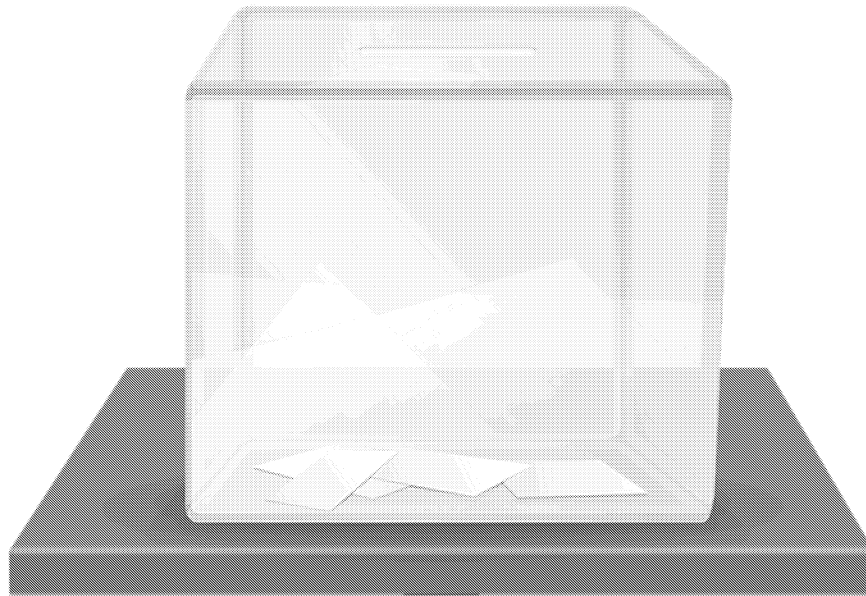
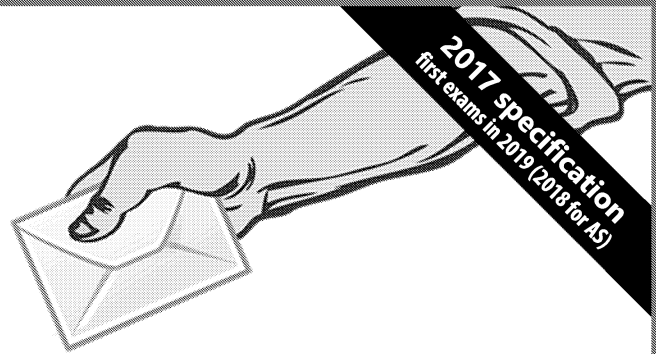




Politics

AS and A Level | Edexcel | 8PL0 / 9PL0



# Learning Grids for AS and A Level Edexcel

Component 1: UK Politics

*Electoral Systems*

2022 Edition

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## Teacher's Introduction

These learning grids cover the Political Parties module of the Edexcel A Level specification. They are designed to test the basic foundation of knowledge about the parties and party systems in the UK and specifically to help students develop their AO1 knowledge for the module. The questions and answers provided here should give the students a comprehensive grasp of the facts before they move on to the analysis and evaluation needed for the AO2 and AO3 marks in the exams. These learning grids follow recent political developments up to October 2022. References to relevant textbooks and the accompanying ZigZag Course Companion are included by unit.

The learning grids are split into three sections in line with the specification. The first section introduces the different types of electoral system, including first-past-the-post and several forms of proportional representation. The second section explores referendums, where they have been significant in the UK, and their impact on representative democracy. The final section offers a broader analysis of electoral systems and how they affect the political system in the UK.

This resource is cross-referenced to:

- *Edexcel GCSE Politics AS and A Level Student Book*, Goodlad, Mitchell, Colclough, Levinson, Laycock, Schindler and Tomes, Pearson Education, 2017, ISBN 978-1292187020
- *UK Government and Politics for AS/A Level (Fifth Edition)*, Lynch, Fairclough and Cooper, Hodder, 2017, ISBN 978-1-4718-89233
- *UK Government and Politics for AS/A Level (Sixth Edition)*, McNaughton and Cooper, Hodder, 2021, ISBN 978-1-3983-1133-6
- *A Level Edexcel Course Companion: Comp 1: UK Politics: Electoral Systems*, Murphy and Glover, 2022, ZigZag Education (MORE/11854)

### Second edition, November 2022

Cross-referencing updated for Course Companions (ZigZag Education 2022) and added for additional Hodder textbook (2021), plus minor updates to questions (pages 4 and 5) and answers (pages 3, 4, 5 and 15).

