

A Level Politics Exam Revision Timetable 2025-2026

| <u>Week Comm</u> | <u>Content to Cover Paper 1 UK Politics</u> | <u>Content to Cover Ideologies / Paper 2 UK Government</u> | <u>Complete?</u> |
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| <u>10th Nov 2025</u> UK Pol: Background of Democracy in the UK UK Gov: Constitution | <p>1. Background of Democracy is the UK Create a spider diagram around the big question of 'How Democratic is the UK?' Then add 4 arms around our 4 pillars of democracy: representation, legitimacy, accountability, participation. Add evidence around each to show that it is and is not sufficient in the UK (with real political examples!) See detail below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well are we represented in the UK? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the different types of representation in the UK? (constituency, social, etc) How well are people's ideologies and minority groups represented? Include redress of grievances examples, constituency MPs lobbying govt on behalf of constituency and local campaigns How legitimate is our government? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is our government always given a sufficient mandate to rule? Examples? Can we hold <i>our government to account</i>? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>What are the different ways we can hold our government to account?</i> <i>Do these always work? Examples?</i> <i>Include Recall of MPs Act with examples, Media, Committees</i> Is there a participation crisis in the UK? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do people vote? If not, why not? How else are people participating in politics? <p>2. Make notes on arguments for and against the following suggested reforms: -Votes for 16 including examination of use of this in devolved nations of UK -Prisoner voting reform- include current state of this reform after ECHR suggestions -Compulsory Voting</p> <p>1. Create a for and against table for Direct and Representative Democracy. Can you explain the benefits and drawbacks of each and apply them to the UK?</p> <p>2. Create a for and against table for Direct and Representative Democracy.</p> | <p>1. Conservatism Core Values and Key Thinkers -Make flash cards on key thinkers -Examine the core beliefs which underpin Conservatism by looking at the Core values and the key thinkers ideas on them. -Hobbes -Burke -Oakeshott -Rand -Nozick</p> <p>Make a table of simple areas of agreement and disagreement between them</p> <p>2. Conservatism What are the different sections within Conservatism?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are the Key Thinkers within Conservatism? How does all of the above apply to their beliefs surrounding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals Society State Economy <p>How far do the different sections/thinkers agree or disagree on each?</p> | |
| <u>Week beginning 17th November</u> UK Pol: Direct vs Representative Dem PGs and other groups e.g. think tanks and lobbyists UK Gov: Constitution and Devolution | <p>3. Pressure Groups and Other Organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functions of PGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the purpose of a PG? What methods do PGs use? Include recent and relevant examples and methods and achievements- look at achievements through diff. methods e.g. celeb endorsement, legal cases, protest/ petition, mobilising public opinion provide key examples of govt U-turns (no you can't just use fareshare/ Marcus Rashford!) Which pressure groups have failed? Why? Look at factors e.g. outside status, finance, public support, methods. Functions of Think Tanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does a Think Tank do? What is their purpose in politics? Examples of Think Tanks shaping UK policy Functions of Lobbyists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the job of a lobbyist? Who works with lobbyists? | <p>3. Current UK Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a spider diagram on the UK Constitution, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What form does the UK constitution take? (Entrenched? Unentrenched?) What are the sources of our constitution? (Common law? Statute law?) What are the principles of our constitution? (Parliamentary Sovereignty? Rule of Law?) Make three separate tables on the three periods of constitutional reform. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1997 – 2010 - Labour | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider connection between lobbying and pressure group success • Functions of Corporations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do Big Business influence politics? Examples of Corporate impact on policy? Could be linked to donations for Parties topic 4. How do PGs and other organisations impact on UK politics? • How democratic are PGs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Think about how they function. - Think about how they try and influence politics. - Think about what makes some PGs more successful than others. - Think about whether PGs are elicits or pluralist. • How successful/influential are PGs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Think about how we categorise PGs (insider/outsider, etc). - Think about why some PG are more likely to be successful than others. - Think about the different types of methods (<i>why might some alienate the government/public?</i>) - Think about the different ways PGs can get access to the government (devolution, etc). • Can you apply the same Qs (above) to Think Tanks, Lobbyists and Corporations? So... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are Think Tanks, Lobbyists and Corporations democratic? - What makes each of these other organisations successful/unsuccessful? Make a for and against table to answer each of these Q with real political examples to support your points. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2010 – 2015 - Coalition - 2015 – Present - Conservative • For each you need to know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key changes made under the gov - Strengths of the reform - Weaknesses of the reform 3. UK Devolution • Consider the history of devolution, why a devolved parliament was introduced, when and why have powers been extended/reformed? • Make a table comparing the legislative and financial powers of the devolved parliaments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scotland - Wales - Northern Ireland - What powers are reserved at Westminster 4. Devolution in England • Make notes on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What powers are devolved to regions? (e.g. Mayors?) <p>Why has regional devolution been slower/rejected?</p> | |
| <p><u>Week Beginning 24th November 2025</u></p> <p>UK Pol: Rights</p> <p>UK Gov: Key Debates</p> | <p>1. Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What key legislation is there to help protect rights in the UK? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does each law uphold rights? - What case studies are there of these laws in play? • How well does the UK government protect rights? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How have governments committed themselves to protecting rights? - What evidence do we have of them successfully/unsuccessfully doing this? • How well are rights protected in the UK? • What other organisations are committed to helping protect rights in the UK? • What are the Pros and Cons of protecting collective rights against individual rights? • Examples of rights under attack with specific legislation and research into actions of Pressure Group LIBERTY in defending and protecting rights • -Voting Rights • -Protest/ Assembly rights • -Immigration Rights • -Attacks on freedom from arrest without evidence/ just cause | <p>Plan debates on the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should the UK Constitution be changed to be entrenched and codified, including a bill of rights. How sovereign is Parliament? • How successful has constitutional change since 1997 been and should any be taken further? • How successful has devolution around the UK been? • Changes to devolution- look at metro mayors and changes e.g. which areas have gained/ lost them? New electoral system and impact • Should devolution be extended in England? • Do we need an English Parliament? | |
| <p><u>1st December</u></p> <p>UK Pol: Political Parties</p> | <p>How Far has the ideology of major political parties changed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each party you should know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Their ideologies and any changes within these (This should be easier now you've studied ideologies! e.g. | <p>How well does Parliament fulfil its role?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a spider diagram on how successful Parliament is at fulfilling the following roles: | |

