



Wath Sixth Form Subject Preparation Pack

POLITICS

World-class learning

World-class learning every lesson, every day

The highest expectations

Everyone can be successful; always expect the highest standards

No excuses

Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit

Growth mindset

Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback

Never give up

Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence

Everyone is valued

Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone

Integrity

Be trustworthy and honest; deliver on promises and walk the talk

A Level Politics Transition Pack

Contents

- What is **Politics**?
- Why should I study **Politics**?
- What careers could A Level **Politics** lead to?
- What will I study?
- How will I be assessed?
- Recommended resources
- Additional support

What is Politics?

Politics attempts to analyse, understand and explain the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes. The A Level focus is on: parliament, the government and the people; representative democracy; participation; the structures of authority and power; the rights and responsibilities of individuals; engagement with contemporary politics in the UK; current political debates; and the links between political ideologies and political action.

Why should I study Politics?

Politics is a popular subject with people who want a subject that is vibrant and exciting whilst discussing and debating national and worldwide issues and current affairs. This course allows you to study contemporary politics and develop a strong understanding of the factors shaping both the British and American systems. Along with this, students will develop their debating skills and are encouraged to think beyond the constraints of a textbook.

What careers could Politics lead to?

There are plenty of career options – public services, the Civil Service and local government, non-governmental organisation work, and research.

Potential career paths could include fundraisers, journalists, management positions, public affairs consultants, public relations officers and working in the law

What will I study and how will I be assessed?

At Wath Academy we cover the **AQA Politics** specification which covers a breadth of knowledge split across 3 externally assessed papers.

Paper 1: Government and politics of the UK	Paper 2: The Government and politics of the USA & Comparative Politics	Paper 3: Political Ideas
Key Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nature and sources of the British Constitution• Structure and role of Parliament• Devolution• Politics of the UK• The European Union	Key Content: <p>The Government and politics of the USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constitutional framework of the USA• The role of Congress• The role of the President• The role of the judiciary• Elections and direct democracy• Political parties, pressure groups and civil rights in the USA <p>Constitutional arrangements of the UK v USA The executives in the UK v USA The judiciary in the UK v USA Elections and party systems in the UK v USA Pressure groups in the UK v USA Civil Rights in the UK v USA</p>	Key Content: <p>A study of 3 core ideologies (liberalism, conservatism and socialism) along one other ideology. Study includes:</p> <p>Key concepts and terminology Key individuals Debates within the ideology Core ideas and values</p>

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
2 hour exam 33.3% of final grade A mixture of medium length 'explain' -style questions, extract based essays and evaluative essays.	2 hour exam 33.3% of final grade A mixture of medium length 'explain' -style questions, extract based essays and evaluative essays.	2 hour exam 33.3% of final grade A mixture of medium length 'explain' -style questions, extract based essays and evaluative essays.

Recommended resources

There are 3 key textbooks that you will use to support your studies. While you may wish to purchase your own copy, this is not essential. These are 'UK Politics for AS/A Level' by Philip Lynch, Paul Fairclough et al (ISBN: 978-1471889233), 'US Politics for A Level' by Anthony Bennett (ISBN: 978-1471889363) and 'Political Ideas for A Level' by Neil McNaughton and Richard Kelly (ISBN: 978-1471889462)

There are, however, three textbooks that could be helpful in your studies. These are aimed at supporting your revision and contain notes and support that will be useful throughout the course. They are:



My Revision Notes: AQA AS/A Level Politics: UK Politics

By Rowena Hammal and Simon Lemieux

ISBN: 978-1510447653

£10.99

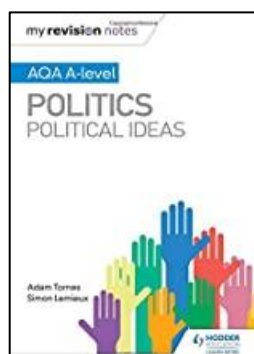


My Revision Notes: AQA AS/A Level Politics: US and Comparative Politics

By Rowena Hammal and Simon Lemieux

ISBN: 978-1510447660

£10.99



My Revision Notes: AQA AS/A Level Politics: UK Politics

By Adam Tones and Simon Lemieux

ISBN: 978-1510447677

£10.99

Additional resources

The following resources may or may not link directly to the specification but are useful in developing your wider understanding of key theories and concepts.

The A Level Politics Show <https://anchor.fm/nick-de-souza>

Transition tasks

The aim of these tasks is to develop your understanding of the subject before you begin. Hopefully, this will ease the transition between what you have done at GCSE and your new A Level course. After all, you have probably never studied the subject before. By completing the tasks below you will give yourself the best possible start to the subject.

Key words and definitions

Use your own knowledge, the website <https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/topics#f> and any other sources of information to help you find definitions for the following key terms.

Affirmative Action	
Backbencher	
Bill of Rights	
Brexit	
Cabinet	
Checks and Balances	
Constitution	
Codified (written) Constitution	
Uncodified (unwritten) Constitution	
Devolution	
Franchise	
First Past the Post (FPTP)	

House of Commons	
House of Lords	
Monarchy	
Parliamentary Sovereignty	
Prime Minister	
Pressure Groups	

What is the political spectrum?

Politics and political parties will often be described as either Left Wing or Right Wing. But what does this actually mean? Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlQ5fGECmsA&pbjreload=10>

Summarise what the main attitudes and beliefs of Left Wing parties or groups, including examples of specific parties

Summarise the main attitudes and beliefs of Right Wing parties or groups, including examples of specific parties

British Political Parties

Watch the video on British political parties at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LrZVn4u8qQ&t=55s>. Which one do you side with and why? _____

Have a go at the quiz <https://uk.isidewith.com/political-quiz> to find out which political party you most agree with. Does it match or differ from your previous answer? _____

American Political Parties

Use the tutor2u website to research the main differences between the Republican Party and the Democratic Party in the USA.

<https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/reference/the-republican-party>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/reference/the-democratic-party>

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

How is Britain governed?

Watch the video 'An introduction to Parliament' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAMblz3Y2JA> and use it to answer the following questions.

1. What two key historical events helped kick start Parliament?

2. Over time, who has power shifted from to make decisions about the country?

3. One part of Parliament is the House of Commons. What does it do?

4. How many MPs are there?

5. How is the PM chosen?

6. What are Parties not in power called?

7. What is their role in the Commons?

8. What is the role of the House of Lords?

9. How many Lords sit in the chamber?

10. What is the role of the Monarch?

11. What are Select Committees and how do they help hold Government to account?

12. How do ideas become Laws?

13. How do elections work in the UK?

14. What happens if there is no clear winner in a General Election?

How is America governed?

Watch the video on how power is divided in the US system of government at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuFR5XBYLfU>

There are 3 branches of Government of the USA. The Legislative, Executive and Judiciary.

1. What makes up the Legislative branch? How is it better known?

2. What is it responsible for?

3. How many Senators does each State get?

4. Who are the leaders of the Executive?

5. What is the function of the Executive?

6. What makes up the Judicial Branch?

7. What is their role?

8. What does the Supreme Court do?

9. What is special about Judges in the Supreme Court, making them unlike any other government official in America?

How are British and American elections different?

Read the article on the three main differences between British and American elections at

<https://qz.com/1743234/the-three-main-differences-between-us-and-uk-elections/>