



UXBRIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL



Sixth Form Transition Pack

Government and Politics – Y12

COURSE INTRODUCTION

A-Level Government and Politics is designed to provide students with a deep understanding of the political structures and issues which inform our lives every day; the course will investigate British and American political ideas, processes, institutions and controversies and set them in a historical context. By the end of the course of study students will have developed a capacity for critical thinking, crucial evaluative skills and an ability to synthesize different arguments and perspectives. Moreover, students will also have gained a valuable insight into their rights, roles and responsibilities as citizens and both the opportunities and threats which are currently present within Anglo-American democracy. This is a course which invites pupils to think, debate and discuss as well as honing key writing skills.

Paper 1: 9PLO/01 UK Politics

2-hour exam on the topic

33.3% of full A – Level qualification

Assessment:

Section A: *Political Participation* - One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus, one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Section B: *Core Political Ideas* - One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Paper 2: 9PLO/02 UK Government

2-hour exam on the topic

33.3% of full A – Level qualification

Assessment:

Section A: *UK Government* - One 30-mark question from a choice of two (each question uses a source) – students must complete one of these. Plus, one 30-mark question from a choice of two – students must complete one of these. All questions assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Section B: *Non-core Political Ideas* - One 24-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Paper 3: 9PLO/3A USA

2-hour exam on the topic

33.3% of full A – Level qualification

Assessment:

Section A: One 12-mark question from a choice of two, which assesses AO1 and AO2.

Section B: One compulsory 12-mark question focused on comparative theories, which assesses AO1 and AO2.

Section C: Two 30-mark questions from a choice of three, which assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

How to prepare

1. Purchase necessary materials to get off to a flying start with your A-Level Government and Politics course, this should include: An Arch-Bind folder, Plastic Wallets, Dividers (different colours are useful), Stationery, A4 lined paper pad.
2. Research and choose to listen to *at least* one political podcast *and* one political radio/TV programme. The A-Level Government and Politics course is all about connecting theory and ideas to political processes and institutions, as well as the context. Politics is all around us and it changes every day, staying up-to-date and aware about current affairs is crucial as they will provide some of the case studies for our course.
3. Choose *two* of the books from the reading list (or choose other equally relevant books) and read them over the summer. They can form the basis for some of our early discussions.
4. Take a look at leading national newspapers for the latest news on British Politics from a range of perspectives: The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Spectator, The New Statesman, Independent/1, Financial Times, The Economist.
5. Start to investigate what your personal opinions are on political issues, the course is going to provide plenty of opportunity for healthy and respectful debate and discussion so make sure you feel ready to contribute. The link below is a fun but also quite informative way of working out some of your views on politics (don't worry, views and opinions are rarely set in stone...):
<https://www.politicalcompass.org/>

Task to be completed

6. Using examples, explain what is Politics?

Introductory reading list

- N. Machiavelli *The Prince* - <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/publications/paul-nation/Prince-Adapted2.pdf>
- H. Arendt *The Origins of Totalitarianism* - <https://www.azioniparallele.it/images/materiali/Totalitarianism.pdf>
- T. Marshall *Prisoners of Geography* - https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=prisoners+of+geography+tim+marshall&adgrpid=61741262068&qclid=EAiaIQobChMIhIGak_2L4wIViZntCh3aBQAPEAAAYASAAEgIozvD_BwE&hvadid=259123491297&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=1006886&hvnetw=g&hvpos=1t1&hvqmt=e&hvrand=13264061979849724275&hvtargid=kwd-299403985573&hydadcr=11498_1841787&tag=googhydr-21&ref=pd_sl_85fy41bisu_e
- R. S. Grayson *British Politics: A beginner's guide* - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/British-Politics-Beginners-Guide-Guides/dp/1851687688>
- J. Knight *British Politics for Dummies* - https://www.amazon.co.uk/British-Politics-Dummies-2e/dp/1118971507/ref=pd_sim_14_2/257-0629219-7296542?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=1118971507&pd_rd_r=bc4ddb9c-9990-11e9-ab66-87bee4658983&pd_rd_w=678mV&pd_rd_wg=9kjs&pf_rd_p=1b8636ae-4f21-4403-a813-e8849dd46de4&pf_rd_r=8V961V2Z9BN3BGE4VN4E&pvc=1&refRID=8V961V2Z9BN3BGE4VN4E
- R. Darlington *A Short Guide to the American Political System* - <http://www.rogerdarlington.me.uk/Americanpoliticalsystem.html>

Audio/Visual resources

Keeping up to date with hot topics in British politics - **BBC Question Time (Weekly)**

Key issues in politics and the views of leading politicians - **Daily Politics**

British Politics Podcasts: - Ed Miliband's *Reasons to be Cheerful*

- Ayesha Hazarika *UnHerd*
- *Remaniacs (The Brexit Podcast)* The pro-Remain campaign
- *Chopper's Brexit Podcast* The Leave campaign.

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2018/jun/17/political-podcasts-10-of-the-best>

USA Politics Podcasts: - [https://www.businessinsider.com/best-political-podcasts-2018-4?r=US&IR=T#the-daily-](https://www.businessinsider.com/best-political-podcasts-2018-4?r=US&IR=T#the-daily-1)

1

*To become an expert in your field you need to dedicate
10,000 hours to your craft.
Good luck Year 12 on embarking on your journey into
Government and Politics*