

Revision Olympics



A Level Politics

Revision Guide

December 2024–May 2025

Exam Specification and General Support

Exam specification and exam board

[Edexcel](#)

Past paper questions

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FExam-materials>

Useful revision websites

[Tutor2u – Politics](#)
[UK Parliament](#)
[The UK Supreme Court](#)
[A Level Politics Revision](#)
[The Whitehouse](#)
[The US Supreme Court](#)

Exam info

Paper 1: UK Politics (2 hours)
Paper 2: UK Government (2 hours)
Paper 3: USA and Comparative Politics (2 hours)

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Week	Activity 1	Activity 2
1 2.12.24	<h2>UK Constitution</h2> <p>Edexcel revision guide UK Constitution section</p> <p>Use this chapter to revise key terminology and concepts for UK Constitution - test yourself as you go through</p> <p>Make sure you understand the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources • Nature of the constitution • Reforms under Blair • Reforms under coalition • Devolution • Arguments for/against codification <p>Watch: http://tinyurl.com/jx9pntt7 http://tinyurl.com/4mx4zx74 </p> <p>Plan and write the source question on p. 77 of revision guide – Evaluate the argument for introducing a codified constitution for the UK [30]</p>	<h2>UK democracy</h2> <p>1. Democracy and Participation.pdf</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define democracy. 2. Outline the key differences between direct and representative democracy. Be clear about the advantages and disadvantages of each. 3. Research: the last three general election results; membership totals for the main political parties; turnout in at least three referendums; turnout in the last local elections. Use your research to argue whether or not the UK faces a participation crisis. 4. Visit https://petition.parliament.uk/ Click the link to see the petitions that have received over 100,000 signatures. Pick a couple that interest you- what was the outcome? How can it be used to show increased democracy (or not) in the UK?
2 9.12.24	<h2>US Constitution</h2> <p>Edexcel revision guide - USA Constitution section</p> <p>Use this chapter to revise the key terminology and concepts for the US constitution – remember to test yourself and complete the comparison section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure you include: • Nature of the constitution • Amendments and rights • Key principles • Federal-state relationships • Comparisons <p>Watch: http://tinyurl.com/6u3pz45p http://tinyurl.com/45r67w4z </p> <p>Plan an answer to: Evaluate the extent to which checks and balances of the US Constitution are still effective today [30]</p>	<h2>UK Parties</h2> <p>Use 2. Political Parties.pdf to remind yourself of the key ideologies of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat Parties.</p> <p>Visit their websites to ensure you have up-to-date notes on their policies.</p> <p>You also need to know about 2 smaller parties. Reform UK and the Green Party would make for an interesting comparison. The SNP have had an interesting year! Find out what their current policies are, how they've done in the recent by-elections and what their plans are for the upcoming general election. What impact have they had/are they likely to have?</p> <p>Plan an answer to this 30 marker: Evaluate the extent to which small parties have an impact on UK politics.</p>

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<p>3 16.12.24</p>	<p>US Parties</p> <p>Use http://tinyurl.com/yankj4uj as a (very) simple reminder of the key policies.</p> <p>Use the Republican and Democrat websites to update with current priorities in the lead up to the election.</p> <p>Create profiles of key voters using the Pew Research Centre data.</p> <p>http://tinyurl.com/4kkdepy</p> <p>http://tinyurl.com/32ryr2b8</p> <p>Plan an answer to the following question: Evaluate the view that the Democratic Party is more internally divided than the Republican Party.</p>	<p>Party comparison</p> <p>Complete a table/Venn/mind-map to compare the Republicans, Democrats, Conservatives and Labour.</p> <p>Focus on policy themes rather than specific policies eg. More hawkish on foreign policy, progressive social attitudes.</p> <p>Plan the following 12 makers and write one of them:</p> <p>Examine the factors that create a two-party dominance both in the US and in the UK.</p> <p>Analyse the differences in party unity in the US and in the UK.</p> <p>*Remember that for the second one you'll need to include comparative theories.</p> <p>This article is an old, but useful comparison: US comparative theories.pdf</p>
<p>4 6.01.25</p>	<p>US Congress</p> <p>Edexcel revision guide - USA Congress section</p> <p>Use this chapter for key terminology and concepts</p> <p>Use Congress website to see what they are currently debating/proposed bills https://www.congress.gov/</p> <p>Make sure you have examples of key legislation for recent presidents and their relationship with Congress. Split your work into the different functions of Congress and examples in each.</p> <p>Make sure you include the work of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both chambers • Any standing committees • Any oversight committees • Examples of recent pork barrelling • Current Speakers, party leaders <p>Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evLR90Dx79M</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVboes68PkQ</p> <p>(continued next page)</p>	<p>UK Parliament</p> <p>Edexcel revision guide UK Parliament section</p> <p>Use this chapter for key sections of UK parliament.</p> <p>Use Parliament website to get up-to-date examples https://www.parliament.uk</p> <p>Split your work into the different functions of parliament – legislative, holding exec to account, representation - and have a judgement on the effectiveness of each section</p> <p>Make sure you include the work of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Accounts Committee • The Departmental Select Committees • Liaison Committee • The House of Lords • Any backbench rebellions <p>Watch: http://tinyurl.com/724du746 http://tinyurl.com/ms2429em http://tinyurl.com/3w46ke7p http://tinyurl.com/292xtvb7</p> <p>(continued next page)</p>

