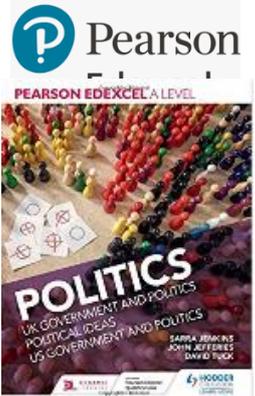


A-Level Politics



Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

- One 30 mark source question from a choice of 2.
- One 30 mark essay question from a choice of 2
- One 24 mark question from a choice of 2 on Liberalism, Conservatism or Socialism.
- 2 hour paper.
- Worth 33 1/3 % of final mark.

Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideologies

- One 30 mark source question from a choice of 2.
- One 30 mark essay question from a choice of 2
- One 24 mark question from a choice of 2 on Anarchism.
- 2 hour paper.
- Worth 33 1/3% of final mark.

Paper 3: Comparative Politics - USA

- One 12 mark question from a choice of 2.
- One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories.
- Two 30 mark questions from a choice of three
- 2 hour paper.
- Worth 33 1/3% of final mark.

Textbook:

Pearson Edexcel A level Politics Paperback – 31 May 2019 by Sarra Jenkins, David Tuck, John Jefferies

Optional / Recommended Texts -

- REVISE Edexcel AS/A Level Politics Revision Guide & Workbook: includes online edition
- My Revision Notes: Edexcel AS/A-level Politics: UK Government and Politics by Neil McNaughton
- My Revision Notes: Edexcel AS/A-level Politics: US Politics by Anthony J Bennett
- My Revision Notes: Edexcel A-level Politics: Political Ideas by Neil McNaughton and David Tuck
- Aiming for an A in A-level Politics by Sarra Jenkins
- Political ideas for A Level: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Feminism, Anarchism by Neil McNaughton and Richard Kelly
- US Government and Politics for A-level Fifth Edition by Anthony J Bennett

To get ahead, follow as many Politicians, Pressure Groups, Political Activists etc as you can on Twitter. Listen to Political Podcasts. Watch TV programmes such as Question Time and Newsnight. Read a variety of newspapers / online articles. Follow SOSPolitics on Instagram!

Expectations for Your First Lesson:

- You are expected to arrive at this lesson with a copy of the textbook and a lever arch folder, as we work on paper in Politics. You may also wish to obtain some plastic wallets / file dividers to assist you with your organisation.
- You are also expected to bring a completed copy of the Bridging Work Booklet has been emailed out to you.
- Furthermore, you must bring a newspaper to your first lesson.
- For Politics, it is important that you stay up to date with current events, so please come to lessons prepared to discuss current affairs!

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Miss Harrison – HarrisonK@holmer.org.uk



'Man is a political animal' (Aristotle)

BRIDGING WORK BOOKLET

NAME:

How politically literate are you?

ROUND 1: The Basics

1. Who is the head of state of the United Kingdom?
2. Where are the Houses of Parliament?
3. How many chambers are there in parliament?
4. What are they called?
5. Members of which house are not elected by voters?

ROUND 2: Elections

1. Who chooses the date of the next general election?
2. How often does a general election *have* to be held?
3. How old do you have to be to vote in the UK?
4. What name is given to the place where people go to vote?
5. What is the current electoral system used to elect MPs called?

ROUND 3: MPs and Parties

1. What does MP stand for?
2. How many MPs are elected to the House of Commons?
3. How many political parties are represented by MPs in the House of Commons?
4. What colour is traditionally associated with the Conservative Party?
5. If for a majority a party needs (50% of the seats in parliament + 1 seat), how many seats do they need?

ROUND 4: Prime Ministers

1. Who served as Prime Minister between 1974 and 1976?
2. Who is the current Prime Minister?
3. Name the 4 previous Prime Ministers.
4. At what address does the Prime Minister live?
5. What party has the Prime Minister joined forces with?

ROUND 5: The EU

1. When did Britain become a member of the European Union?
2. How many members of the EU are there?
3. What is the currency in Ireland, France and Germany?
4. Where is the official seat of the EU parliament?
5. How many MEPs does the UK have?

ROUND 6: Who said...

1. "A week is a long time in politics"
2. "I got fed up with all the sex and sleaze and backhanders of rock and roll so I went into politics."
3. "I don't know what I would do without Whitelaw. Everyone should have a Willy."
4. "That was a disaster, they should never have put me with that woman. Whose idea was that? It's just ridiculous...She's just a sort of bigoted woman that said she used to be Labour. I mean it's just ridiculous. I don't know why Sue brought her up towards me."
5. "Whatever type of Wall's sausage is contrived by this great experiment, the dominant ingredient has got to be Conservatism. The meat in the sausage has got to be Conservative, I would say. With plenty of bread and other bits and pieces."

ROUND 7: Picture Quiz

Look at the pictures of the politicians and write down their FULL NAMES!



BONUS



ANSWER SHEET

1.

2.

3.

4.

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6.

7.

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12.

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20.

