

Virtual Revision Conferences 2006 'In-house'

Why travel?
It's 'in-house'

AS and A2 Politics

For AQA and Edexcel students

- featuring Senior Examiners
- hold in your school or college
- no need to travel for a revision conference

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New courses added all the time



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AS Politics for AQA students

Virtual Revision Conference (VR3)

With **Dr. David Craik, Senior Examiner**

In this unique virtual conference you will receive excellent guidance on Government and Politics concepts, issues and arguments from an experienced teacher, examiner and commentator.

The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1: Political Culture and Voting Behaviour

This session will provide you with solid, up to date knowledge and strategies on:

- Individual involvement in politics, political culture in the UK, social factors and voting choices.
- Theories and concepts in voting behaviour including: patterns of voting behaviour, stability and volatility, swings, turnouts, by-elections, patterns of voting in European and local government elections, the influence of polls and the media

Session 2: Electoral Systems

This session will de-mystify the jargon and complexity of the electoral systems topic and will enable you to deliver a concise and well-structured answer on electoral systems. Looking at:

- Different electoral systems used in elections around the UK.
- Arguments for and against simple majority elections and more proportionate electoral systems.
- Comparing the UK with other electoral systems, which may enhance elections in the UK. Referendums in the UK

Session 3: Pressure Groups

This session will really sharpen your knowledge and develop your skills on pressure groups. Students need to get the best out of this popular exam topic and really shine. Covering:

- The role of pressure groups in British politics
- Different types of pressure groups
- Factors that determine the success or failure of a pressure group
- The European dimension of pressure group politics

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Dr. David Craik

David has extensive experience as senior examiner and team leader in both UK and US Government & Politics. David is a lecturer in Politics and is a TV and radio broadcaster for BBC Wales on American Affairs. David had been teaching Government & Politics for a number of years and is also a contributor to the magazine for politics students "Talking Politics."

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Session 4: Political Parties

At a time of rapid party change, a look at the role and functions of political parties in the UK political system. The session will focus on:

- Ideologies and traditions, structures, candidate selection, changing party images and the role of activists within the parties.
- Policies and manifestos, changing patterns of support.

Session 5: Features of a Representative Democracy.

This session will take a hard look inside the representative political institutions that govern the UK and examines their powers and accountability, as well as the issues surrounding them :

- Parliament, local government, regional assemblies, European Parliament and
- The Council of Ministers. Also social-economic representation in governing institutions.
- Prime Minister and Cabinet, role of the Cabinet Ministers and the Civil Service, Executive Agencies, the European Commission, the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the redress of grievances

Session 6: Attempting Exam Questions in AS Government & Politics

- What is the Government and Politics examiner looking for?
- What do we mean by: Recall, select and deploy? Analyse and Evaluate? Communicating and Explaining?
- Planning a Government and Politics answer and time management
- Practice makes perfect

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AS Politics for Edexcel students

Virtual Revision Conference (VR2)

With **Andrew Heywood, Senior Examiner**

This programme will provide an introduction to the major themes in their course as well as invaluable advice about how to maximise their marks in the AS Level examinations themselves. The coverage is wide-ranging, but pays particular attention to topics and themes that occur most frequently in examinations. (units 1,2,3)

The sessions

Each session focuses on a single broad topic, relevant to one or more than one part of the specification. Sessions are divided into three roughly equal parts, each looking at a particular issue within or aspect of the topic. This also allows the issues and knowledge addressed in each part to be discussed and consolidated before proceeding to the next part. Different styles and types of questions are addressed. At least one of the parts will consist of a discussion of how a particular examination question could be tackled.

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The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1: Democracy and Referendums

This session discusses key themes to do with democracy and referendums. It focuses on: the nature of democracy, and particularly the difference between direct democracy and representative democracy; the strengths and weaknesses of the UK's democratic system; and the advantages and disadvantages of the wider use of referendums.

Session 2: Elections and Electoral Reform

This session examines important issues concerning elections in the UK. It focuses on: the nature of elections and the types of electoral systems used in the UK; the implications of different electoral systems for party representation; and the arguments for and against the 'first past the post' electoral system.

Session 3: Pressure Groups

This session discusses key themes to do with pressure groups. It focuses on: the nature of pressure groups and the different types of pressure groups; the sources of pressure group power and the ways they exert influence; and the implications of pressure groups for the democratic process.