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<p>4 6.01.25</p>	<p>US Congress (continued from previous page)</p> <p>Plan two comparison questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the ways in which the US House of Representatives and UK House of Commons are different [12] Analyse the different legislative powers of the UK Parliament and the US Congress [12] Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the upper chambers in the USA and UK [12] 	<p>UK Parliament (continued from previous page)</p> <p>Plan an answer to: 'The House of Lords is now an outdated institution and should be replaced'. How far do you agree? [30]</p>
<p>5 13.01.25</p>	<p>US elections</p> <p>Make a timeline of the process- from the Invisible primary through to Inauguration Day.</p> <p>These videos will be helpful: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCvMtkEVqdA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_95l_1rZils https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gA766lT3c </p> <p>Use a Venn Diagram to compare the advantages and disadvantages of the process.</p> <p>Evaluate- why is the election process unlikely to change? Why is it considered necessary in a country like the USA?</p> <p>Super Tuesday Listen to your American politics podcast of choice to get analysis of the Super Tuesday results. (I recommend Americast and the News Agents USA).</p> <p>What have the results suggested about the primary process? Who is now likely to win? Where have donations come from? Who are their key supporters? Any surprises?</p> <p>Use the information to write a paragraph to this exam question: Evaluate the view that the process for selecting Presidential candidates needs reform.</p>	<p>UK Executive</p> <p><u>Edexcel revision guide UK</u> Exec section</p> <p>Use this chapter for key terminology and key powers given to PM and cabinet.</p> <p>Be clear on the role and power of the cabinet – remind yourself who is currently in the top four jobs in cabinet.</p> <p>Refer to your case studies on the PMs to use as examples – make a note of a key policy/feature for every PM since Margaret Thatcher</p> <p>Write a summary on the balance of power between the prime minister and cabinet</p> <p>Research some key facts on politics now – including any military activity and politics in the news</p> <p>http://tinyurl.com/tv87ew2y &index=15 http://tinyurl.com/35cm9np9 http://tinyurl.com/mr3vkrez </p> <p>Answer the source question on p. 107 of the UK revision guide – Evaluate the extent to which prime ministers are able to dominate the political system [30]</p>

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6 20.01.25	<p>Liberalism</p> <p>Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKKEMgn2w8Y and complete the activities along with the video.</p> <p>Make a comparison table of the key themes of liberalism and where the classical and modern liberals agree and disagree.</p> <p>You also need to know how classical and modern liberals view the state, economy, society and human nature.</p> <p>Make a timeline of the key thinkers and where they fit with the different strands of liberalism. Learn a quote to go with each one.</p> <p>Aiming for an A/A*? Read this: Runciman-Wollstonecraft.pdf</p> <p>Plan a liberalism essay from the end of the ideologies spec</p> <p>Spec and essay Qs.docx</p>	<p>US presidency</p> <p>Edexcel revision guide - USA Presidency section</p> <p>Use this chapter for key terminology and concepts.</p> <p>Make sure you include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal powers • Vice president • Cabinet and EXOP • Relations with Congress • Direct authority • Theories and limitations on power <p>Compare the powers and restrictions of US presidents and UK prime ministers. Refer to case studies on presidents for examples (as per the handouts you all did)</p> <p>Answer comparison question 1 from section A and question 2 from section B p. 49 – both 12 marks</p> <p>Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5l02sK5LovI https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnHb-zyWh14</p> <p>Plan an answer to: Evaluate the statement ‘Weak at home, strong abroad’ with regard to powers of the American president [30]</p>
7 27.01.25	<p>Conservatism</p> <p>Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aV7C0JJDjbE and complete the activities along with the video.</p> <p>Make a comparison table of the key themes of conservatism and where the different strands agree and disagree (Traditional, One Nation, New-Right)</p> <p>You also need to know how the different strands view the state, economy, society and human nature.</p> <p>(continued next page)</p>	<p>UK elections and referendums</p> <p>Make sure you are confident with how FPTP, AMS, SV and STV work. You also need to know results of elections that use them.</p> <p>SV: https://www.londonelects.org.uk/ (also useful for AMS in Greater London Assembly)</p> <p>AMS: Scottish Election results 2021.pdf</p> <p>STV: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2022/northern-ireland/results</p> <p>Please remember that as of 2023 SV is no-longer used in Mayoral elections!</p> <p>(continued next page)</p>

