

Government and Politics

GCE Student Guide

‘Just because you do not take an interest in politics, does not mean politics won’t take an interest in you’. So said the Greek statesman, Pericles, over 2000 years ago. Our lives are affected at every level by political decisions, whether we are aware of this or not. By studying GCE Government and Politics you will gain an understanding of local, national and international political systems. You will learn about rights and responsibilities, gain an understanding of the factors that affect political decisions and how political ideas influence world events.

The AS course can be taken as a final qualification or as the first half of the A level qualification. If you wish to obtain a full A level qualification, you must complete the second half of the course referred to as A2.



Why study Government and Politics?

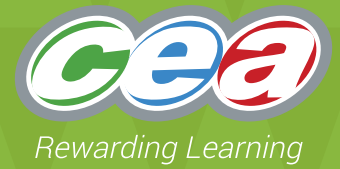
It can help you gain a better understanding of political systems and ideas and the changes that these have brought about in society. Through studying Government and Politics you will develop your knowledge of political systems and ideas and be able to relate this knowledge to local, national and international news events reported in the media.

At AS you will acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political systems that have the greatest impact upon your lives, those of Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom. At A2 you will be able to use your AS skills and knowledge to study a range of other systems, both democratic and non-democratic, and consider how these differ from those in place in Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The study of Government and Politics will encourage you to become actively involved as a citizen and will provide opportunities to develop your skills of analysis, research and evaluation; skills which are highly valued by employers and which will prepare you for a wide variety of further and higher education courses and employment.

Government and Politics

GCE Student Guide



What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1:	The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland
AS 2:	The British Political Process
A2 1:	Option A: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the United States of America and the United Kingdom or Option B: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom
A2 2:	Option A: Political Power or Option B: Political Ideas

How will I be assessed?

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS 1:	External written examination with one source and four questions 1 hour 15 minutes	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 2:	External written examination with five questions 1 hour 45 minutes	60% of AS 24% of A level
A2 1:	External written examination with one source and six questions 2 hours 15 minutes	35% of A level
A2 2:	External written examination with one source and five questions 1 hour 30 minutes	25% of A level

Government and Politics

GCE Student Guide

What can I do with a qualification in Government and Politics?

Studying Government and Politics helps to develop your critical thinking and communication skills. It provides you with a sound basis for continuing study at further or higher education levels, either in Politics or other subjects. It will enhance skills such as interpreting and managing information, decision-making and problem-solving.

Studying Government and Politics is an excellent preparation for many careers and can open up opportunities for employment in areas such as politics, political research, business, finance, government services, education, journalism and public services.

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