Continued over/

Andrew Heywood

Andrew Heywood is a highly experienced teacher of Politics, in both further and higher education. He has been an AS/A Level Chief Examiner of Government and Politics for over ten years. His books are widely used by students of Politics in schools, colleges and universities, the UK and abroad. They include *Political Ideologies* (3rd edition, 2003), *Political Theory* (3rd edition, 2004), *Politics* (2nd edition, 2002) and *Key Concepts in Politics* (2000). Andrew Heywood is currently Vice Principal of a large College

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Session 4: The Constitution and Constitutional Reform

This session considers important themes concerning the UK constitution and the issue of constitutional reform. It focuses on: the difference between codified and uncodified constitutions and the nature of the UK constitution; the strengths and weaknesses on the UK constitution; and the debate about the reform of the constitution

Session 5: Parliament and Parliamentary Reform

This session examines key issues to do with Parliament and parliamentary reform. It focuses on: the structure, composition and functions of Parliament; the differences between parliamentary systems of government and presidential systems of government; and the effectiveness of Parliament and how Parliament could be reformed.

Session 6: Prime Minister, Cabinet and the Executive

This session considers important themes concerning the prime minister, the cabinet and the executive. It focuses on: the conventions of collective and individual ministerial responsibility; the sources of prime-ministerial power and reasons for creeping presidentialism; and the checks and constraints on the prime minister both within and outside the executive branch.

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A2 Politics for AQA students

Virtual Revision Conference (VR4)

With **Dr. David Craik, Senior Examiner**

In this unique virtual conference you will receive excellent guidance on Government and Politics concepts, issues and arguments from an experienced teacher, examiner and commentator.

The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1 Compulsory AQA A2 Unit 4–Comparative UK/USA Government

This session will provide you with an up to date assessment of comparative issues in UK/US government & Politics. You will draw on your AS knowledge about British politics and enhance your knowledge and skills on how the two different governmental systems work:

- Constitutions: frameworks and controversies, written and unwritten constitutions, rights and their interpretation
- Comparing legislatures, executives and judiciaries, President v Prime Minister,
- The power of Congress and Parliament, the Supreme Court and the UK Judiciary

Session 2 AQA A2 Unit 7– Ideas in Contemporary British Politics 1

This session will give you a cutting edge view, the latest knowledge and exam strategies on ideological developments in UK Politics

- Political Culture and traditions: conservatism and tradition, parliamentary and revolutionary socialism. How liberalism and neo-liberalism relates to modern conservatism
- The green movement: environmentalism and human activity in the global environment.
- Political Parties and Pragmatism: How do the parties translate their ideas into manifestos and policies. Conservatism as pragmatism. Liberalism, the individual, capitalism and welfare. Socialism, competing definitions, values community and equality.

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Session 3: AQA A2 Unit 7 – Ideas in Contemporary British Politics 2

This session will look at very recent developments in the three major parties in UK politics and how their ideologies have changed

- Continuity and Change: One Nation Toryism to New Right, Conservatism and national sovereignty, Socialism to New Labour, the Third Way
- Continuity and Change: the Liberal Democrats, their evolution and the impact of their ideas on contemporary British Politics.
- Alternative Ideology: The Greens and their rejection of industrialisation, the impact of green ideas on UK politics

Session 4: AQA A2 Unit 5 Politics USA 1

Get yourself updated and prepared on US Politics, ready for AQA Unit 5. How democratic is the USA?

- Political Parties in the USA: the two party system, ideologies and traditions of the Democrats and Republicans and internal divisions within the parties
- Pressure Groups in the USA: Interest Groups, PACs, 527s, their impact on the policy making process. Pressure groups in relation to parties

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Session 5: Unit 5 Politics USA 2

Get yourself updated and prepared on US Politics, ready for AQA Unit 5. How democratic is the USA?

- Elections USA: Elections for the Presidents and Congress, the recruitment and selections of candidates, campaigns and the electoral college. Primaries, Caucuses Referendums. Campaign finance issues
- Political Culture in the USA: Diversity and fragmentation in modern political America, determinants of voting behavior, causes and extent of split-ticket voting and abstention.

Session 6. Tackling Exam Questions:

- What are examiners looking for in exam answers?
- How to deal with comparative questions in Unit 4.
- How to tackle the synoptic questions in Unit 8

A2 Politics for Edexcel students- Route A (UK Politics)

Virtual Revision Conference (VR36)

With **Dr. David Craik, Senior Examiner**

In this unique virtual conference you will receive excellent guidance on Government and Politics concepts, issues and arguments from an experienced teacher, examiner and commentator.