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Week	Activity 1	Activity 2
<p>7 27.01.25</p>	<p>Conservatism (continued from previous page)</p> <p>Make a timeline of the key thinkers and where they fit with the different strands of conservatism. Learn a quote to go with each one.</p> <p>Aiming for an A/A*? Read this: Runciman-Hobbes.pdf</p> <p>Plan a conservatism essay from the end of the spec Spec and essay Qs.docx</p>	<p>UK elections and referendums (continued from previous page)</p> <p>Research the results of the 2023 by-elections in Kingswood and Wellingborough.</p> <p>How do they show the negatives of FPTP? Use the Reform Party to pick out examples of votes being split.</p> <p>are referendums the best form of democracy.pdf</p> <p>Read this article and complete the questions at the end.</p> <p>Evaluate the view that the emergence of multiple parties in the UK means that the Westminster electoral system must be changed.</p>
<p>8 3.02.25</p>	<p>US Supreme Court Edexcel revision guide - USA Supreme Court section</p> <p>Use this chapter for revision and key terms. Make sure you have examples for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> current key justices' names the judges' philosophy, judicial review, judicial activism and restraint, Bill of Rights and public policy. <p>Plan the question: Evaluate the extent to which the Supreme Court is a political institution [30]</p> <p>Watch: http://tinyurl.com/59422359 http://tinyurl.com/57df6r4p</p> <p>Plan/write the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the ways in which the members of US and UK Supreme Courts are appointed [12] Analyse the differences in powers of the US and UK Supreme Courts [12] <p>Examples are key for this section – names of cases.</p>	<p>UK relations between the branches Edexcel revision guide UK Relations between branches section</p> <p>Use the chapter to revise the UK Supreme court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure you have at least one example for: important cases (Gina Miller case), Rights cases, judiciary/govt conflict and ultra vires. Sovereignty – particularly after Brexit <p>Watch: http://tinyurl.com/2p9xka39 http://tinyurl.com/n8cd3sbv http://tinyurl.com/352mn8cb</p> <p>Plan answers to: Evaluate the extent to which the Supreme Court can control governmental power [30]</p> <p>Evaluate the belief that the balance of power between the executive and parliament has markedly shifted towards parliament [30]</p> <p>Examples are key for this section – names of cases.</p>

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<p>9 10.02.25</p>	<p>Socialism</p> <p>Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cSnt3nl_1g and complete the activities along with the video.</p> <p>Make a comparison table of the key themes of socialism and where the different strands agree and disagree (revolutionary, social democracy, third way).</p> <p>You also need to know how the different strands view the state, economy, society and human nature.</p> <p>Make a timeline of the key thinkers and where they fit with the different strands of socialism. Learn a quote to go with each one.</p> <p>Aiming for an A/A*? Read this: Runciman- Marx and Engels.pdf</p> <p>Plan a socialism essay from the end of the spec Spec and essay Qs.docx</p> <p>Listen to the News Agents' interview with Mick Lynch. http://tinyurl.com/yfvk33tr</p> <p>Make notes on the different socialist values he raises.</p> <p>It is also really useful for Labour policy, pressure group activity and the role of the media.</p>	<p>Nationalism</p> <p>Watch video 1 and video 2 to remind you about Nationalism</p> <p>Tutor2u notes – Use notes to remind yourself of the key terminology and key strands of nationalism</p> <p>Articles – use this folder to remind yourself of current examples such as Catalonia and Scotland.</p> <p>Revision – There are multiple revision lessons in this folder. Use the power points to remind you of key terms and examples Key thinkers Use the summaries to write your own summary of each key thinker</p> <p>Exam practise questions and model answers – potential exam question section Plan at least four exam questions – write two.</p> <p>Exam practise questions and model answers The questions Word document Look through the example answers and add in your selected key thinkers</p>
<p>HALF TERM</p>	<p>Complete a full Paper 3.</p> <p>Download a copy from Edexcel website or Mrs Allen or Mrs Tillotson will give you a hard copy of this before you break up. Revisit the specifications, what improvements have you made? Where do you still need to focus your revision?</p> <p>Go for a walk in nature :)</p>	
<p>10 24.02.25</p>	<p>UK rights and liberties</p> <p>Use the Supreme Court website to update your examples of recent cases where the Supreme Court has acted to uphold rights in the UK.</p> <p>What are the limitations to rights protections in the UK?</p> <p>Is the UK at a disadvantage in terms of rights because it doesn't have a codified constitution?</p> <p>Plan an answer to this question: Evaluate the view that rights in the UK are poorly protected.</p>	<p>US minority protection</p> <p>Remind yourself of Affirmative Action and the results of the Supreme Court cases relating to it: https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/reference/affirmative-action</p> <p>Find and make notes on the 2024 election results for Congress. How has representation changed for minorities?</p> <p>Plan an answer to this question: Evaluate the view that measures to promote racial equality have failed.</p>

