

The AS Specifications.

Edexcel Specification.		
Topic title	Summary of key points	Coverage in this book
1.3A. Democracy and political participation	Democracy and its forms (direct and representative). Representation and legitimacy. Parliamentary democracy in the UK; its strengths and weaknesses. A ‘participation/legitimacy crisis in UK? Enhancing democracy; proposed reforms, including wider use of referendums. Digital democracy.	Chapters 1 & 2. For additional background on some topics also see: sections of Chap. 9 on constitutional reform; Chap. 10 on the House of Lords reform; and Chap. 11 on reform of parliament, its representative and legitimating functions.
1.3B. Party policies and ideas	Definition of a political party. The traditions, policies, ideas and factions of the main parties. Their chief ideologies: liberalism Conservatism; socialism. The nationalist parties. Factionalism. Consensus and adversary politics.	Chapters 7 & 8. On nationalism see parts of chapter 16.
1.3C. Elections	Elections and democracy: how and why elections promote democracy and their limitations. The electoral systems used in the UK (Westminster, devolved, local and European) and how they affect parties and government. Majoritarian representation; the mandate; proportional representation; party systems. For and against electoral reform in the UK: strong and stable government.	Chapter 3. This topic follows logically from chapter 2 on democracy. The party system is dealt with in chapter 7. There is background on recent Westminster elections in chapter 5, and also background on devolved elections in chapter 15, and on the European Parliament in chapter 15.
1.3D. Pressure group	Nature, features and functions of pressure groups. How they differ from parties. Different kinds of pressure group: sectional/promotional;	Chapter 6. Some background on participation in chapter 2; on government in chapter 12; and influence of pressure groups in chapter

	insider/outsider. Functional representation. Methods used by pressure groups. Pressure groups and democracy; pluralist democracy; responsive government; political participation.	15.
2.3A. The Constitution	Features of a constitution. Constitutionalism and benefits of constitutional government. Codified and uncodified constitutions. Nature, sources and key features of the UK constitution. Sovereignty; parliamentary sovereignty; significance of devolution and EU; pooled sovereignty; elective dictatorship. Constitutional reform since 1997 –devolution; Lords; possible introduction of a ‘written’ constitution.	Chapter 9. Background on devolution in chapter 16; on EU in chapter 15; on reform of Lords in chapter 11; on Parliament in chapter 10; on the power of the executive in chapter 12.
2.3B. Parliament.	Parliamentary government and presidential government; relationship between legislature and executive; the Westminster model; fusion and separation of powers. Representative and responsible government; accountability. Composition, role and powers of Commons and Lords. Relationship of Parliament to EU and devolved assemblies. Recent and proposed reforms of Parliament.	Chapters 10 & 11. Background on accountability and executive in chapters 12 & 13. Background on devolution in chapter 16; on EU in chapter 15.
2.3C. The Prime Minister and Cabinet.	Role of PM and Cabinet; Cabinet government; core executive; prime ministerial government. Collective and individual responsibility. Sources of, and constraints on PM’s	Chapters 12 & 13.

	power; external factors affecting executive policy-making; presidentialism. Leadership styles of PMs; changing relationship between PMs and parties, Cabinet and Parliament.	
2.3D. Judges and civil liberties.	Role of judiciary in promoting rule-based governance. Judicial independence and neutrality. Power and influence of judges; check imposed by judiciary on power of executive and judiciary; rule of law. Civil liberty/liberties; individual rights; European courts and EU law.	Chapter 14 & chapter 1. Background on EU in chapter 15.

OCR Specification		
Topic title	Summary of key points	Coverage in this book
3.1. Contemporary Politics of the UK		
Political Parties	Roles and functions of parties: representative and responsible government. Power; authority; influence. Party systems: one, two and multi-party and dominant part systems; their advantages and disadvantages. Structure, organisations and values of main UK political parties; party democracy. Funding of political parties: sources; issues; proposals for reform. Contribution of parties to democratic process. Key developments in political parties.	Chapters 7 & 8. On concepts, see chapter 1 and chapter 10.
Pressure groups	Types, role and functions of pressure groups. Power; influence; representation. Methods:	Chapter 6. On EU background, see chapter 15.

