

Government and Politics

These specifications will enable you to learn about how UK government works, as it makes the day-to-day decisions about running our country, and it will give you the opportunity to find out about the different viewpoints held by people involved in decision making. At A2 you will be able to study how the government of the United States of America works, or you may choose to study the political ideas and concepts behind the workings of government.

Among other subjects which would go well with Government and Politics are History, English (or another European Language), Law, Sociology or Media Studies.

With a qualification in Government and Politics, you could go on to Higher Education or work in a variety of different fields.

Before you start this course

It would be helpful if you have studied History or have achieved Grade C, GCSE in English, or an equivalent qualification.

To get a certificate for Advanced Subsidiary GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units of assessment.

To get a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units, **together with** 3 A2 units of assessment.

The assessment units for AS are:

Unit 2595 Elections, Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour in the UK

In this unit you will be examined on how different parts of the government are elected and on electoral systems used in other countries. You will also be examined on the arguments for and against altering those systems of electing representatives and what influences people to vote the way they do.

– Student Guide for Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced GCE Specifications

Unit 2596 Politics of the UK

You will be examined on what the various political parties, movements and pressure groups stand for, and the meaning of ideas like democracy and sovereignty.

Unit 2597 Government of the UK

In this unit you will be examined on the various parts of government and how they work together. You will also be examined on the rights and responsibilities of people in the UK, and how this is influenced by our membership of the European Union.

These 3 units form the Advanced Subsidiary GCE qualification.

You will have a choice of assessment units for A2. You can choose **either** Unit 2694 **or** Unit 2695, **together with either** Unit 2696 **or** Unit 2697. Your third unit will follow according to your choice between Units 2694 and 2695.

The assessment units in A2 are:

Unit 2694 US Government and Politics

In this unit you will be examined on the powers and role of the Legislature (Congress), the Executive (President) and the Judiciary (Supreme Court). You will also be examined on American political parties and pressure groups, on the way elections are conducted in the USA and on the civil liberties and responsibilities of American citizens.

Unit 2695 Political Ideas and Concepts

In this unit you will be examined on the basis of the ideas upon which we base our views of the role and purpose of the state in society and the nature of democracy.

Unit 2696 Government and Politics Research Essay (Coursework)

You will write an essay on a topic chosen by you in consultation with your teacher. This is your opportunity to study and write about a topic of your own choice which is related to the rest of your work in Government and Politics. You will be able to use books, journals and the Internet to do this work. The Research Essay should not be more than 2,000 words.

Unit 2697 Government and Politics Research Essay (Written Paper)

You will write an essay in an examination room. You may do as much research and planning as you like. You will be allowed to take into the examination a form which includes the titles and authors of the sources which you have studied.

You must choose either Unit 2698 or Unit 2699 to match the option chosen earlier (Unit 2694 or Unit 2695 respectively).

Unit 2698 Government and Politics (US Option)

This unit focuses on making connections between all the material which you have studied in your course. You must take this unit if you have taken Unit 2694.

Unit 2699 Government and Politics (Political Ideas and Concepts Option)

This unit focuses on making connections between all the material which you have studied in your course. You must take this unit if you have taken Unit 2695.

These 3 units (that is either 2694 or 2695 and either 2696 or 2697 and either 2698 or 2699) complete the Advanced GCE qualification.

The assessment structure for Government and Politics is:

