

## PEARSON EDEXCEL GOVT & POLITICS A LEVEL 2025

### Component 1

- Democracy and Participation
- Political parties
- Electoral Systems
- Voting Behaviour and the Media
  
- Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism

### Component 2

- UK Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Relations Between Institutions
  
- Feminism

### Component 3

- US Constitution and Federalism
- Congress
- US Presidency
- Supreme Court and Civil Rights
- Democracy and Participation
  
- Comparative Approaches to UK/US

### PREPARATION

- Follow the big news stories... the impact immigration and small boat arrivals, Farage and Reform UK riding high in the polls, Labour's reforms to the welfare system, the assisted dying bill etc
- Familiarise yourself with the Cabinet, the Opposition, your local MP
- Read a quality newspaper – Telegraph, Times or Guardian
- Watch the TV news – C4 7pm News and BBC2 10.45pm Newsnight have political analysis
- Read a periodical – Economist, New Statesman, Spectator or Politics Review
- Check the news on the web – [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) – UK Politics or US/Canada sections
- Sign up to a politics app for regular updates – Politico is excellent
- Find out about the policies of the major parties – visit their websites
- Purchase Pearson Edexcel A Level UK Government and Politics, Political Ideas and US Government and Politics Second Edition by John Jeffries, Sarra Jenkins and David Tuck – ISBN 9781398369160  
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/government-politics/products/16-18/pearson-edexcel-a-level-politics-2nd-edition-uk-go>
- As an introduction to politics try reading Bernard Crick 'In Defence of Politics'

### KEY SKILLS

- Understanding of the UK and US political systems

- Awareness of elections, participatory channels, ideologies and what parties stand for.
- Building contemporary examples from your year of study
- Analysis, evaluation and essay writing
- Appreciation of different viewpoints
- Forming an opinion
- Keeping good notes in an organised file

### Issues to Consider over the Summer Holidays

Politics student preparation for Year 12 starting the course in Sept 2025...

Write notes on the following issues in preparation for your new course. Watch the news and feel free to google things that you don't know. It will be a really interesting time with the Conservative's struggling to re-establish themselves, an increasingly popular Reform UK and Labour finding it hard to enact meaningful change despite their large Commons majority!

- Who is the current Prime Minister? How good a job do you believe that he has done since July 2024? Think through what has gone well and what has gone less well. Remember the answer may change soon!
- What is the current Government's majority in the House of Commons? Why is this important for the PM?
- For what reasons did the UK decide to leave the EU? What was the process for the decision being taken? Has Brexit been a success?
- Who is the Speaker of the House of Commons? Can you outline their role?
- Since the UK left the EU, why has there been problems in Northern Ireland's trade relationship with the rest of the UK?
- Who are the Mayors of London and Manchester? Outline the powers that these individuals hold
- How many MPs are there in the House of Commons? How many members are there in the House of Lords? How well are minority groups represented in these two chambers? (eg women, BAME, LGBTQ)
- How old must a UK citizen be in order to vote? Can you think of any arguments for lowering the age?
- What position does John Swinney currently occupy? Are the SNP not actively seeking an independence referendum in Scotland?
- Who are the MPs for Dover and Thanet South? Check their websites and twitter feeds and look into their political positions on the issues of the day. Sandwich became part of the new Herne Bay and Sandwich constituency in 2024 due to boundary changes.
- What is driving the popularity of Reform UK? Think about leadership, policies, frustration with mainstream politics, left behind groups etc.