BONUS -

Party Logos

1. Identify which party each logo belongs to.
2. What is the symbolism behind each logo?



You will need to download the following booklet:

<https://assets-learning.parliament.uk/uploads/2019/12/How-it-Works-booklet.pdf>

Read through the booklet and complete the following activities:

In your own words write a short definition for each of these keywords/ phrases:

Keyword/ phrase	Definition
Politics	
Suffrage	
Political Participation	
Democracy	
Direct Democracy	
Representative Democracy	
Member of Parliament (MP)	
General Election	
Devolution	
Devolved Assemblies/ Parliament	
By-election	
Referendum	
Manifesto	
First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)	
Constitution	
Uncodified Constitution	
Parliamentary sovereignty	
Legislature	
Executive	
Judiciary	

Role of Parliament	
Parliamentary Reform Acts 1911 and 1949	
Human Rights Act 1998	
Constitutional Reform Act 2005	
Fixed Term Parliament Act 2011	
Bicameral legislature	
House of Commons	
Constituency	
Frontbencher minister	
Backbench MP	
The Speaker	
The Opposition	
House of Lords	
Crossbencher	
Life Peer	
Hereditary Peer	
Select Committee	
Legislative Committee	
Government Bills	
Private Members Bills	
Political Party	
Party Whips	
Party Rebel	
Coalition government	
Partisan	
Partisan	

Dealignment	
Pressure Group	
Sectional Pressure Group	
Causal Pressure Group	
Insider Pressure Group	
Outsider Pressure Group	
Lobbying	
Petition	

Your task is to investigate the **three key questions** below. There are a number of sub-questions to help focus your research. Produce **notes** in a format you prefer. For example, you could create a **table** or a **mind map**.



Research questions:

1. Who runs the country?
2. How does Parliament work?
3. How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations?

Who runs the country?

1. Parties and candidates

- What are the key differences between the major political parties in the UK?
- How are candidates selected to stand for a constituency?

2. Elections and voting systems

- What is democracy? What is the difference between representative democracy and direct democracy? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each type?
- How does the Westminster-first-past-the-post system operate? Who can and cannot vote in general elections and why? Should the vote be changed? What is the frequency of general elections?

3. Forming and organising the work of government

- How is a government formed? What is the role of the monarch? What happens when no single party can form a government and a coalition government is formed?
- How is government organised into departments and ministries? What are civil servants?

How does Parliament work?

4. The Westminster Parliament

- What is the difference between the executive, legislature, judiciary and monarchy?
- What are the roles of the Houses of Commons and Lords? What is the relationship between the House of Commons and the Lords? How does debate contribute to shaping policy and laws?
- What are the roles of: the prime minister, cabinet and ministers, the opposition, speaker, whips, front bench and backbench MPs and the ceremonial role of Black Rod? What is the role of an MP in representing constituents' interests?

5. Making and shaping law

- How does a bill become law? What is debate in the House of Commons and the House of Lords? How do committees scrutinise? What is royal assent?

6. The Constitution

- What is an uncodified constitution? How has the constitution changed recently including as a result of devolution and membership of the EU?
- What is parliamentary sovereignty? Explain checks and balances, including the role of judicial review. How does Parliament hold government to account through oversight and scrutiny?

How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations?

7. Government in constituent parts of the UK

- What are the powers of devolved bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?
- How are relations changing between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including views on devolution and independence.

Investigate the role of an MP

a.) research your local MP, who is he/she; which party do they represent; which constituency do they represent; what have they recently shown an interest in; research their voting history to see where they stand on key issues.

<https://members.parliament.uk/>

b.) investigate the role of an MP by playing the game in the link below.

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/mp-for-a-week/#cta-target>

Findings:

a.) My local MP

b.) The role of an MP

<p>6th Form Preparation work for Politics</p>	<p>Read</p>  <p>Cabinet reshuffle: Who is in Boris Johnson's new cabinet?</p> <p>New Cabinet</p>	<p>Read</p>  <p>Who is in Kier Starmer's shadow cabinet?</p> <p>Shadow Cabinet</p>	<p>Watch</p>  <p>Prime Minister's Questions each Wednesday at 12.</p> <p>Prime Minister's Question Time</p>
<p>Watch</p>  <p>Question Time is on BBC 1 each week broadcast live on Thursday at 8pm.</p> <p>Every time you watch, make a note of the date of the programme and the guests.</p> <p>How do the panel respond to the questions they are asked?</p> <p>BBC Question Time</p>	<p>Complete</p>  <p>Research three members of the cabinet. Find out about their educational background and their political career as well as their contributions to politics.</p> <p>Produce a written overview of each of the ministers you have chosen.</p>	<p>Complete</p>  <p>Research three members of the shadow cabinet. Find out about their educational background and political career as well as their contributions to politics.</p> <p>Produce a written overview of each of the shadow ministers you have chosen.</p>	<p>Complete</p>  <p>From what you have watched and researched what are the key characteristics and skills of an effective politician?</p> <p>Give examples.</p>

Try to 'watch' as often as you can, and keep detailed records – this is an unprecedented time for Politics, and your work now could become incredibly important when we take the time to reflect on what is currently going on in the world!

If you have any questions about any of this, then please don't hesitate to get in touch – my email is harrisonk@holmer.org.uk