

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

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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-

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Right wing-

Proportional representation-

Coalition government-

Manifesto-

Mandate-

Empiricism-

Meritocracy-

Parliamentary sovereignty-

Fusion of powers-

Codified constitution-

Private Members Bill-

Activity 2: Is British Democracy in Crisis?

Time: 1 hour

Focus: UK Democracy and Participation

Task:

Read two contrasting articles on political participation or recent debates over democracy in the UK (e.g. voter ID laws, low turnout, House of Lords reform).

Then answer the following:

1. What are the core arguments presented in each article?
2. To what extent do you agree that the UK is facing a *participation crisis*?
3. Identify three reforms that could improve democracy in the UK and justify your choices.
4. Which reforms do you think would be opposed, and why?

Supporting Resources:

- [Voter ID laws – The Guardian](#)
- [Democracy Index 2023 – The Economist](#)
- Podcast: The Rest is Politics – “What is wrong with our democracy?”

<https://unlockdemocracy.org.uk/blog1/democratic-backsliding>

<https://www.withinsightedu.org/blog/the-deafening-silence-of-youth-a-crisis-in-uk-democracy>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0005f8w>



<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?