

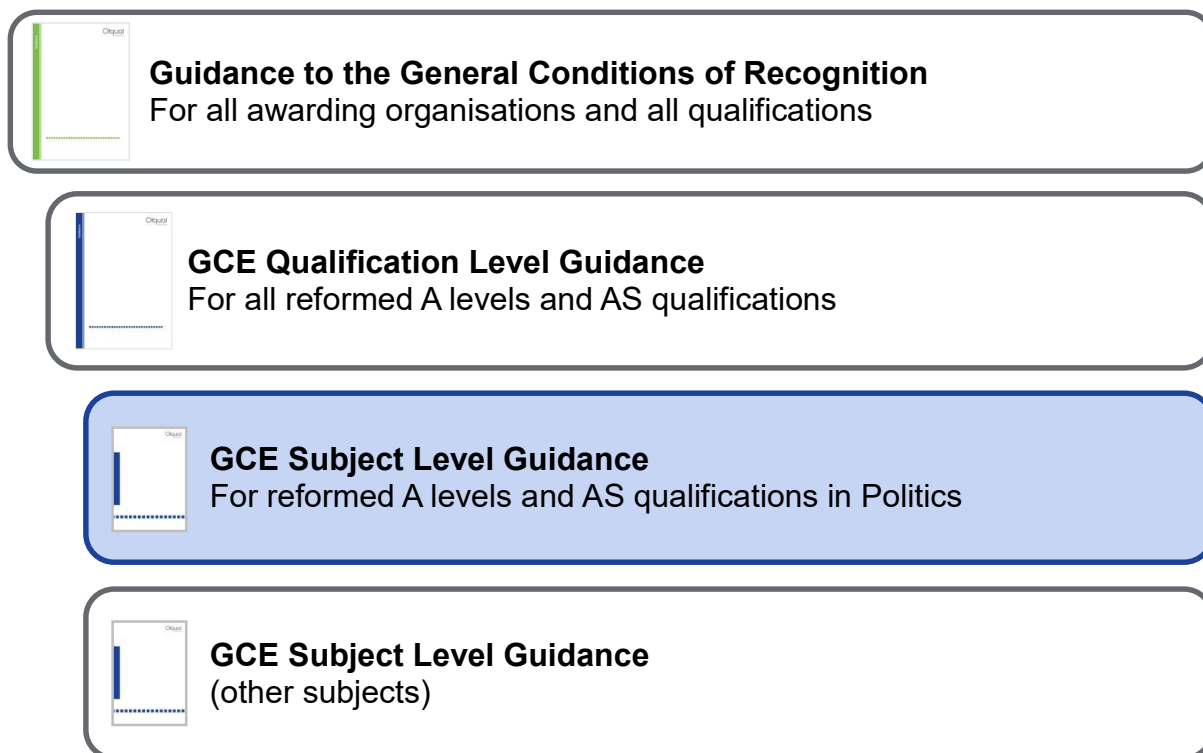
**GCE Subject Level Guidance for
Politics**
May 2016

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Introduction

This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which outlines our guidance for awarding organisations offering GCE Qualifications.



This document sets out guidance which applies to the following qualifications:

- all GCE A levels in Politics awarded on or after 1 April 2019; and
- all standalone GCE AS qualifications in Politics awarded on or after 1 April 2018.

This guidance supports the *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Politics*.¹

This document constitutes guidance for the purposes of section 153 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (the '2009 Act') and Condition GCE(Politics)1.

An awarding organisation has a legal obligation under the 2009 Act to have regard to this guidance, where relevant, in relation to each GCE Qualification in Politics that it makes available or proposes to make available. Condition GCE(Politics)1 imposes

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-politics

the same obligation in respect of the guidance below which is issued under that Condition.

An awarding organisation should use the guidance in this document to help it understand how to comply with the *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Politics*.

