



# Politics A Level Exam Information

Summer 2022

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas. Wednesday 25 May. Morning 2 hours

Paper 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas. Thursday 09 June. Afternoon 2 hours

Paper 3A: Comparative Politics - USA. Friday 17 June. Morning 2 hours

## **Politics Edexcel A-Level Exam Topics 2022**

### **Politics Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas**

#### **1 Democracy and participation**

- 1.3 Pressure groups and other influences
- 1.4 Rights in context

#### **2 Political parties**

- 2.2 Established political parties
- 2.3 Emerging and minor UK political parties
- 2.4 UK political parties in context

#### **3 Electoral systems**

- 3.1 Different electoral systems
- 3.3 Electoral system analysis

#### **4 Voting behaviour and the media**

- 4.2 The influence of the media

### **Core Political Ideas - Ideology Subject content**

#### **Conservatism**

- 1 Conservatism: core ideas and principles
- 2 Differing views and tensions within conservatism
- 3 Conservative thinkers and their ideas

#### **Socialism**

- 1 Socialism: core ideas and principles
- 2 Differing views and tensions within socialism
- 3 Socialist thinkers and their ideas

### **What questions are likely to come up?**

#### **1. Democracy and participation**

Looks like pressure groups and role in protecting rights.

To what extent do they enhance and threaten democracy?

Does Parliament protect rights better than pressure groups?

#### **2. Political parties**

No funding or features of political parties

But to have emerging and minor UK political parties in means they might have party systems questions here. Impact of minor parties. Could be Lab and Cons only parties that matter?.

2021 exam was emergence of multi-parties means electoral systems should change

Might need 2.3 for electoral systems questions.

Could be a question about the importance of the media or leader or something in party success?

#### **3. Electoral systems**

- Pretty straightforward. Could be FPTP or not or how alternative systems create democracy.

#### **4. Voting Behaviour and the media**

Is it a standalone question on the media?

Is it a source about impact of the media during or between general elections

Can also be used in rights questions

## **Politics Paper 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas**

### **1 The constitution**

- 1.3 The role and powers of devolved bodies in the UK, and the impact of this devolution on the UK
- 1.4 Debates on further reform

### **2 Parliament**

- 2.2 The comparative powers of the House of Commons and House of Lords
- 2.3 The legislative process
- 2.4 The ways in which Parliament interacts with the Executive

### **3 Prime Minister and Executive**

- 3.1 The structure, role and powers of the Executive
- 3.2 The concept of ministerial responsibility

#### **4 Relations between the branches**

- 4.1 The Supreme Court and its interactions with, and influence over, the legislative and policy-making processes

#### **Non-Core Political ideas**

- Anarchism

### **What questions are likely to come up in paper?**

#### **1 - Constitution**

Likely to be further devolution - probably on English or city devolution

To have further reform you would need 1.2 which assessing previous reforms.

Can't be codified constitution.

Article in recent politics review and Hodder update has English devolution article

#### **2. Parliament**

Not to do with selection of Lords and Commons and how representative they are

Effectiveness at scrutinising legislation

Effectiveness at scrutiny in general

Is the Lords more effective than Commons

#### **3. PM and Executive**

Ministerial responsibility likely to be a source question

3.1 - Would there be something about the role and power of the executive -is it something that could be needed to answer 2.2

Some worried that need to cover off Prime Minister -wouldn't rule out Parliament's ability to control the Prime Minister?

Others say you can't ask 3.2 without touching on 3.1

#### **4. Relations between the branches**

1 Prorogation source. Gina Miller source.

Supreme Court relationship with executive and/or Parliament

#### **Non-Core Political ideas**

- Anarchism

### **Politics Paper 3 – USA**

## **1 US Constitution and federalism**

- 1.1 The nature of the US Constitution
- 1.2 The key features of the US Constitution

## **2 US Congress**

- 2.1 The structure of Congress
- 2.2 The functions of Congress
- 2.3 Interpretations and debates around Congress

## **3 US presidency**

- 3.1 Formal sources of presidential power
- 3.2 Informal sources of presidential power
- 3.3 The presidency

## **4 US Supreme Court and civil rights**

- 4.1 The nature and role of the Supreme Court
- 4.3 The Supreme Court and public policy
- 4.4 The protection of civil liberties and rights in the US today
- 4.5 Race and rights in contemporary US politics
- 4.6 US Supreme Court and civil rights

## **5 US democracy and participation**

- 5.1 Electoral systems in the USA
- 5.2 The key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties
- 5.3 Interest groups in the USA – their significance, resources, tactics and debates about their impact on democracy
- 5.4 US democracy and participation

## **6 Comparative approaches**

- 6.1 Theoretical approaches – understanding of the rational, cultural and structural approaches and the different ways they explain similarities and differences between the government and politics of different countries
- 6.2 Similarities and differences in the UK and USA.

### **Compare and debate the following aspects and the resulting impact on politics and government:**

- 6.2.3 UK and US legislative branches
- 6.2.5 UK and US executive branches
- 6.2.6 Rational, cultural and structural approaches

- 6.2.9 UK and US democracy and participation

### **What questions are likely to come up?**

Edexcel USA questions are likely to be synoptic. Likely to be one standalone question and two synoptic. Someone, we think, has sat down with the papers and made this list. But not all these things will be in the questions - rather these are things they could talk about.

#### **1. Constitution**

An amendment to the constitution question or a principles question?

Could be used for how well does congress carry out their constitutional functions?

The constitution is there to ground your discussion of the other topics

Effectiveness of the principles of the constitution

Is the constitution out of date?

They have left our interpretations and debates around it -so unlikely to be a straight essay

2020 - constitutional question

#### **2. US Congress**

Kept all of it in - including interpretations and debates around Congress - could be a standalone question but almost definitely an essay will be on it.

#### **3. The Presidency**

Missed off debates around it - unlikely to be imperial presidency.

Could be evaluate the extent to which the US constitution promotes bipartisanship between the President and Congress.

Questions will often be about two or three topics - how does x influence y

#### **4. Supreme Court and Civil Rights**

Possible that there will be synopticity here -which one of judiciary, president or interest groups protects rights better.

To what extent does the constitution ensure the supreme court protects rights.

Imperial judiciary.

Unlikely we will get single topic questions

#### **5. US democracy and participation**

Nothing left out so everything can be in.

#### **6 Comparative approaches**

Examine questions will be on UK and US legislative branches and UK and US democracy and participation

Can't have electoral process comparison but could have parties, party system, pressure groups, campaign funding.

They gave a list of the sub bullets in the comparative 6.2.6 so it must be the executive for the comparative analyse question.

We have to read the lists as independent - so the executive questions could be about President and Prime Minister.