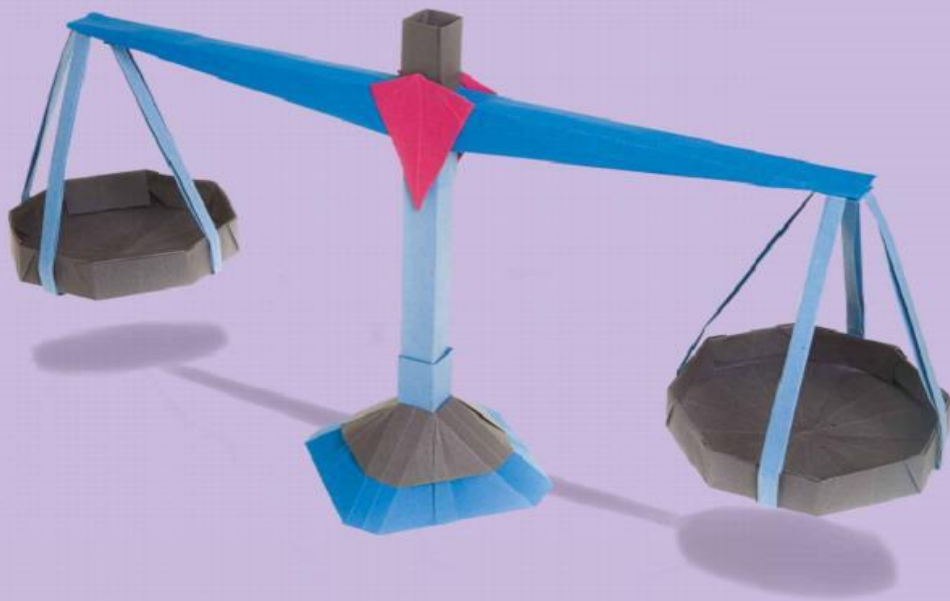


A Level Politics



Specification

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics (9PL0)

First teaching from September 2017

First certification from 2019

Issue 1

Welcome to A Level Politics

Ideologies Preparation

As part of Politics A-Level we will be looking at political ideologies, which is essentially the different perspectives/philosophies on how society should operate. To give you an introduction to two of the ideologies you will be studying, please watch these clips and answer the following questions.

<https://youtu.be/uNKj5lv983E> - An Introduction to Liberalism

Liberalism Questions:

What are the key beliefs within liberalism?

What should be the only restriction on our freedom (according to liberals)?

What do liberals believe about human nature?

What role does the state play in liberalism?

<https://youtu.be/khzQ8iOuwgl> - An Introduction to Conservatism

Conservatism Questions:

What are the key beliefs of conservatism?

What do conservatives believe about human nature?

What do conservatives believe about change?

What role does the state play in conservatism?

How is conservatism different (and similar) to liberalism?

UK Government and Politics

Please [download this](#):

Read through the information carefully. Create a glossary of these key terms:

- ★ Democracy
- ★ Direct Democracy
- ★ Representative Democracy
- ★ Suffrage
- ★ Theories of Representation
- ★ Manifesto
- ★ Referendums
- ★ Uncodified
- ★ Parliamentary Sovereignty
- ★ Legislature
- ★ Executive
- ★ Devolution
- ★ Parliament
- ★ Bicameral
- ★ MPs
- ★ Scrutiny
- ★ Backbencher
- ★ Minister
- ★ Speaker
- ★ Opposition
- ★ Government
- ★ Life Peers
- ★ Hereditary Peers
- ★ Select Committee
- ★ Liaison Committee
- ★ Public Bill Committee
- ★ Free Vote
- ★ Whips
- ★ Pressure Groups.

Confirm your understanding by watching [this clip](#):

Now complete the research document below. The following website should be able to help you:

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

UK Executive

Research the names of the people who hold these current positions within both the cabinet and shadow cabinet (*You may also want to add images of each person – I always find it helps me to remember them!*):

PM:

Chancellor of the Exchequer:

Home Secretary

What is the Cabinet?

Find the UK Parliament website page for the Cabinet and place the link here:

UK Opposition:

Leader of the Opposition:

Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer:

Shadow Home Secretary:

What is the Shadow Cabinet?

Search the Labour Party website and find the link to the Shadow Cabinet and place the hyperlink here:

The Civil Service:

What do the Civil Service do?

What is a SPAD?

Why might SPADs be rivals of the Civil Service?

