



GOVERNMENT & POLITICS - AS LEVEL

Government &



Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Exam Code: 8GPO1

Website: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Unit 1: People and Politics

Date	Topic	Key Content	Useful Resources
Sept	Democracy and Political Participation	<p>A knowledge and understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the types of democracy and their advantages and disadvantages (representative and direct) • the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in the UK • the extent of liberal democracy in the UK <p>An awareness of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation and ways to increase participation in the UK • methods that could enhance democracy in the UK 	<p>Textbooks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government & Politics for A/S <p>Newspapers (look for articles on topics e.g. use of referendums)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.guardian.co.uk/ • http://www.telegraph.co.uk/ • http://www.independent.co.uk/ • http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/index.html
Oct-Nov	Party Policies & ideas	<p>A knowledge and understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature and features of UK political parties • traditions of parties • factions and ideological differences in parties • differences and similarities of political parties 	<p>Political Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.labour.org.uk/ • http://www.conservatives.com/ • http://www.libdems.org.uk/



Nov	Elections	<p>A knowledge and understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how elections can promote and limit democracy• the various voting systems used in the UK for national, local and European elections• the advantages and disadvantages of different types of voting system	<p>Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.number10.gov.uk/• http://www.parliament.uk/• http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/• https://en.twitter.com/Number10gov <p>Television Programmes (can be watched on Iplayer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newsnight (BBC 2 weekdays 22.30-23.00)• Question Time (BBC 1 Thursday 22.30-23.30)• Andrew Marr Show (BBC 1 Sunday 9.00-10.00)• BBC Parliament Chanel (often has good debates and repeats of the above shows)
Dec	Pressure Groups	<p>A knowledge and understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the features and functions of pressure groups• how pressure groups exert influence and the extent of their influence• the relationship between pressure groups and government and their role in democracy	

Assessment: Unit one consists of a 1hr 20 min. exam paper. Candidates are required to answer two questions. Each question has part a (5 marks), part b (10 marks) and part c (25 marks).



Unit 2: Governing the UK

Date	Topic	Key Content	Useful Resources
Jan	The Constitution	<p>A knowledge and understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • features of constitutions • the advantages and disadvantages of codified and uncodified constitutions • the benefits of constitutional government • sovereignty and the UK constitution in relation to devolution and the EU <p>An awareness of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reforms to the UK constitution • debates relating to the future of the UK political makeup 	<p>Textbooks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government & Politics for A/S <p>Newspapers (look for articles on topics e.g. use of referendums)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.guardian.co.uk/ • http://www.telegraph.co.uk/ • http://www.independent.co.uk/ • http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/index.html <p>Political Parties</p>
Feb	Parliament	<p>A knowledge and understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relationship between parliament and the executive • the advantages and disadvantages of cabinet and presidential styles of government <p>An awareness of the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions of the House of Commons and the House of Lords • relationship between parliament and the EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.labour.org.uk/ • http://www.conservatives.com/ • http://www.libdems.org.uk/ <p>Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.number10.gov.uk/ • http://www.parliament.uk/ • http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics/ • https://en.twitter.com/Number10gov



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">debates to reform parliament	
March	The Prime Minister and Cabinet	<p>A knowledge and understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the role of the Prime Ministerthe powers of the Prime Ministerthe leadership styles of Prime ministers	<p>Television Programmes (can be watched on Iplayer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Newsnight (BBC 2 weekdays 22.30-23.00)Question Time (BBC 1 Thursday 22.30-23.30)Andrew Marr Show (BBC 1 Sunday 9.00-10.00)BBC Parliament Chanel (often has good debates and repeats of the above shows)
April-May	Judges and Civil Liberties	<p>A knowledge and understanding of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the role of the judiciarythe relationship between the judiciary and other branches of governmentthe checks and balances of power on the executive and legislaturecivil liberties and human rightsthe Human Rights Act and the relationship between the judiciary and the European Courts (EU law)	