

Go to [www.ccea.org.uk/therevision](http://www.ccea.org.uk/therevision) to download the most up-to-date version of the **Government and Politics Specification**

## Supporting You

Support will initially be provided via the Government and Politics microsite at [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk) and will include the following:

- specimen assessment materials;
- teacher and student guidance notes for each unit; and
- exemplar schemes of work.

We will expand our range of support to include the following:

- Chief Examiner's reports;
- centre support days;
- school visits; and
- exemplification of examination performance.

## Contact Us

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

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### We support Learners

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### We are Local

CCEA is Northern Ireland's awarding body – we understand local needs for local learners.



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CCEA listens to its customers to ensure better outcomes for learners through developing relevant, high quality and innovative specifications.



CCEA'S REVISED GCE

# Government and Politics

Specification Snapshot



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THE REVISION

For first teaching from September 2016

For first award of AS level in summer 2017

For first award of A level in summer 2018

# Government and Politics

## Specification Snapshot



### Overview

This new specification for Government and Politics builds on the broad objectives of the revised Northern Ireland Curriculum and is CCEA's response to consultation with teachers.

The course encourages young people to develop an interest in and engagement with contemporary politics and to acquire knowledge and understanding of the political systems in which they live. It teaches students about the rights and responsibilities of the individual, thereby enabling them to become actively involved as citizens. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to develop critical thinking and other essential academic skills such as researching, problem-solving and decision-making.



### Specification Summary

Students can take the AS course as a final qualification or as the first part of the A level qualification.

At AS students have the opportunity to study the political systems that have the greatest impact upon their lives – the Northern Ireland system and that of the United Kingdom.

Students who continue to A2 will be able to use their AS skills and knowledge to consider a range of other systems, both democratic and non-democratic, and to consider the question of how best to govern any society.



### Benefits to Students

The revised specification for Government and Politics benefits students in a number of ways:

- the subject is assessed by external examination only; there is no coursework.
- there is a choice of content in one AS unit and in both A2 units.
- the skills promoted by the study of politics are much sought after in higher education and will enhance students' employability: these are communication, the ability to think logically and rationally, problem-solving, ICT skills and teamwork.

Studying Government and Politics at GCE level helps to prepare young people for careers in many areas including law, business, finance, charitable organisations and local and national government.

Content	Content Summary	Assessment	Weightings
<b>AS 1:</b>	The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland	External written examination with one source and four questions: 1 hour 15 minutes	40% of AS 16% of A level
<b>AS 2:</b>	The British Political Process	External written examination with five questions: 1 hour 45 minutes	60% of AS 24% of A level
<b>A2 1:</b>	<b>Option A:</b> A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the United States of America and the United Kingdom or <b>Option B:</b> A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom	External written examination with one source and six questions: 2 hours 15 minutes	35% of A level
<b>A2 2:</b>	<b>Option A:</b> Political Power or <b>Option B:</b> Political Ideas	External written examination with one source and five questions: 1 hour 30 minutes	25% of A level

### Assessment Objectives

There are three assessment objectives for this specification. Candidates must:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and debates (A01);
- analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and theories, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between the political systems studied (A02); and
- construct and communicate coherent arguments, using a range of appropriate political vocabulary (A03).

### Why Teach Government and Politics?

Studying Government and Politics helps to create a critical awareness of the factors that affect political decisions. As a subject it is of interest to those who are interested in finding out why governments do what they do – and whether what they did was right.

Government and Politics will appeal to those who aspire to think critically and argue coherently and who want to develop excellent communication skills. Government and Politics encourages young people to become actively involved as citizens.

The subject also prepares young people for a wide variety of higher education courses, not only Government and Politics. This subject is assessed by external examination only. There is no coursework. Examination papers vary in length and consist of short and longer questions.