



North Halifax Grammar School – A Level Transition Work

A level Politics

Specification

Edexcel GCE Politics

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf>

Course Overview

Year 1 Subject Content	Year 2 Subject Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UK democracy and participation• UK political parties• UK voting behaviour• UK voting systems• UK constitution• UK legislature• UK PM and executive• UK relations between institution• Liberalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Socialism• Conservatism• Feminism• US constitution• US democracy and participation• US legislature• US executive• US judiciary

Exam Arrangements

3 x 2 hour exams all taken at the end of the course. All exam questions are long form written answers.

Assessment during the course will take the form of extended writing pieces, usually in form of a past paper essay.

Recommended Reading / Revision

Read as much as you can in quality newspapers and magazines about the current state of British and US Politics.

Who Governs Britain? by Anthony King provides an excellent overview of how government works in the UK and is a great introduction to what you will be studying during the Politics course.

Any of the website

UK Politics- General

<http://tutor2u.net/politics.html>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/>

<http://www.economist.com/world/britain>

<http://www.newstatesman.com/> -left leaning

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/> -right leaning



North Halifax Grammar School – A Level Transition Work

Political Parties

<http://www.labour.org.uk/>

<http://www.conservatives.com/>

<http://www.libdems.org.uk/home.aspx>

US Politics General

www.politico.com

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/politics/index.html>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics>

<http://us.cnn.com/POLITICS/>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032553/>

<http://www.npr.org/>

<http://www.economist.com/world/united-states>

Transition work for Politics A level students

Activity 1- Give definitions of the following terms

Legitimacy-

Direct democracy-

Democratic deficit-

Participation crisis-

Franchise/suffrage-

Left wing-



North Halifax Grammar School – A Level Transition Work

Right wing-

Proportional representation-

Coalition government-

Manifesto-

Mandate-

Empiricism-

Meritocracy-

Parliamentary sovereignty-

Fusion of powers-

Codified constitution-

Private Members Bill-



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Activity Two- Source analysis

Find two articles about politics and answer the following questions;

Article One

Where is the source from?

What is the story about?

What does the story tell you about politics in the UK?

Is there any bias evident in the source?

Article Two

Where is the source from?

What is the story about?

What does the story tell you about politics in the UK?

Is there any bias evident in the source?



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Activity three- political compass test

<https://www.politicalcompass.org/> Follow the link and complete the questions on the political compass test. This will give you some idea of where your beliefs would place you on the traditional ideological scale. When you have completed the test answer the following questions;

1. Where were you on the ideological scale?
2. Does this fit with where you thought you might be? Why/why not?
3. Do you believe a tool like this can be accurate?
4. What are the five most important issues for you in politics?