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## **Selected Question and Answer Pages**

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For demonstration only, the sample answer pages immediately follow their corresponding question pages

	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<b>Additional member system</b>	<b>Briefly describe the additional member system (AMS).</b>	
	<b>What type of electoral system is this?</b>	
	<b>Which two types of electoral system does it combine?</b>	1.
		2.
	<b>Give two examples of where this system is used in the UK.</b>	1.
		2.
	<b>Outline two advantages of the additional member system.</b>	1.
		2.
	<b>Outline two disadvantages of the additional member system.</b>	1.
		2.

**Unit 3.1**

	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<b>Additional member system</b>	<b>Briefly describe the additional member system (AMS).</b>	An electoral system with two ballot papers. On the constituency ballot, the candidate with the most votes is elected. On the party list, voters indicate their preferred party. Party list seats are then distributed proportionately to votes across a larger multi-member constituency.
	<b>What type of electoral system is this?</b>	A mixed system.
	<b>Which two types of electoral system does it combine?</b>	Single-member plurality system.
		Proportional representation.
	<b>Give two examples of where this system is used in the UK.</b>	Scottish Parliament.
		Senedd (or London Assembly).
	<b>Outline two advantages of the additional member system.</b>	It ensures proportionality and fewer wasted votes.
		It retains the constituency link.
<b>Outline two disadvantages of the additional member system.</b>	It gives political parties too much power to select candidates on	
	It creates two different types of representative.	



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	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<b>The case of devolved governments</b>	How many Scottish governments have been coalitions, when did they govern, and which parties were they comprised of?	
	How many Welsh governments have been coalitions, when did they govern, and which parties were they comprised of?	
	How many Scottish single-party majority governments have been formed, when did they govern, and which party formed them?	
	How many Welsh single-party majority governments have been formed, when did they govern, and which party formed them?	
	What does all of this indicate about the effect of AMS and STV on the devolved political systems? Identify two points.	1.
2.		

	Questions	Answers
<b>The case of devolved governments</b>	<b>How many Scottish governments have been coalitions, when did they govern, and which parties were they comprised of?</b>	Two: Labour and the Liberal Democrats governed in coalition for two terms of government, from 1999 to 2003, and from 2003 to 2007.
	<b>How many Welsh governments have been coalitions, when did they govern, and which parties were they comprised of?</b>	Three: Labour and the Liberal Democrats governed in coalition from 2000 to 2003, and from 2016 to 2021, while Labour and Plaid Cymru governed in coalition from 2007 to 2011. Since 2021, Plaid Cymru has supported the Labour administration, but not in a formal coalition.
	<b>How many Scottish single-party majority governments have been formed, when did they govern, and which party formed them?</b>	One: the SNP majority government from 2011 to 2016.
	<b>How many Welsh single-party majority governments have been formed, when did they govern, and which party formed them?</b>	There have been no majorities in the Senedd.
	<b>What does all of this indicate about the effect of AMS and STV on the devolved political systems? Identify two points.</b>	They increase the frequency of coalitions and reduce the frequency of majorities.  They allow a greater number of parties to enter government, and they promote cooperation between them.



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## **Additional Selected Question Pages**

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## Unit 3.2: Referendums

	Questions	Answers	
<b>What are referendums?</b>	What is a referendum?		
	What kind of democracy is a referendum an example of?		
	Identify all three UK-wide referendums, describing what year they were held, what issue they were focused on, and how the UK voted.	1.	
		2.	
		3.	
	Name another prominent referendum held in one part of the UK, and its result.		
	On which issues are national referendums traditionally used in the UK?		
On which two issues have local referendums frequently been used in the UK?	1.		
	2.		

	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<b>Case study – 2011 AV referendum</b>	What did this referendum ask?	
	Why was this referendum held?	
	What was the result in percentages?	
	What was the turnout?	
	Outline two political implications of this result.	1.
2.		
<b>Case study – 2014 Scottish referendum</b>	What did this referendum ask?	
	Why was this referendum held?	
	What was the result in percentages?	
	What was the turnout?	
	Outline two political implications of this result.	1.
2.		