	<p>direct action; links with legislature, executive, courts, EU and public opinion. Impact and success: assessing success and factors influencing success and failure. Pressure groups and democracy. Key developments in pressure groups: pluralism, elitism, corporatism.</p>	
<p>Electoral systems and referenda</p>	<p>Purpose of elections and referenda. Representation; representative and responsible government; legitimacy. Electoral systems: plurality; majority; proportional; hybrid. Mandate. Electoral systems in UK: European; parliamentary; regional; local. Recent electoral reform; criticisms of various systems used in UK; party attitudes to further reform. Contributions to the democratic process. Key developments relation to electoral systems and referenda.</p>	<p>Chapters 2 & 3. On background in democracy, see chapters 2 & 3. Background to EU elections in chapter 15, and to devolved elections in chapter 16. On background from evidence of recent elections, see chapter 5.</p>
<p>UK Parliamentary elections.</p>	<p>The mechanics of general elections: why and how called; who can stand and vote; selection of candidates; voting and winning. General election campaigns: party strategies; manifestoes; national and local campaigns; mass media; opinion polls; funding. Last three elections; reasons for holding; results; reasons for victory/loss. By-elections –significance. British parliamentary elections and democracy:</p>	<p>Chapter 5. This topic follows from the discussion on electoral systems discussed in chapter 3. On recent manifestoes see chapter 8.</p>

	representation; representative and responsible government; mandate; legitimacy. Key developments in UK parliamentary elections.	
Voting behaviour in the UK.	Long-term factors: class, age, sex, ethnicity, region, party identification. Class and party de-alignment. Short term factors: issues, recent and future performance, party principles, leadership, image, mass media, campaign. Models of voting behaviour: social structures model; party identification; rational choice; dominant ideology; voting context. Trends in voting behaviour: party support; turnout; abstention; tactical voting; protest voting. Key developments in voting behaviour.	Chapter 4. On turnout see chapter 2.
Ideology in the UK	Ideology. Liberalism: classical, progressive, neo-liberalism, Liberal Democrats. Conservatism: traditional, one-nation, New Right, Conservative Party. Socialism: 'Old Labour', 'New labour', socialism, social democracy, Labour Party.	Chapter 8.
3.2. Contemporary Government of the UK		
The Executive	Role, functions and powers of executives: power, authority, legitimacy, accountability, parliamentary government. Prime Minister: role, powers, limits, relationship with Cabinet. Cabinet: role, membership, structure, collective responsibility. Ministers	Chapters 12 & 13. Background on relations with Parliament in chapter 10.

	and civil service: roles, ministerial responsibility, relationship between ministers and civil servants. Key developments in core executive.	
The Legislature	Role, functions and powers of legislatures: democracy, parliamentary sovereignty, accountability, representation, parliamentary government. Commons and Lords: role and powers as regards legislation, scrutiny and representation. Opposition and backbenchers: role and powers. Parties in Parliament: whips. Organisation of Parliament: Speaker, select and standing committees, debates, questions, role of executive. Parliamentary reform.	Chapters 10 & 11.
The Constitution	Definition, nature, role and functions of constitutions. Sources of UK constitution: royal prerogatives, conventions, common law, statute law, works of authority, membership of international organisations. Characteristics of constitutions: flexible, rigid, written, unwritten, codified and uncodified. Principles of UK constitution: sovereignty of parliament, rule of law, parliamentary government, constitutional monarchy. Constitutional reform since 1997.	Chapter 9. On EU background see chapter 15. On background on devolution see chapter 16.
The European Union	Nature, origins and aims of EU. Structure of EU: Council, Council of	Chapter 15.

	Ministers, Commission, European Parliament, European Court of Justice, decision making process. How decisions are made: policy-making processes; role and power of major EU bodies and member states. Impact of membership of EU on British government, politics and constitution. Enlargement and euro. Key developments in EU affecting UK.	
The Judiciary	Definition, roles and functions of judiciaries: law and justice; rule of law. Impact and importance of judiciary. Powers of statutory interpretation; judicial review; constitutional review. Rights, liberties and duties in UK; threats to these rights. Redress of grievances: role of MP, councillor, ombudsman, administrative tribunals, pressure groups. Judicial neutrality and independence: separation of powers: Appointment and removal of senior judges; relationship of judiciary to executive and legislature. Key developments in judiciary.	Chapter 14 and 1. On ombudsman and role of MPs, see chapter 10.

