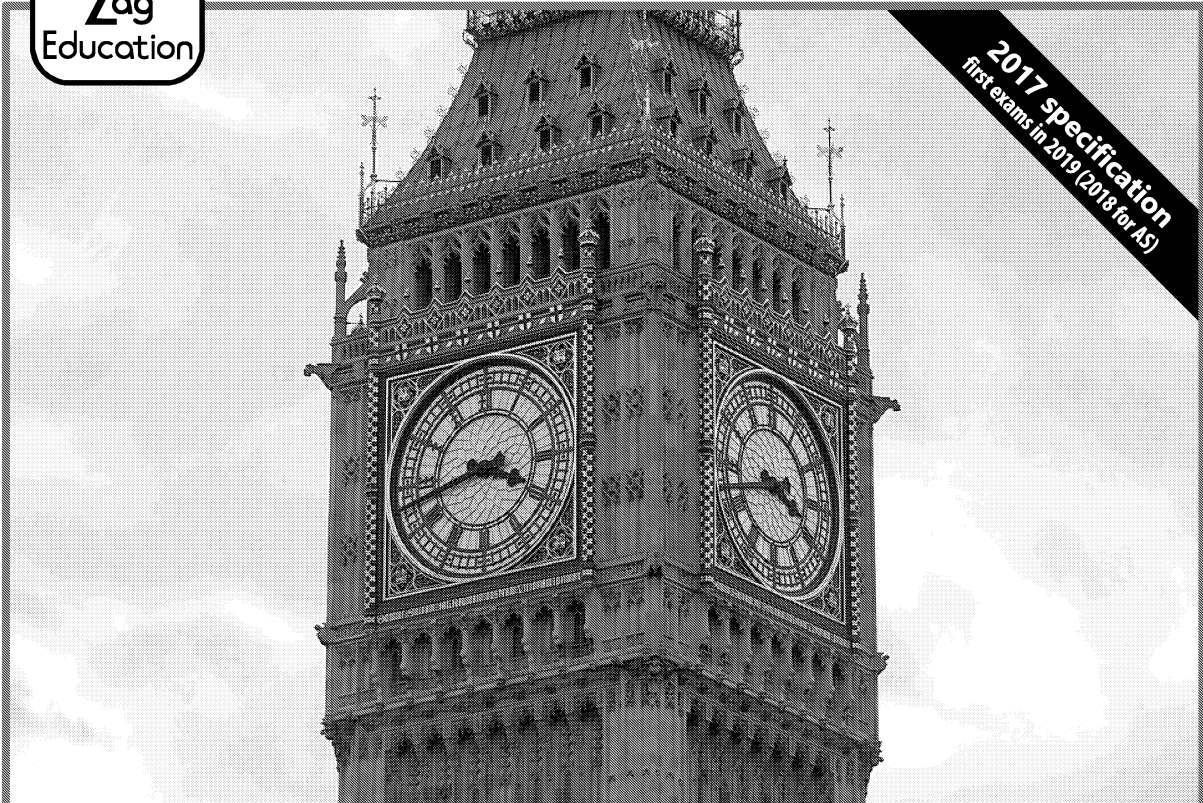




Politics

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



Learning Grids for AS and A Level Edexcel

Component 1: UK Politics

Political Parties

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 AO2 and AO3 marks in the exams. The 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 four sections in line with the specification. The first section introduces political parties as a concept, including their structure and funding. The second section explores the development and nature of the three main political parties in the UK. The third section covers the emergence of new, smaller parties into the UK political system. The final section involves a discussion of the development of a multiparty system in the UK, as well as an exploration into what makes political parties successful.

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: Political Parties*, Murphy and Glover, 2022, ZigZag Education (MORE/11855)

Second edition, November 2022

Cross-referencing updated for Course Companions (ZigZag Education 2022) and added for additional Hodder textbook (2021). New pages added on the SNP and other minor parties (new pages 17–18), plus minor updates made to questions (pages 4, 6) and answers (pages 4, 6 and 10).

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Selected Question and Answer Pages

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

	Questions	Answers
The nature and significance of manifestos	What is a manifesto?	
	What right do manifestos provide to political parties?	
	What is the Salisbury Convention, and why is it relevant when discussing manifestos?	
	Outline two advantages of the manifesto system.	1.
		2.
	Outline two disadvantages of the manifesto system.	1.
2.		
Provide an example of a manifesto pledge that was not implemented by a party once in government.		

