

**Starter:**

What do you already know about Politics?

What's been going on in the news that is relevant to your age group?

What can the government do more of to help?

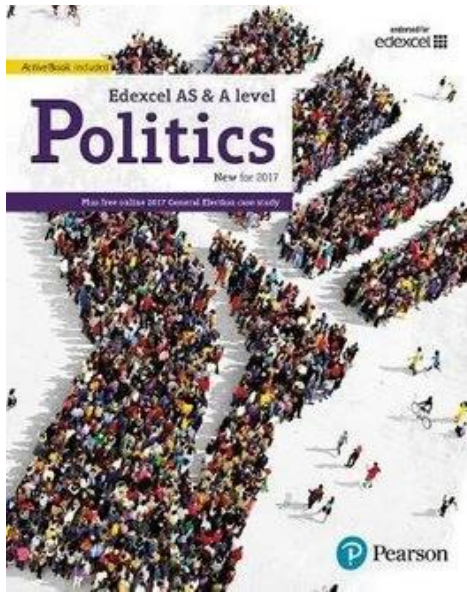


# Welcome to Politics!

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- Welcome to Government and Politics
- 5 Topics for each Paper.
- Paper 1 – Political Participation and Core Political Ideas (Mr Collins)  
([Tcollins@wren.Excalibur.org.uk](mailto:Tcollins@wren.Excalibur.org.uk))
- Paper 2 – UK Government and Non core Political Ideas (Mr Le Coq)  
([Tlecoq@wren.Excalibur.org.uk](mailto:Tlecoq@wren.Excalibur.org.uk))
- Paper 3 – Comparative politics

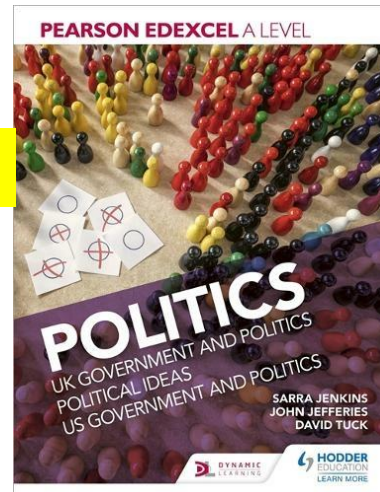




## Recommended Textbooks (Either Or...do not get both!)

- 1. Edexcel AS and Alevel Politics new for 2017 Pearson by Graham Goodlad and Andrew Mitchell

**THERE IS NO EXPECTATION TO BUY THESE, BUT CAN BE USEFUL AS REFERENCES/INDEPENDENT WORK. WE WILL PROVIDE PHOTOCOPIES OF PAGES WHERE RELEVANT**



- OR
- 2. Pearson Edexcel Alevel Politics 2019 by Sarra Jenkins, John Jeffries and David Tuck (this one is more updated)

## Paper 1 – Political Participation and Core Ideologies

- Democracy and participation
- Electoral systems
- Political parties
- Voting behaviour and the media
  
- Core ideologies:
- Socialism
- Conservatism
- Liberalism
  
- Assessed in summer of Yr13 – 2 hour exam (33.3% of final grade)

## Paper 2 – UK Government and non core Ideologies

- The constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and the Executive
- Relationship between branches
  
- Non core ideology:
- Feminism
  
- Assessed in summer of Yr13 – 2 hour exam (33.3% of final grade)

## Paper 3 – Politics of the USA

- The constitution and Federalism
- Congress
- The Presidency
- The Supreme Court
  
- Comparison to UK system of Government
  
- Assessed in summer of Yr13 – 2 hour exam (33.3% of final grade)

# A Level Exams

- Assessed in summer of Yr13 – 2 hour exam (33.3% of final grade)
- Paper 1
- 3 questions to answer
- 1 source question (30 marks)
- 1 essay on content (30 marks)
- 1 essay on Core ideologies (24 marks)

- Assessed in summer of Yr13 – 2 hour exam (33.3% of final grade)
- Paper 2
- 3 questions to answer
- 1 source question (30 marks)
- 1 essay on content (30 marks)
- 1 essay on Feminism (24 marks)

- Assessed in summer of Yr13 – 2 hour exam (33.3% of final grade)
- Paper 3
- 3 questions to answer
- 1 short answer question (12 marks)
- 1 short answer on comparison (12 marks)
- 2 essays on US Politics (30 marks each)

Evidence in  
favour of a  
participation  
crisis

Evidence  
against  
participation  
crisis

Which view is  
most  
persuasive?

Do you agree  
with the idea  
of a challenge,  
not a crisis?

'On certain measures, Britain does, indeed, appear to be facing something of a participation crisis in its political system. Levels of trust in government and confidence in the political system are lower than they were little more than a decade ago. Electoral turnout has fallen sharply, most noticeably at the 2001 general election. Meanwhile, the introduction of new political institutions since 1997, designed in part to restore people's trust and confidence, appears to have had little impact.

On the other hand, people do not seem more disengaged from the political system. Participation outside the ballot box has increased somewhat over the last fifteen or so years. Levels of political interest have not fallen, and people remain confident in their own ability to engage with the political process and to believe in the importance of voting at elections.

Perhaps the most reassuring evidence from our research is that which suggests the decline in trust and turnout is not due to long-term social forces, but to short-term political ones. The most plausible explanation for the decline in trust is the public reaction to allegations of misconduct and 'sleaze' on the part of politicians.

These conclusions suggest that the remedies for any 'crisis' largely lie in the hands of politicians themselves. Trust is acquired when words and actions accord with one another. And only a closely fought and clear competition between the parties appears to prompt many citizens to cast their vote. Meanwhile constitutional change should not be regarded as a quick fix. However it would be wise to look to measures to both reform and improve democracy in the UK. Hence, British democracy – and especially its politicians – certainly face a 'challenge'. But talk of a 'crisis' is premature.'