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| <p>UK Gov: Parliament</p> | <p>impact of Cameron and Blair on changing ideology of original parties)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key leaders and their manifestos - Any key factions within the parties EG ERG group, NRC (Northern Research Group) in the Conservatives and Momentum, • Conservatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Right Conservatism - One Nation Conservatism - Key people – Thatcher, Cameron, May and Johnson. • Labour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional socialist values - The Third Way (Blair) - Key people – Blair, Brown, Miliband, Corbyn, Starmer. <p>Create a timeline for each party showing different leaders, attitude towards major policy, such as economy, foreign affairs, welfare, environment, etc. Also include any policy which does not align with traditional party ideologies (e.g. Cameron and same sex marriage goes against traditionalism of Conservatism, Blair didn't work closely with trade unions, despite Labour being founded on working class vote. Show trends and shifts between different leaders and contextual reasons for these. More recently Starmer has ruled out a wealth tax and prohibited shadow ministers from visiting picket lines during the strikes.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation (including process that bills go through. - Representation - Recruiting Ministers - Legitimacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw a table comparing the structure and roles of the Houses of Commons and Lords • Draw another table comparing the powers of the Commons and the Lords. • Highlight key differences of each chamber and assess where the Lords is more dominant and where the Commons has more power. (e.g. Salisbury Convention) | |
| <p><u>8th December</u></p> <p>UK Pol: Political Parties</p> <p>UK Gov: PM and the Parliament</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberal Democrats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the ideologies of the Lib Dems? - What ideologies do they share with the two major parties? - Key People – Nick Clegg, Jo Swinson, Ed Davey <p>Liberal Democrat Party Are there any factions within the Lib Dems? Research and add notes to your</p> <p>How Far has the ideology of major political parties changed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for questions around whether Conservatives are more One Nation Conservative or New Right. • Plan for questions around whether Labour are more Traditional Labour or Third Way. Consider factions within the parties and include recent and relevant policy announcements (2019-2023) | <p>How does the Legislative interact with the executive?</p> <p>1. Scrutiny How does Parliament Scrutinise the executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Back Benchers - Opposition - Committees - Use of questioning <p>Create a table of for and against arguments as to whether Parliament DOES sufficiently scrutinise the executive or now WITH evidence to prove points.</p> <p>Include specific examples of times Parliament has used committees, opposition etc to frustrate executive and carry out oversight.</p> <p>Individual and Collective Ministerial Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you know the difference <p>See Miss Key for colour code and case studies sheets</p> | |
| <p><u>15th December</u></p> <p>UK Pol: Minor Parties</p> <p>UK Gov: Ministerial Responsibility</p> | <p>How important are minor parties within the UK?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why have minor parties emerged? - Which are the key minor parties within the UK (UKIP, GREEN, SNP (...kind of...))? - How have minor parties influenced the major parties? • Party Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why should FPTP make the UK a two-party system? - To what extent is the UK a two-party system? - How has the UK party system changed? <p>Create a spider diagram including minor parties and their key policies/ideologies. Then annotate around each policies major parties have included to win voters from these.</p> | <p>PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What powers does the PM have? e.g. prerogative • What makes a powerful PM? <p>Factors affecting power: PM style and personality The Cabinet The Party Size of Majority Popularity of PM Media Pressure of events</p> | |