AQA Specification		
Topic title	Summary of key points	Coverage in this book
3.1. People, Politics and Participation.		
Participation and voting behaviour: the nature of participation in the political process	Politics; democracy; pluralism; elitism. Different forms of political involvement. Electorate. Gender, class, ethnicity, age, region and	Chapters 1 & 2.

	participation. Apathy; abstention.	
Participation and voting behaviour: participation through the ballot box.	Voting behaviour: theories and debates re. long and short-term determinants. Changing patterns. Partisan and class identification; stability and volatility; influence of issues; campaigns; party and leaders' images; mass media. By-elections.	Chapter 4
Electoral systems: the role of elections in democracy.	Majoritarian and proportional electoral systems. Electoral reform. Representation. Strengths and weaknesses of FPTP, STV and AMS. Effects of electoral system on party system. Majority and coalition government.	Chapter 4. See chapter 7 on party systems; and chapter 10 on representation.
Electoral systems: nature of representation	Direct and indirect democracy; referendums in UK. For and against greater use of referendums.	Chapter 1 & 2.
Political parties' role in a democracy.	Role and function of major parties. Party systems. Changing ideologies. Party structure at national, local and EU levels. Programmes, policies and manifestoes. Party competition. Catch-all parties. Candidate and leader selection. Membership: how important are members? Campaigning. Minority parties.	Chapters 7 & 8.
Pressure Groups and Protest Movements: their importance to political communication and policy-making in a democracy	Interest/cause; insider/outsider; social movements. Factors in pressure group influence: membership; resources; links with parties and government, including EU.	Chapter 6. On EU, see chapter 15.
Pressure Groups and Protest Movements: pressure group behaviour.	Impact of groups in influencing policy and changing values. Role of	Chapter 6.

	<p>media. Do pressure groups strengthen or weaken democracy? Exclusion of some citizens from pressure groups. Lobbying; access points; direct action; political networks/communities. Internal democracy. Pressure group representation.</p>	
3.2. Governing Modern Britain.		
The British Constitution: its nature and sources.	<p>Written/unwritten; codified/uncodified; unitary/federal; rigid/flexible. Sources of the British constitution; statute/case law; conventions; constitutional change. How far the British Constitution influences and limits the power of government.</p>	Chapter 9; on federalism, see chapter 16.
British Constitution: the judiciary and its relationship to the other 'powers' of government.	<p>Judicial independence; separation of powers; judicial review. Relationship of judiciary to executive and legislature. Judicial appointments. Impact of Human Rights Act and European Court of Human Rights.</p>	Chapter 14.
Parliament: its role in the UK political system.	<p>Composition and main role of Parliament. Representation; legislation; scrutiny; parliamentary sovereignty in theory and practice; mandate. Relative powers of Commons and Lords.</p>	Chapters 10 & 11.
Parliament and government relationships.	<p>Accountability; executive dominance; elective dictatorship; bicameral. Roles of Commons and Lords in scrutinising legislation and holding the government to account. Influence of backbenchers,</p>	Chapters 10 & 11. See also chapters 12 & 13 on the executive.

	frontbenchers, whips and the Opposition.	
The Core Executive: Prime Minister and Cabinet and relations within the core executive.	Prime ministerial and cabinet government; presidentialism; collective responsibility. Main roles, powers and resources of the P.M. The Cabinet system; Cabinet Committees and Cabinet Ministers. Cabinet Office.	Chapter 12 &13.
Core Executive: Policy making and implementation.	Ministers and civil servants: main characteristics, roles, resources and relationships. Bureaucracy; political neutrality; anonymity; permanence; individual ministerial responsibility. Special advisers. Government departments.	Chapter 13; and also see chapter 12.
Multi-level Governance: elected local and devolved government in the UK.	Elected representatives; local democracy; devolution. Main powers of elected local government, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly. Relations between Westminster Parliament and elected local government and devolved government. Debates on the extent and nature of devolved power.	Chapter 16.
Multi-level Governance: the European Union.	Composition and main powers of European Parliament, European Council, Council of Ministers, Commission. Where does power lie? Is there a 'democratic deficit'? Impact of EU institutions on Westminster Parliament, Supranational; democratic deficit.	Chapter 15.

