



## AS and A Level Government and Politics

### Introduction

AS and A Level Government and Politics are being reformed in Wales for first teaching from September 2017. The reformed A Level Government and Politics will be developed by WJEC and will be the only version of the qualification available to learners on state funded programmes in Wales, as no other exam board has decided to develop this qualification for use in Wales. As part of the reform process we are asking for views on the proposed content, structure and assessment of the reformed qualifications.

We have developed the proposals in this questionnaire in consultation with a number of stakeholders including WJEC, school and Further Education college practitioners, universities and the Welsh Government. The outcomes of this questionnaire will help inform the development of approval criteria and conditions for AS and A Level Government and Politics. The specification and sample assessment materials of the reformed AS and A Level Government and Politics will be developed and approved on the basis of the approval criteria published by Qualifications Wales.



## AS and A Level Government and Politics

### Subject aims and content

#### Subject aims and content

The Department for Education (DfE) in England have taken the decision to replace A Level Government and Politics with A Level Politics. To ensure there is comparability between the proposed A Level Politics in England and the reformed A Level Government and Politics in Wales, Qualifications Wales has reviewed the subject aims and content of both qualifications. The links to the subject criteria of the proposed A Level Politics in England and the current A Level Government and Politics can be found below.

Final subject criteria for the reformed A Level Politics proposed by DfE:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/504014/Politics\\_A\\_level\\_content.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/504014/Politics_A_level_content.pdf)

Current subject criteria for A Level Government and Politics qualifications last reformed in 2011:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/371168/11-10-18-gce-government-politics.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/371168/11-10-18-gce-government-politics.pdf)

#### Subject aims and objectives

The proposed aims are based on elements of both the current subject criteria and of the subject content for the new politics qualifications in England. We propose the following subject aims and objectives for the reformed A Level Government and Politics in Wales:

A Level Government and Politics must enable learners to:

- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally;
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes;
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics;
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups;
- develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgments;
- develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

**Q1: To what extent do you agree/disagree with the proposed subject aims for the reformed A Level Government and Politics in Wales?**

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree
- I don't know

Comments (we would encourage you to make a comment, particularly if you disagree with the proposal)

Subject content

We propose that the new A Level Government and Politics qualification in Wales should be based on the current subject criteria. We further propose that the specification must;

- require learners to study the themes of:

- Government in Wales, United Kingdom and European Union;
- Political participation in Wales, United Kingdom and European Union;
- Political Ideas including: liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, nationalism, feminism and environmentalism;
- The government and politics of the USA;
- Global politics and international relations.

- require learners to understand the interrelationships between the different areas of study and develop an awareness of their significance.

**Q1b: To what extent do you agree/disagree with the proposed subject content for the reformed A Level Government and Politics in Wales?**

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree
- I don't know

Comments (we would encourage you to make a comment, particularly if you disagree with the proposal)



## AS and A Level Government and Politics

### Assessment objectives

Assessment objectives determine how the subject content should be assessed.

The assessment objectives for the current A Level Government and Politics are:

Objective	Requirements	Weighting
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories and debates	40-50%
AO2	Analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and difference between aspects of the political systems studied	30-40%
AO3	Construct and communicate coherent arguments making use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary	10-20%

The following assessment objectives and weightings are proposed for the reformed A Level Politics in England:

Objective	Requirements	AS Level	A Level
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories and issues	50%	40%
AO2	Comprehend and interpret political information to construct and communicate arguments and explanations	20%	20%
AO3	Analyse and evaluate the areas of politics studied in order to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences, leading to reasoned conclusions.	30%	40%

We propose to use the assessment objectives for the reformed A Level Politics in England for A Level Government and Politics in Wales but adapting them to include 'government', where appropriate.

The difference in the A Level qualification structures between Wales and England (The decoupling of the AS Level to the A Level in England) are reflected in the assessment objective weightings to ensure comparability between AS Level qualifications in England and Wales and also comparability between the respective A Levels. With this in mind we propose the following assessment objectives and respective weightings for the reformed A Level Government and Politics in Wales:

Objective	Requirements	AS Level	A2 Level	Full A Level
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories and issues	49%	34%	40%
AO2	Comprehend and interpret political information to construct and communicate arguments and explanations	20%	20%	20%
AO3	Analyse and evaluate the areas of government and politics studied in order to identify relevant parallels, similarities, connections and differences, leading to reasoned conclusions.	31%	46%	40%

**Q2: To what extent do you agree/disagree that the proposed weightings of the assessment objectives are appropriate for AS and A Level Government and Politics?**

- I strongly agree  
 I agree  
 I neither agree nor disagree  
 I disagree  
 I strongly disagree  
 I don't know

Comments (we would encourage you to make a comment, particularly if you disagree with the proposal)



## AS and A Level Government and Politics

### Non examination assessment (NEA)

In reformed qualifications in Wales, non examination assessment is only used where it is the most suitable form of assessment, for example, to carry out a field study or a musical performance. Non examination assessment is therefore only used when written examinations cannot provide valid assessment of specific skills or knowledge. Currently A Level Government and Politics is fully assessed through written examinations. We propose that the reformed A Level Government and Politics in Wales should be assessed fully through written examinations.

#### **Q3: To what extent do you agree/disagree that A Level Government and Politics should be fully assessed through written examinations?**

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree
- I don't know

Comments (we would encourage you to make a comment, particularly if you disagree with the proposal)



## AS and A Level Government and Politics

### Continuing professional development/resources

**Q4: What support and resources do you feel centres and teachers may require to achieve maximum readiness to deliver the revised specification?**

**Please provide comments**





## AS and A Level Government and Politics

### Equality impact

The Equality Act 2010 states that public bodies must have 'due regard', when making decisions, to ensure there is no discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals or groups, to ensure equality and to foster good relations in relation to protected characteristics (age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and sexual reassignment).

**Q5: With this in mind, please highlight below if you feel any of this proposal has the potential to have a positive or negative impact on individuals with protected characteristics and whether any of the proposal would cause accessibility issues for learners in Wales.**



## AS and A Level Government and Politics

### Personal details

**Participants under the age of 16 are requested NOT to fill in this section.**

If you supply contact details, we may contact you for clarification of your answers. Qualifications Wales (QW) will not share these details, or details of your answers with any third party.

#### Personal details

Name

Company

Email Address

**Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of your organisation?**

**Please select the type of organisation or choose 'not applicable' if responding as an individual**

- School
- College
- University
- Qualification Awarding Body
- Government (Local, National, UK or EU)
- Non-Applicable
- Other (please specify)

**Are you a: (please select as appropriate)**

- Teacher
- College Lecturer
- University Lecturer
- Student
- Parent
- Other (please specify)