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11 3.03.25	<p>How to write the best answers</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/3w4r4jvv</p> <p>Use this section to remind yourself about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source questions • Using examples • Comparison questions • Synopticity (for the top levels) • US answers <p>http://tinyurl.com/47s8w62v</p> <p>Find the whole list of videos to watch for UK politics revision</p>	<p>Read through the booklet – make a note of three targets you could set yourself to improve your written answers</p>
12 10.03.25	<p>https://tinyurl.com/bdhvp7y6</p> <p>Test yourself then check the answers :)</p>	<p>https://tinyurl.com/e3mrrbjja</p> <p>This is a link to the Always Something To Do channel on your Team –</p> <p>Have a look at the question database – plan three random essays</p> <p>Watch two of the suggested watching and listening programmes</p>
13 17.03.25	<p>https://tinyurl.com/e3mrrbjja</p> <p>Write two nationalism essays from the list</p>	<p>https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-news-agents/id1640878689</p> <p>Check through the list of podcasts and select two that you may have missed/find interesting</p>
14 24.03.25	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p07h19zz</p> <p>Check through the list of podcasts and select two that you may have missed/find interesting</p>	<p>Use the Congress website and Whitehouse website – update your resources on the make up of both chambers of Congress and look at examples of laws currently being debated in Congress.</p> <p>Use Parliament website to look at the current make up of the House of Commons and examples of laws currently being debated.</p>

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Week	Activity 1	Activity 2
15 31.03.25	<h3>UK Labour Party</h3> <p>What have been Keir Starmer's main policy priorities?</p> <p>Which of the manifesto promises has he delivered on so far?</p> <p>What examples are there of being true to Old Labour Principles? What about New Labour?</p> <p>What divisions exist within the Labour Party?</p> <p>Use your research to update your notes with recent examples that you could use in a party policy-based exam question.</p>	<h3>UK Opposition parties</h3> <p>What are the Conservative Party's main policy priorities under Kemi Badenoch?</p> <p>Where on the political spectrum has she positioned herself? Is it more similar to Traditional, New Right or One Nation?</p> <p>What divisions exist within the Conservative Party?</p> <p>What has the Conservative Party's position meant for Reform UK?</p> <p>Use your research to update your notes with recent examples that you could use in a party policy-based exam question.</p>
EASTER BREAK	<p>Complete a full Paper (you can choose).</p> <p>Download a copy from Edexcel website or Mrs Allen or Mrs Tillotson will give you a hard copy of this before you break up. Revisit the specifications, what needs to be your priority for the next few weeks.</p> <p>Go for a walk in nature :)</p>	
16 21.04.25	<h3>The Liberal Democrats</h3> <p>These are named as a 'main party' on the specification, so you need to know about them and their policies.</p> <p>What influence did they have in the coalition?</p> <p>What does the result of the 2024 election tell us about their campaign strategies, popular policies and key areas of support? How similar are they to their traditional principles and values?</p>	<h3>The smaller parties</h3> <p>You need to know about at least 2 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green • SNP • Plaid Cymru • Reform UK <p>What do they stand for? Where are they represented (don't forget about the devolved govts)? What influence have they had on policy in the UK? What has enabled/limited their success?</p>
17 28.04.25	<h3>The Democrats</h3> <p>Main policies</p> <p>Key individuals- who is being considered for 2028?</p> <p>Areas of influence in Congress</p> <p>States where they have more success (think about governors and city mayors).</p> <p>Main areas of division and unity.</p>	<h3>The Republicans</h3> <p>Main policies</p> <p>Key individuals- who is being considered for 2028?</p> <p>Areas of influence in Congress</p> <p>States where they have more success (think about governors and city mayors).</p> <p>Main areas of division and unity.</p>

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Week	Activity 1	Activity 2
18 5.05.25	<p>Read the most recent Politics Review. Use it to update your examples. Pick at least two of the articles to read in depth, completing the activities at the end.</p> <p>Try to select articles and activities that address the gaps that you identified in week 17. Ask Mrs Allen or Mrs Tillotson for the most recent copies.</p>	
19 12.05.25	<p>Talk to people at home about recent political events.</p> <p>Use the key words from the specification and develop your confidence using them.</p> <p>Pose controversial questions and be prepared to justify your case. Use evidence to support your arguments and fully develop your reasoning. Your family members should be convinced by the strength of your argument.</p> <p>This will help to develop your AO1 (knowledge), AO2 (analysis) and AO3 (evaluation).</p>	