The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1: Key Political Issues – UK Political Issues 1

- Get a sharp insight into what has been happening with developments to the UK economy and the welfare state:
- The economy: changes to the UK economy since 1945, markets, monetarism,
- nationalism and privatization
- The welfare state: individual rights, responsibilities and the attitudes of the parties towards welfare, changes to the social policy and welfare systems of the UK

Session 2: Key Political Issues – UK Political Issues 2

An up to date look into more of the major issues in UK politics today. This session will give you knowledge and strategies for the exam

- Law and Order: human rights, crime and public order, terrorism and civil liberties
- Race and Ethnicity: racism/discrimination, legislative measures, debates about multiculturalism
- Northern Ireland: nationalism, republicanism, unionism and conflict and resolution in Northern Ireland.

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Session 3: Key Political Issues - The EU & European Issues 1

- This session will provide you with knowledge and strategies on how to approach the EU related issues.
- European co-operation and the UK: functionalism, federalism and the process of European integration since 1945.
- Political systems of the EU: Intergovernmentalism, supranationalism and democratic deficits in the EU. Providing a knowledge about the EU institutions and their powers. Prospects for EU reform

Session 4: Key Political Issues - The EU & European Issues 2

This session will provide you with knowledge and strategies on how to approach the EU related issues and how they impact on the UK.

European Integration and economic policy: accelerated unification political and economic Union, monetary union.

EU Policy Areas: Agriculture, fishing, regionalism and the single European market. Qualified Majority Voting

Session 5: Key Political Issues – Policy Making in the UK

- Institutions and policy making: how political parties, pressure groups and elections help to set the political agenda. How policies are formulated by the government in the context of EU membership
- The impact of EU membership: on parliamentary and national sovereignty, citizenship, devolution, the distribution of policy making power.

Session 6: Tackling Key Political Issues, Exam Questions On Route A

Get excellent advice on tackling the different types of ideology questions on Edexcel Route A.

- What are the examiners looking for?
- Approaching the different types of ideology questions
- How much should I write and time management
- Tackling political issues questions together

A2 Politics for Edexcel students- Route B (Ideology)

Virtual Revision Conference (VR37)

With **Dr. David Craik, Senior Examiner**

In this unique virtual conference you will receive excellent guidance on Government and Politics concepts, issues and arguments from an experienced teacher, examiner and commentator.

The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1: Introducing Political Ideologies – 1

An up to date and cutting look at the concept of ideologies and doctrines and the general character of ideological tradition and change in UK politics.

- Liberalism- The liberal view of human nature, individualism and freedom, justice and equality, the liberal view of the state, classical versus modern liberalism
- Conservatism - looking at concepts such as: tradition, organic society, hierarchy and authority

Session 2: Introducing Political Ideologies – 2

An insight into the main doctrines and beliefs of socialism and nationalism in the UK political tradition

- Socialism : co-operation, fraternity, social equality and social justice, socialist values, communism, state, society and the economy
- Nationalism: nation, race, self-determination and internationalism

Session 3: Introducing Ideologies - 3

Knowledge and exam skills on the alternative ideologies of: anarchism, fascism and feminism and their ideological roots.

- Anarchism: autonomy utopianism, collective vs. individual anarchism, anarchy and the state, anarchy and its relationship to other ideologies.
- Fascism: anti-rationalism, social-darwinism, leadership, racism and racialism, totalitarianism and leadership.
- Feminism: sex/gender debates, public and private roles of women, essentialism, Liberal/Marxist/socialist feminism, different competing traditions of feminism.

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A2 Politics Edexcel (Route B) Virtual Revision (VR37) - continued

Session 4: Ideological Development in the UK –1

Looking at how you can enhance your knowledge and exam performance on the development of modern liberalism and modern conservatism

- Liberalism : Civil liberties, constitutionalism, representation and the impact of liberal ideology on the main parties and the development of policy
- Conservatism: One- nationalism, Thatcherism and post-Thatcher Toryism, the emergence of neo-conservatism the impact of modern conservatism on the other parties

Session 5: Ideological Development in the UK –2

Looking at how you can enhance your knowledge and exam performance on the development of socialist and nationalist ideologies in the UK

- Socialism in the UK: Changing socialist ideology, the role of trade unions, developments in Labour since 1979, modern socialist views on institutions and constitutional structures of the UK political system.
- Nationalism in the UK: Sovereignty, devolution and federalism. The impact of Nationalism on the major parties, the impact of nationalism on the UK's EU membership, the relationship between nationalism and territorial politics.

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Session 6: Tackling Ideology Exam Questions On Route B

Get excellent advice on tackling the different types of ideology questions on Edexcel Route B.

- What are the examiners looking for?
- Approaching the different types of ideology questions
- How much should I write and time management
- Tackling ideology questions together