Guidance set out in this document

This document provides guidance on assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Politics.
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Guidance on assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Politics

Condition GCE(Politics)1.2 allows us to specify requirements and guidance relating to assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Politics.

We published our requirements in relation to assessment objectives in *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Politics*, and reproduce them in the table below.

	Objective	Weighting (A level)	Weighting (AS)
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues	30-40%	40-50%
AO2	Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences	35-45%	30-40%
AO3	Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions	25-35%	20-30%

We set out below our guidance for the purposes of Condition GCE(Politics)1.2. This guidance explains how we expect awarding organisations to interpret these assessment objectives in terms of:

- the discrete 'elements' within each assessment objective that questions and tasks could target and/or seek to credit – our expectation is that each and every question/task should target or seek to credit at least one of these elements, and may target or seek to credit multiple elements across one or more assessment objectives;
- the coverage expectations, such as in relation to the different elements within each assessment objective and how those elements should be sampled over time; and
- the key areas of emphasis in each assessment objective and the particular meaning for the subject of any key terms and phrases used; defined terms are shown in bold text, followed by their definitions.

In line with the obligations set out in Condition GCE(Politics)1.2, we expect awarding organisations to be able to demonstrate how they have had regard to this guidance. For example, an awarding organisation could map how it has regard to the guidance as it:

- develops its sample assessment materials;
- delivers the qualification;
- develops and applies its approach to sampling the elements into which the assessment objectives are divided; and
- monitors the qualification to make sure it addresses all elements appropriately.

AO1 – Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.		A level 30-40% AS 40-50%	
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and Definitions
n/a	1a – Demonstrate knowledge of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Full coverage in each set of assessments² (but not in every assessment). ■ No more than 10% of the total marks for the qualification should reward demonstrating knowledge in isolation³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues are aspects of subject content. Awarding organisations should set out their approach to targeting them in their assessment strategies
	1b – Demonstrate understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.		

² For the purposes of this guidance, a 'set of assessments' means the assessments to be taken by a particular Learner for a GCE Qualification in Politics. For clarity, the assessments taken by Learners may vary, depending on any possible routes through the qualification.

³ Marks which 'reward demonstrating knowledge in isolation' means any mark awarded solely for recalling facts or other knowledge. It does not include marks awarded for selecting appropriate knowledge (for example, to evidence an argument), or for applying knowledge to a particular context.

AO2 – Analyse aspects of politics and political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences		A level 35-45% AS 30-40%	
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and Definitions
n/a	1a – Analyse aspects of politics, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Full coverage in each set of assessments but not in every assessment. ■ A reasonable balance between the elements within this assessment objective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Analyse means deconstructing ideas and/or information and/or evidence to find connections and provide logical chains of reasoning. ■ Both here and in AO3 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Aspects of politics refers to the subject content as a whole. □ Political information means sources of political information, for example, text, data, pictures, all related, in some way, to politics. ■ Consideration of parallels, connections, similarities and differences is a form of comparative analysis. These – and other – comparative relationships may be targeted individually, or in combination; which relationships are targeted will depend on the focus of the question/task as well as on the subject content targeted.
	1b – Analyse political information, including in relation to parallels, connections, similarities and differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Awarding organisations should justify the balance between elements in their assessment strategies. 	

AO3 – Evaluate aspects of politics and political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions		A level 25-35%	
		AS- 20-30%	
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and Definitions
n/a	1a – Evaluate aspects of politics, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Full coverage in each set of assessments but not in every assessment. ■ A reasonable balance between the elements within this assessment objective. ■ Awarding organisations should justify the balance between elements in their assessment strategies. ■ The extent to which evaluation questions/tasks require Learners to make judgements and draw conclusions will depend on the subject content targeted and the nature of those questions/tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Evaluate means appraising and/or ascribing value to information and/or issues. ■ See guidance in relation to AO2 for definitions of aspects of politics and political information.
	1b – Evaluate political information, including to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions		

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