Why not watch 'Have I got News for You' to hear commentators' reflections on whether they are all doing a good job!

Parliament = House of Commons + House of Lords

House of Commons

Representation in the House of Commons:

<u>Party</u>	<u>No of MPs</u>	<u>% of the national vote</u>
<u>Conservative</u>		
<u>Labour</u>		
<u>SNP</u>		
<u>Liberal Democrats</u>		
<u>Plaid Cymru</u>		
<u>Green</u>		
<u>Reform</u>		
% of Females		
% BME MPs		
% of LGBT MPs		
% of comprehensive educated:		
Do you think this is representative of society?		



House of Lords

Watch this clip to enhance your understanding of the House of Lords:

Type of Lord	No in the Lords	% Lords Members
Lords Spiritual – Bishops & Archbishops		
Hereditary Lords		
Life Peers		

<https://youtu.be/urwQuL4pQmg>

Do you think Lords are representative of our society?

Do you think we should have an elected second chamber?

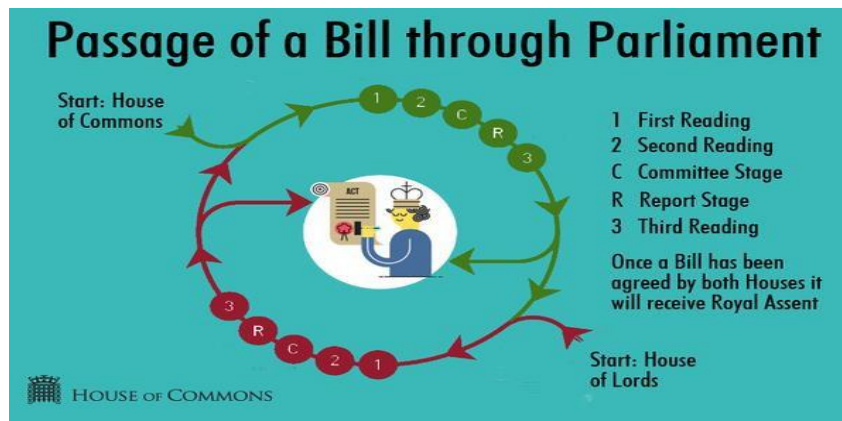


Pressure Groups: (Helpful Link: <https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/reference/pressure-group>)

What is a Pressure Group?

Which Pressure Group do these symbols represent and what do they campaign to achieve?





Watch this clip to confirm your understanding:

<https://youtu.be/1KFGt9M-j28>

Devolution

Helpful Link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-54974078>

Scottish Parliament:

When was it created?

Why was it created?

Leading Party?

First Minister?

Welsh Parliament:

When was it created?

Why was it created?

Leading Party?

First Minister?

Northern Irish Assembly:

When was it created?

Why was it created?

Leading Party?

First Minister and Deputy First Minister?

Watch this clip that looks at the impact of the UK having an uncodified constitution. <https://youtu.be/h9XFTorvsBU>

Wider Reading:

Please keep abreast of all the political stories – particularly for the UK (the activity below will help you with this). The following websites are also useful:

- ★ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics>
- ★ <https://www.theguardian.com/politics>
- ★ <https://www.theweek.co.uk/>
- ★ <https://lgspolitics.wordpress.com/>
- ★ <https://www.economist.com/0>

The Traditional British Constitution

Strengths

- Provides a coherent system of government
- Evolved over time, reflecting the values of the British People
- Parliamentary sovereignty ensures a clear centre of authority
- The rule of law protects the rights of citizens
- Government is responsible – it is accountable to parliament and the electorate
- Government is effective – it can implement their policy programmes
- The constitution is flexible and easily adapted

Weaknesses

- Parliamentary sovereignty and a strong executive produces centralised government
- Local and sub-national governments are not constitutionally protected
- The rights of citizens are weak and not safeguarded effectively
- Pre-democratic elements survive e.g. the monarchy, House of Lords
- Changes to the constitution do not require special procedures e.g. a referendum is not required.

We will be studying Edexcel A Level Politics and [this is their webpage.](#)



Keep a **Politics Diary** to record the key political events that occur between now and when you begin your A Level Politics. This will allow you to become more familiar with the subject and will help to increase your background knowledge. Don't overwhelm yourself – rather see how our political system is functioning. Use the table below to support you.

Politics Diary

Focus	Date	Event

We look forward to you joining us for A Level Politics!