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| | Other debates on parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should parties be funded? | Explain how each of the above can STRENGTHEN or WEAKEN a PM. | |
| <u>22nd December</u> UK Pol: FPTP UK Gov: PM and the Cabinet Have some days off to celebrate but make sure you stay up to date this week! | How fit for purpose is FPTP? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a table of advantages and disadvantages of FPTP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure these are evidenced with REAL stats from recent elections. Remember wider issues like safe seats and tactical voting. How good is it representation wise? Does it create legitimate governments? | PM Case Studies REMEMBER you need at least one PM PRE-1997 and one PM POST-1997. However, questions will indicate they want at least 3 PMS in each Q. Create Case Studies of PMs who do well and not so well against each of the below factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM style and personality The Cabinet The Party Size of Majority Popularity of PM Media Pressure of events | |
| <u>29th December 2025</u> UK Pol: Other voting Systems UK Gov: PM | Voting systems around the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What other voting systems are used in the UK? Plurality Voting Systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which elections use plurality voting systems? Which elections in the UK use Plurality voting systems? What are the pros and cons of Plurality voting systems? Case studies of key election results to justify pros and cons. Proportional Voting Systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which elections use plurality voting systems? Which elections in the UK use Proportional voting systems? What are the pros and cons of Proportional voting systems? Case studies of key election results to justify pros and cons. Hybrid Voting Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which systems are hybrid - Rationale for using? Strengths? -Which weaknesses are eliminated? Include examples of results in Scotland and Wales Annotate a map of the UK showing different elected bodies and the voting system each uses. Annotate how fair the results each system produces are, with examples. | Supreme Court Create a spider diagram on the role and composition of the Supreme Court. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key operating principles of the Supreme court? E.g. neutrality/independence. What is judicial review? Supreme Court Create a table of arguments regarding how neutral and independent the Supreme Court is. Create another table on how influential the Supreme Court is with examples of when it has/has not been influential. | |
| 5th January 2026 Ideologies: Socialism UK Pol: Voting Behaviour Theories UK Gov: Supreme Court US Comparative US Presidency | What are the theories around voting behaviour? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rational Choice Voting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the demographic voting trends? Key example of them in play (e.g. increase in women voting for Labour in 1997) Single Issue Voting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can single issues dominate an election? Key example of them in play (e.g. BREXIT, ECONOMY) Valence Voting ('competence' voting): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When is valence voting mostly likely to come into play? How do we judge parties/leaders under valence voting? Key example of them in play (e.g. who best to run country after recession?) Dominant Ideology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which dominant forces can be influential? What impact does the media have? Who is most likely to be influenced by different types of media? | EU (Create a spider diagram on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aims of the EU The Role of the EU in policy making The impact of the EU on the UK political system (examples) | |
| <u>12th January</u> UK Pol: VB case studies UK Gov: | | | |

PM cont.

US Comparative
US Supreme Court and Civil Rights

What do voting theories look like in practise?

Create case studies for each voting model/theory. Explain what each is, the factors it must consider. Evidence the importance of each with examples of voting stats and trends which do support each and examples when elections have gone against these suggested trends.

REMEMBER YOU NEED 3 CASE STUDIES OF ELECTIONS – 1997, one pre-1997 and one post-1997!

Sovereignty

- Ensure you know the difference between legal and political sovereignty.
- Create an annotated diagram showing the way sovereignty has moved between the different branches of gov. Evaluate where sovereignty lies now.

6th January

2025

Ideologies:

Liberalism

UK Gov: EU

US Comparative US Supreme Court and Civil Rights

Past Paper Questions Preparation and Planning-

Plan out answers for any questions you have not already completed at home/ in class or any you are not confident with- make sure you include all of your arguments and evaluation as well as evidence.

Final review – key words, key people, key stats, - Flash cards to help you use these and commit them to memory

Conservatism

Revisit notes and look at areas of agreement and conflict BETWEEN the ideologies

Liberalism

- What are the Core Values of Liberalism?
- What are the different sections within Liberalism?
- Who are the Key Thinkers within Liberalism?
- How does all of the above apply to their beliefs surrounding:
 - Individuals
 - Society
 - State
 - Economy

How far do the different sections/thinkers agree or disagree on each?

WELL DONE YOU LEGEND! YOU WIN

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AlanHistoryNerd/playlists>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/politics>

<https://sites.google.com/site/thepoliticsteacherorg/home>

<https://www.brainscape.com/subjects/comparative-politics>

<https://www.brainscape.com/subjects/uk-politics>