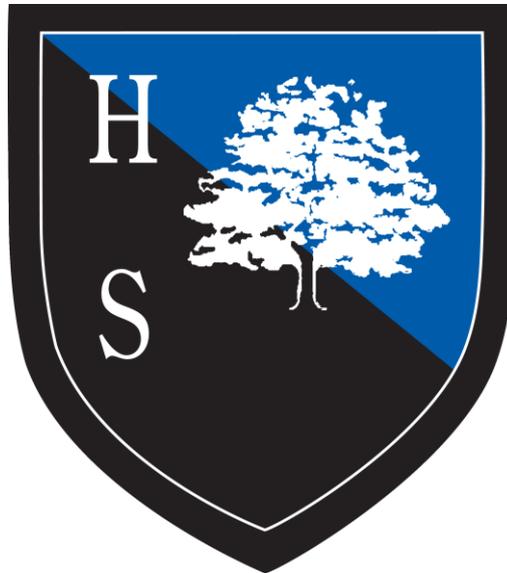


Heathcote School and Science College

Sixth Form



Department Transition Guide

Politics

Including;

Course Overview and Specification Summary

Department Vision for A-level and links to career pathways

Pre-reading

Task/project for summer

Department Expectations

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

Student expectations:

I will...

Attend lessons, on time and with the correct equipment. If I am late, I will apologise to the class and to the teacher

Act politely and respectfully toward classmates and staff at all times

Take responsibility for catching up on any missed work

Meet all homework deadlines. If I fail to meet homework deadlines, I will complete the work at the teacher's discretion

Organise my work appropriately. Folders will be checked to ensure I am managing my work effectively

Complete all work to the best of my ability.

Teacher expectations:

We will

Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge students

Promote good progress and outcomes by students

Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge

Plan and teach well-structured lessons

Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all students

Make accurate and productive use of assessment

Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment

Fulfil wider professional responsibilities.

Getting ready for Year 12

Summer reading and useful websites

tutor2u.net/politics

- Excellent free source of information, revision quizzes etc. for all A-level subjects

tutor2u.net/politics/blog/advice-for-starting-out-on-politics-a-level

- Really helpful blog by a former A-level Politics student. Offers advice and indicates how to access political news content via email, Twitter and newspapers as well as useful politics-themed TV programmes, dramas and films

hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/politics-review-extras

- Politics magazine aimed at A-level students and containing lots of useful debates and articles addressing issues covered in A-level Politics.

bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwvqtfr/revision/1

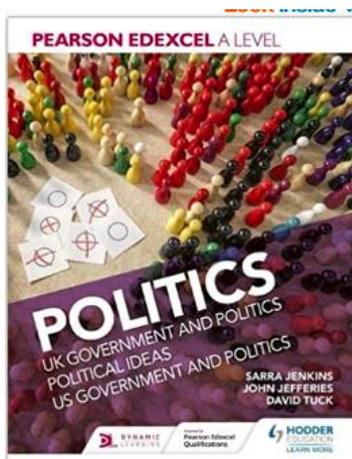
- A thorough introduction to how the UK's political system works.

parliament.uk

- This site is run by the UK's parliament. The quick links section helps you to understand different parts and processes of parliament, while the featured news section allows you to keep up-to-date with political developments.

The A-level Politics 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



Authors: Sarra Jenkins, John Jefferies and David Tuck

Title: Politics, UK Government and Politics, Political ideas. US government and Politics

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

Cost: A new copy is available for £37. Used copies may be cheaper

Additional books (not essential but useful)

Pearson Edexcel A Level UK Government and Politics Sixth Edition

Pearson Edexcel A Level US Government and Politics

A-level Politics specification

Assessment Objectives

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

Content and assessment overview

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

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.

Key issues and Progression

Some of the key issues explored in A-level Politics units



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 and Non-Core Political Ideas (Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism and Feminism)

- 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?
- (How) can we achieve gender equality?



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?

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?



Higher education progression and careers

A-level Politics can help you to access ...

...these university degrees:

- English
- History
- International Relations
- Law
- Politics
- Sociology
- Social Policy

... and careers in these areas:

- The charitable sector
- The civil service
- Education (including teaching!)
- Journalism and the media
- Legal professions
- Police and Probation services
- Research

Summer task

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*).