



Topic Assessment System

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Tests – Set A

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Teacher's Introduction

This pack is part of the comprehensive Topic Assessment System for Edexcel A Level Politics Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas.

Tests: Set A

A one-hour short-answer test worth 40 marks for each topic (except for the topic Emerging Parties, which is half the length).

The tests consist of 4-mark explanation questions, primarily focused on AO2 skills. For each 4-mark question there are four possible answers, double the number required by the question.

For further assessment we recommend the Set B tests which mirror the Set A tests provided here (for instance, by asking for disadvantages where the equivalent question in Test A asked for advantages).

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

Structure

The Tests are divided into the following topics:

UK Politics

- Democracy
- Rights
- Established Parties
- Emerging Parties
- Electoral Systems
- Voting and the Media

Core Political Ideas

- Liberalism
- Key Liberal Thinkers
- Conservatism
- Key Conservative Thinkers
- Socialism
- Key Socialist Thinkers

Also available:

The Complete Topic Assessment System	
Quizzes: Set A For each topic, a 30-mark multiple-choice quiz with answers and explanations.	Quizzes: Set B A second quiz per topic, covering the same content, allowing students to retry after completing the first test.
Tests: Set A One-hour set of short-answer questions per topic. Each question is a bite-size challenge towards an essay. ✓	Tests: Set B A second one-hour test per topic, with questions cleverly mirrored from Test A.
Essays: Set A 12 essay questions with model answers for students to analyse and compare with their own.	Essays: Set B 12 more essay questions on similar topics, with indicative content for easy self- or peer-marking.

These tests could be used one after the other, but are designed to be more effective if they are spaced out throughout the one-year course (e.g. Test A used to consolidate knowledge and provide a standard assessment during delivery, and Test B used to identify weaknesses in knowledge and analysis skills prior to revision sessions).

June 2022

Democracy – Test A

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1. Explain **two** advantages of representative democracy.

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2. Explain **two** advantages of direct democracy.

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3. Explain **two** advantages of holding referendums.

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4. Explain **two** factors that suggest UK democracy is healthy.

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5. Explain **two** factors that suggest there is no public demand for major dem

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6. Explain **two** advantages to being an 'outsider' pressure group.

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7. Explain **two** reasons why pressure groups are good for democracy.

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8. Explain **two** methods used by pressure groups.

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9. Explain **two** reasons why a pressure group may succeed in its aims.

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10. Explain **two** reasons why pluralism is good for democracy.

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Democracy – Test A

1. Explain **two** advantages of representative democracy.
 2. Explain **two** advantages of direct democracy.
 3. Explain **two** advantages of holding referendums.
 4. Explain **two** factors that suggest UK democracy is healthy.
 5. Explain **two** factors that suggest there is no public demand for major democracy reform.
 6. Explain **two** advantages to being a constituent pressure group.
 7. Explain **two** reasons why pressure groups are good for democracy.
 8. Explain **two** methods used by pressure groups.
 9. Explain **two** reasons why a pressure group may succeed in its aims.
 10. Explain **two** reasons why pluralism is good for democracy.
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Rights – Test A

1. Explain **two** methods used by the suffragists.
2. Explain **two** ways in which the suffragists were effective.
3. Explain **two** reasons why the franchise was extended to women.
4. Explain **two** reasons why the franchise should be extended to 16- and 17-year-olds.
5. Explain **two** reasons why prisoners should be allowed to vote.
6. Explain **two** arguments against judicial review.
7. Explain **two** examples of human rights enshrined in law in the UK.
8. Explain **two** reasons for favouring civil rights over human rights.
9. Explain **two** reasons why parliamentary sovereignty undermines human rights.
10. Explain **two** arguments in favour of scrapping the Human Rights Act.

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Preview of Questions Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of questions ends here to avoid students previewing questions before they are set. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.

Emerging Parties

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1. Explain **two** reasons why the SNP can be considered a successful party.
 - The SNP has governed the devolved Scottish administration consistently since 2007.
 - Between 2011 and 2015, the SNP governed as a majority administration, despite being designed to prevent majorities.
 - The SNP has become the third largest party in the House of Commons since 2015.
 - The SNP successfully secured a referendum on Scottish independence in 2014 and continue to push for another one.
2. Explain **two** principles advocated by Sinn Féin.
 - Advocates for a referendum or 'border poll' on the unification of Northern Ireland, which it also supports.
 - Does not recognise the legitimacy of the House of Commons over Northern Ireland, instead practising 'arbitrage'.
 - Supports left-wing economic positions, such as greater expenditure on public services and public housing.
 - Has a liberal view on social issues, supporting the legalisation of same-sex marriage and abortion.
3. Explain **two** reasons why UKIP can be considered a successful party.
 - UKIP's main focus – to withdraw the UK from the EU – was successful. They held a referendum, and their side won.
 - UKIP's electoral success pushed a moderately right-wing Conservative government to power in 2010.
 - UKIP won a nationwide election, the 2014 EU election – the only party other than Labour in post-war British political history.
 - UKIP dominated political media coverage in the UK for a number of years, despite an attention deficit that most emerging parties have to contend with.
4. Explain **two** reasons why the Greens can be considered a successful party.
 - The Green Party's primary issue – environmentalism and climate change – has become a major issue in politics, regularly in the top three salient issues among the public.
 - The Green Party successfully won and have held Westminster representation since 2013, despite the obstacle the electoral system provides to a nationwide party in this regard.
 - The Green Party have secured the largest number of councillors in local government since 2012, a strong track record of holding seats that they have previously won.
 - It can be argued that the Greens push Labour to the left – their strong result in 2017, led by Jeremy Corbyn, and they regularly collect voters from disaffected Labour voters.
5. Explain **two** obstacles facing smaller or emerging parties.
 - Smaller parties receive considerably less media coverage or attention, meaning they have less visibility to the public.
 - Smaller parties have substantially less resources than the major political parties, meaning they cannot reach as many people.
 - Smaller parties are disadvantaged in the electoral system of first past the post, which creates high barriers to entry and limits the number of parties that can win seats.
 - Smaller parties have fewer elected representatives, meaning they have fewer opportunities to represent the public.

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Preview of Answers Ends Here

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