

New AS/A Level Government and Politics

H095 and H495 replacing 3834 and 7834

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Government and Politics specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Government and Politics.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19levels

Current specification – mapping the changes **page 2**

Outline specification for first teaching September 2008 **page 3**

QCA have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve GCE A Level Government and Politics is to be reduced from six to four
- All coursework to be removed from Government and Politics
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment



Mapping the changes to the A Level Government and Politics specification for first teaching September 2008

H095 and H495 replacing 3834 and 7834



Candidates must complete six units; three mandatory units and two optional units, plus one Coursework unit

| Existing specification | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Current unit title | Unit code | What remains the same? | What is changing? | Why is it changing? | Guidance |
| AS Elections, Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour in the UK | 2595 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short answers, sourced based questions. Longer essay style questions. Core content remains the same. Focused study of UK Government and UK Politics. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three 1 hour written examinations will become two 1.5hr examinations. New unit codes F851 and F852. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA reduction in units. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher support documents. Schemes of work. Specimen assessment materials. |
| AS Politics of the UK | 2596 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | | | | |
| AS Government of the UK | 2597 Mandatory 40% (AS) 20% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | | | | |
| A2 US Government and Politics | 2694 Optional 15% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer essay style questions. Core content remains the same. Focused study of US Government and Politics. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1.5 hour exam will become 2 hours in duration. Candidates will answer four questions rather than the current three, assessing breadth of knowledge. New unit code F853. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA reduction in units. To address Stretch and Challenge criteria. | |
| A2 Political Ideas and Concepts | 2695 Optional 15% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer essay style questions. Core content remains the same. Focused study of Political Ideas and Concepts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1.5 hour exam will become 2 hours in duration. Candidates will answer four questions rather than the current three, assessing breadth of knowledge. New unit code F854. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA reduction in units. To address Stretch and Challenge criteria. | |
| A2 Government and Politics Research Essay (Coursework) | 2696 Mandatory 15% (A Level) Coursework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This unit will not feature in the new specification. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This unit will not feature in the new specification. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA have removed all coursework from Government & Politics. | |
| A2 US Government & Politics (US Option) | 2698 Optional 20% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer essay style questions. Core content remains the same. Focused study of US Government and Politics. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1.5 hour examination will become 2 hours in duration assessing depth of knowledge. Candidates still answer two questions, assessing depth of knowledge. New unit code F855. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA reduction in units. To address Stretch and Challenge criteria. | |
| A2 Government and Politics (Political Ideas and Concepts Option) | 2699 Optional 20% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer essay style questions. Core content remains the same. Focused study of Political Ideas & Concepts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1.5 hour examination will become 2 hours in duration assessing depth of knowledge. Candidates still answer two questions, assessing depth of knowledge. New unit code F856. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA reduction in units. To address Stretch and Challenge criteria. | |

New A Level Government and Politics specification for first teaching September 2008

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Candidates must complete four units; two mandatory units at AS and two mandatory units at A2 within the chosen option (US Politics or Political Ideas and Concepts).



| | New unit title | New unit code | Benefits to me and my learners | Support |
|----|--|---|---|---|
| AS | Contemporary Politics of the UK | F851 Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth study of UK Contemporary Politics including Political Parties and Pressure Groups. A source based and data response question which requires candidates to use their own knowledge together with the sources in answering the questions. Essay based questions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR is currently developing teacher support, programmes of INSET and working closely with Publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification. |
| AS | Contemporary Government of the UK | F852 Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1.5hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth study of UK Contemporary Government including The Executive and The Legislature. A source based and data response question which requires candidates to use their own knowledge together with the sources in answering the questions. Essay based questions. | |
| A2 | Contemporary US Government and Politics | F853 Optional 25% (A Level) 2hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth study of US Government and Politics including The Constitution, Congress and the Presidency. Essay based questions, assessing breadth of knowledge. | |
| A2 | Political Ideas and Concepts | F854 Optional 25% (A Level) 2hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth study of political ideas and concepts including Democratic Theory, Ideologies, Rights and Power. Essay based assessments, assessing breadth of knowledge. | |
| A2 | US Government and Politics | F855 Optional 25% (A Level) 2hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth study of US Government & Politics including Elections, Constitutions and Executives. Essay based questions, assessing depth of knowledge. | |
| A2 | Political Ideas and Concepts in Practice | F856 Optional 25% (A Level) 2hr exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth study of Political ideas and Concepts in Practice, Ideologies and their Impact, Rights in Practice, Power in Practice. Essay based assessments, assessing depth of knowledge. | |