

APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR GCE AS AND A LEVEL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



JULY 2016

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This is a **Regulatory Document** under **Condition B7** of the *Interim Standard Conditions of Recognition*¹: *Compliance with Regulatory Documents*.

¹ <http://qualificationswales.org/regulation/monitoring-awarding-bodies/?lang=en&>

Introduction

This document sets out the approval criteria for AS and A Level Government and Politics qualifications. These have been developed through stakeholder engagement and public consultation. They include the requirements that an awarding body must meet when developing the specification and assessment materials for the qualification.

The approval criteria in this document will come into effect from 18 July 2016.

Qualifications Wales will only approve qualifications that meet all of the requirements set out in this document together with those set out in the *GCE AS and A Level Qualification Approval Criteria*² and *Interim Standard Conditions of Recognition*³. In developing qualifications to meet these requirements awarding bodies must have regard to *Fair Access by Design*⁴.

Where the requirements of the Subject Approval Criteria set out in this document differ from those prescribed in the *GCE AS and A Level Qualifications Approval Criteria* and the *Interim Standard Conditions of Recognition*, the requirements in this document will take precedence.

² <http://qualificationswales.org/regulation/approved-and-designated-qualifications/as-a-level-approval-criteria-july-2016/?lang=en>

³ <http://qualificationswales.org/regulation/monitoring-awarding-bodies/?lang=en&>

⁴ <http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150727-fair-access-by-design-en.pdf>

Subject aims and objectives

1. AS and A Level Government and Politics specifications must enable learners to develop:
 - 1.1. knowledge and understanding of contemporary political structures and issues within Wales and the United Kingdom (UK);
 - 1.2. knowledge and understanding of broader global political structures and issues;
 - 1.3. knowledge and understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics;
 - 1.4. knowledge and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups;
 - 1.5. an awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes;
 - 1.6. the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgments;
 - 1.7. an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

Subject content

2. The subject content of AS and A Level Government and Politics specifications must reflect the subject aims and objectives.

Knowledge and Understanding

3. Learners will be expected to understand the interrelationships between and significance of the subject content themes specified in paragraph 4.
4. AS and A Level Government and Politics specifications must require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

4.1. government in Wales and the United Kingdom

- 4.1.1. the institutions of government in Wales and the UK, their roles, powers and interrelationships including:
 - i. the nature and sources of their constitutional underpinnings;
 - ii. impact of devolution;
 - iii. their legislative processes;
 - iv. accountability between their respective institutions;
 - v. how the executive functions exercise power;
 - vi. interaction of the courts with and their influence on the legislative and executive functions.

4.2. political participation in Wales and the United Kingdom

- 4.2.1. democracy and participation;
- 4.2.2. elections and voting;
- 4.2.3. political parties.

4.3. the European Union

- 4.3.1. governance;
- 4.3.2. political participation;
- 4.3.3. the relationship with the UK.

4.4. political ideas

- 4.4.1. liberalism, conservatism, socialism and nationalism;
- 4.4.2. and at least one of the following: communism, feminism or environmentalism.

4.5. the government and politics of the USA

- 4.5.1. the role, significance and interrelationship of the Constitution, Congress, presidency, and the Supreme Court;
- 4.5.2. democracy and participation;
- 4.5.3. civil rights.

4.6. global politics and international relations

- 4.6.1. key concepts, structures of and influences on global politics, which includes:
 - i. the concept of global politics;
 - ii. global governance institutions and non-state actors;
 - iii. developments in global politics including: different systems of government and the differing and changing significance of state powers in global affairs.

Rationale Required: On submitting the AS and A Level Government and Politics qualification for Approval the awarding body must provide rationale for how it has structured the required content across the AS and A Level specifications and any additional content included which is not specified.

Skills

5. AS and A Level specifications must require learners to:
 - 5.1. comprehend and interpret political information;
 - 5.2. critically analyse and evaluate the areas of government and politics studied in order to construct arguments and explanations leading to reasoned conclusions;
 - 5.3. identify parallels, similarities, connections and differences between aspects of the areas of government and politics studied;
 - 5.4. communicate arguments and explanations with relevance, clarity and coherence, using appropriate political vocabulary;
 - 5.5. make necessary connections between the areas of government and politics studied.

Assessment objectives

6. The assessment of the knowledge, understanding, and skills required in the specification must target the following assessment objectives in line with the indicated weightings:

| Objective | Requirements | Weighting | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|--------|---------|
| | | AS | A2 | A Level |
| AO1 | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories and issues. | 40-50% | 30-40% | 30-40% |
| AO2 | Interpret and apply political information to identify and explain relevant similarities, differences, and connections. | 20 -30% | 25-35% | 25-35% |
| AO3 | Analyse and evaluate the areas of government and politics studied to construct arguments, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions. | 30-40% | 35-45% | 35-45% |

Scheme of assessment

7. AS and A Level Government and Politics will be formally assessed through examinations only.

Further information

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