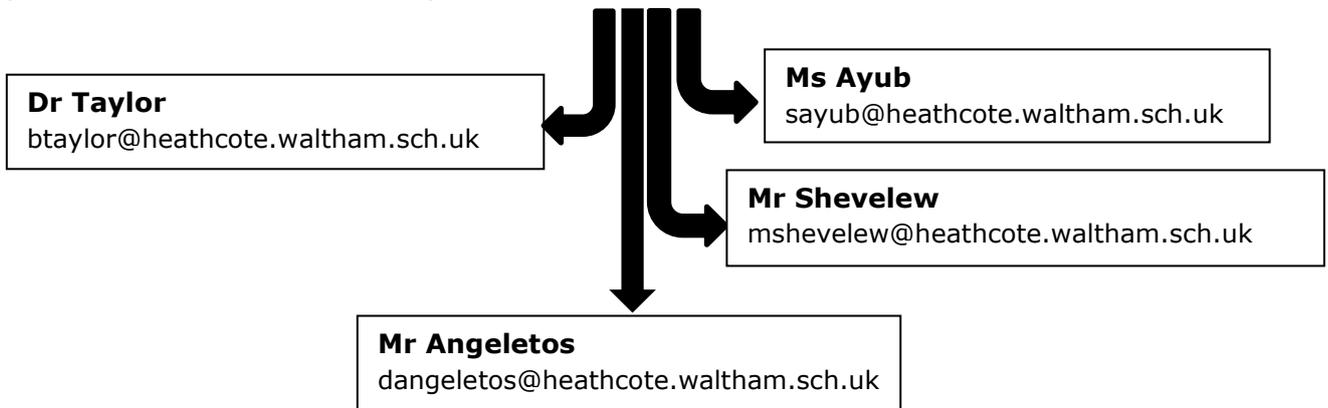
Dr Ben Taylor

(Head of Social Sciences)

# Social Sciences Department



It's important that you *communicate* with staff members so that we have a better idea of how you're progressing. Please email your class teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your studies.



Additionally, throughout the year you will have regular opportunities to **feedback** on all aspects of your studies (e.g. our teaching, your progress etc.).

**Student profile** – complete this and hand it to your teacher in your first lesson.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>		
<b>What level did you achieve at GCSE in:</b>			
<b>English Lit.</b>	<b>English Lang.</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Why did you decide to take this subject?</b>			
<b>What is the most important thing your teacher can do to support your learning?</b>			