	Questions	Answers
The nature and significance of manifestos	What is a manifesto?	A manifesto is a document that a political party sets out before an election, in which the main policy proposals of the party are outlined in the form of promises should the party form a government.
	What right do manifestos provide to political parties?	A mandate to implement the policies they have set out.
	What is the Salisbury Convention, and why is it relevant when discussing manifestos?	A convention which prohibits the House of Lords from amending or rejecting policy related to government manifestos. This is relevant because it increases the likelihood that a mandate will be exercised.
	Outline two advantages of the manifesto system.	Manifestos are transparent and can be accessed easily by the electorate before voting.
		Manifestos improve the legitimacy of a government by ensuring its decisions have received public support.
	Outline two disadvantages of the manifesto system.	Manifesto pledges can too easily be ignored once a party is in government.
		Though manifestos are available, they are rarely read by the electorate.
Provide an example of a manifesto pledge that was not implemented by a party once in government.	Any correct example is suitable here. Some examples include: Labour promise to reform the electoral system in 1997, Conservative promise to scrap tuition fees in 2010, and the Liberal Democrat pledge to scrap tuition fees in 2005.	



	Questions	Answers
Other minor parties	Name two other minor parties who wish to break away from the United Kingdom, and state how many seats they won at the 2019 general election.	1.
		2.
	Which other minor party advocates remaining in the United Kingdom, and how many seats did they win at the 2019 general election?	
	Which of these parties has formed a devolved government in coalition with a major UK party?	
	Which of these parties also takes part in elections in another country?	
	Which of these parties formed a confidence and supply arrangement with the Conservatives in Westminster in 2017?	
	Which of these parties refuses to take their seats in Westminster?	
	Which of these parties is regarded as right wing?	
	Which of these parties has never won a devolved election?	

	Questions	Answers
Other minor parties	Name two other minor parties who wish to break away from the United Kingdom, and state how many seats they won at the 2019 general election.	Sinn Féin won seven seats in 2019.
		Plaid Cymru won four seats in 2019.
	Which other minor party advocates remaining in the United Kingdom, and how many seats did they win at the 2019 general election?	The Democratic Unionist Party won eight seats in 2019.
	Which of these parties has formed a devolved government in coalition with a major UK party?	Plaid Cymru formed a coalition with Welsh Labour in 2007 to run the Welsh government.
	Which of these parties also takes part in elections in another country?	Sinn Féin takes part in general elections in the Republic of Ireland, as well as Northern Ireland.
	Which of these parties formed a confidence and supply arrangement with the Conservatives in Westminster in 2017?	The Democratic Unionist Party.
	Which of these parties refuses to take their seats in Westminster?	Sinn Féin abstains from Parliament as it does not recognise its authority over any part of Ireland.
	Which of these parties is regarded as right wing?	The Democratic Unionist Party.
	Which of these parties has never won a devolved election?	Plaid Cymru.



Additional Selected Question Pages

Unit 2.2: Established political parties



Pearson Education: pp. 28–40
 Hodder: pp. 318–329
 Hodder 2021: pp. 62–82
 ZigZag: pp. 13–42

	Questions	Answers
History of the Conservative Party	What was the name of the party that the Conservatives derived from, and which is still used as their nickname today?	
	What ideology does the party adopt?	
	What did this party support upon its creation?	
	Which social group has the Conservatives traditionally represented?	
	Who has been the longest-standing prime minister among the Conservatives, and how long were they in office?	
	Name three Conservative Party leaders since 2010.	1.
2.		
3.		

Factions within the Conservative Party	Questions	Answers	
	<p>Name the two most notable factions of the Conservative Party.</p>	1.	2.
	<p>Describe and explain the beliefs and values of these two factions.</p>	1.	2.
	<p>What major issue has the Conservative Party been divided over in recent decades, and what other factions has this created?</p>		
	<p>Since 2019, which of these factions has become dominant in the Conservative Party?</p>		

		Questions	Answers
Policies of the Conservative Party	Name two policies in each of these areas in the Conservative Party's 2019 general election manifesto.	The economy	1.
			2.
		Law and order	1.
			2.
		Welfare	1.
			2.
	Foreign policy	1.	
		2.	