

AS and A-level Politics

Your companion
guide to our new
specifications

First teaching from September 2017
First assessment for AS summer 2018
and A-level 2019

Find out more at:
aqa.org.uk/politics



AS and A-level Politics is changing

We've created this guide to clarify how the new AS and A-level changes from Ofqual and the Department for Education will affect you and your students. These changes will apply to all exam boards offering AS and A-level Politics from September 2017.

AS and A-levels will be linear

All exams will take place at the end of the course.

AS will be decoupled from A-level

The AS qualification won't contribute to the A-level grade.

AS and A-level will be co-teachable

The AS and the first year of the A-level can be taught together.

Key dates for your diary	
Download our draft specifications for A-level Politics from aqa.org.uk/politics	August 2016
Book your place at our free A-level Politics launch event (also available online)	September and October 2016
Download our accredited specifications from aqa.org.uk/politics	Autumn 2016
Download papers and marks schemes from the AS and A-level Politics page on our website	Autumn 2016
Start teaching our new AS and A-level Politics	September 2017
First exams for the new AS Politics	Summer 2018
First exams for the new A-level Politics	Summer 2019

For more information about AS and A-level changes, visit aqa.org.uk

Specifications for you and your students

Creating a new AS and A-level Politics qualification that meets the needs of you and your students is extremely important to us. That's why we've worked with teachers and subject experts to design new specifications that you'll enjoy teaching as much as your students will enjoy learning.

1. We're confident you'll find our new specifications engaging, interesting and practical to teach.
2. Topic changes have been kept to a minimum so you'll be familiar with lots of the content.
3. Discover teaching resources to help you plan your lessons, teach and assess your students.
4. We're also hosting free, 'preparing to teach' and 'specification launch events', to ensure you're fully prepared to teach the new specifications in September 2017.

We're here if you need us

Want to speak to someone in the AS and A-level Politics team?

T: 0161 958 3861

E: govandpol-s@qa.org.uk

Explore our draft specifications: qa.org.uk/politics

Find out more about the new A-level grades: qa.org.uk/exam-changes



Reasons you'll enjoy teaching our new specifications

- Our specification provides ample opportunity for students to develop their higher-order thinking and independent learning skills, perfect for students wanting to study politics at a higher level and for those with a keen interest in politics.
- Our AS and A-level UK Government and politics topic will give students a grounding in the key structures, events, individuals, controversies and debates in the government and politics of the UK.
- A-level students will still get study to US government and politics in depth, as well as comparatively with the UK.
- In our comparative politics topic, A-level students will have the opportunity to engage in high level analysis and evaluation of significant issues in UK and US politics.
- All A-level students will now get to study Political ideas as a compulsory course, allowing students to develop expertise in three core ideology and specialise in one other ideology of their choice.

How the new assessment will work

- For AS, students will answer a mixture of short response questions, extract based questions and evaluative essays.
- For A-level, students will answer a mixture of medium length 'explain' style questions, extract based essays and evaluative essays.

Specifications at a glance

AS Paper
<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and politics of the UK
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • 98 marks • 100% of AS
<p>Questions</p> <p>A mixture of short response questions, extract-based questions and evaluative essays.</p>

A-level Paper 1	+	A-level Paper 2	+	A-level Paper 3
<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and politics of the UK 		<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government and politics of the USA • Comparative politics 		<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political ideas
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours • 77 marks • 33.3% of A-level 		<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours • 77 marks • 33.3% of A-level 		<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours • 77 marks • 33.3% of A-level
<p>Questions</p> <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' -style questions, extract-based essays and evaluative essays.</p>		<p>Questions</p> <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' -style questions, extract-based essays and evaluative essays.</p>		<p>Questions</p> <p>A mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay-style questions. You can see full details of the new specifications at aqa.org.uk/politics</p>

Clear assessment and marking you can trust

We know the time and effort that you and your students put in to exams. We also understand how essential it is that the marks we give are fair, reliable and trustworthy.

Getting the right results

Our Centre for Education Research and Practice (CERP) provides statistics and research evidence to ensure we assess your students' work fairly and accurately. We also recruit and train the highest calibre examiners and continually monitor their work.

Clear question papers

Students of all abilities will understand our clearly worded exam papers.

Well structured mark schemes and exemplar materials

Our mark schemes demonstrate how to help your students get the best marks.

Our exemplars use real student answers with comments from senior examiners to explain how our mark schemes are applied.

More exam help and advice available

1. Watch our videos on 'assessment explained' or see 'how we create a specification' aqa.org.uk/exams
2. Analyse student results with our free Enhanced Results Analysis tool aqa.org.uk/era
3. More exam-related help is available at aqa.org.uk/results

Assessment support

Our exam resources will help you prepare for exams, these include practice questions, tests and revision exercises. If you'd like to us about the new exams, call us on 0161 958 3861.

Free resources help you bring the new specifications to life

We've worked closely with teachers to create resources you'll find useful and inspiring.

Each resource will help you with a specific aspect of teaching – either planning your lessons, teaching them, or preparing your students for exams.

Free resources include:

- events to introduce you to the new specifications and advise on how you can teach it
- schemes of work and lesson plans
- specimen question papers
- mark schemes
- student exemplar materials
- training and professional development opportunities
- textbooks
- digital resources.

Want to improve your teaching skills?

We offer subject specific continued professional development courses throughout the year.

Browse our courses at coursesandevents.aqa.org.uk

To improve your professional skills, search aqa.org.uk/professional-development



Join the conversation
[@AQACPD](https://twitter.com/AQACPD)



Keep in touch

To contact our Politics
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T: 0161 958 3861

E: govandpol-s@aqa.org.uk

To receive regular updates
about AS and A-level Politics,
register at:

aqa.org.uk/from-2017

Want to know about our
new specifications, launch
meetings and resources?

aqa.org.uk/politics

The information in this guide is based on the draft specification submitted to Ofqual in August 2016 and is subject to change. We will publish the accredited specification and specimen question papers as soon as we receive Ofqual accreditation expected in the autumn.

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