



GETTING STARTED

Whether you already teach our existing GCE Government and Politics specification, teach a similar specification with another awarding body, or are considering offering this for the first time, getting started with our revised specification really couldn't be easier:

 Visit www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to view the full revised specification for your subject.

 Attend the next available support event. Go online for our up-to-date events schedule.

Go to www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to download the full GCE Government and Politics AS & A2 Specification



CONTACT US NOW

Subject Officer

Nick Heard
Tel: (028) 9026 1413
Email: nheard@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:
Specification content
Subject-specific issues
Interpretation of exemplar papers & other materials

Specification Support Officer

Arlene Ashfield
Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2291
Email: aashfield@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:
Requesting a meeting
Requesting further support
General subject-specific queries

Entries, Results and Certification Team

@[Lb^S>S]YZf
Tel: (028) 9026 12(\$ adext 2392
Email: `S]YZf@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:
Entries
Results

Distribution Team

Bernard Trainor
Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168
Email: btrainor@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:
Requesting materials



WHATEVER YOUR QUERY, WE GUARANTEE YOU A PROMPT, FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT SERVICE WHEN YOU CONTACT US

Check out our online leaflet *Customer Charter – Putting You First* at www.ccea.org.uk to view our service targets and our commitment to you.

"I'm really pleased to introduce this revised specification. We have designed it to meet the needs of learners in Northern Ireland whilst also providing a qualification that has international currency. We're proud to be your local awarding body. It is my priority to ensure that our dedicated subject team listens, responds and provides you with a first-class service."

Anne Marie Duffy – Examinations Manager, CCEA

"I'm delighted to provide robust operational systems that support all aspects of examination administration. Whether you are making entries, have a query about examinations or require assistance in relation to results, I can assure you that our specialised systems and customer-focused teams will provide you with the top-class level of service you expect."

Martin Quinn – Business Manager, Examination and Assessment Administration, CCEA

WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT OUR EXAMINATIONS SERVICE....

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with the support and helpfulness of our staff.

95.5% of teachers are satisfied with the reliability and appropriateness of the materials we dispatch.

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with our administration of examinations.

* Source: CCEA's 2006 Post-Primary Customer Satisfaction Research



REVISED GCE AS & A2 SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT FOR GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010



SUMMARY

- **AS 1: The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland** – External exam (1 source and 3 questions), 1hr 15mins, 40% of AS, 20% of A Level, available January and Summer
- **AS 2: The British Political Process** – External exam (5 questions), 1hr 45mins, 60% of AS, 30% of A Level, available January and Summer
- **A2 1: Comparative Government** – External exam (2 options – 1 source and 5 questions in each), 2hrs 15mins, 65% of A2, 30% of A Level, available January and Summer
- **A2 2: Political Power and Political Ideas** – External exam (2 options – 1 source and 3 questions in each), 1hr 30mins, 40% of A2, 20% of A Level, available January and Summer

KEY FEATURES

- Requires students to complete fewer assessment units: only two AS, two A2 and no coursework
- AS course broadens students' education and is a progression route to the full A Level
- Provides stretch and challenge to A2 students, establishing a sound foundation for higher education and a range of interesting careers
- Presents opportunities to develop essential academic skills that are also directly relevant to the world of work
- Presents a choice of content in both A2 units

BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

We have designed this specification to help learners develop:

- A critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes;
- Knowledge and understanding of the structures of the UK political system and how these differ from other political systems;
- Knowledge and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the individual; and
- An interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

CURRENT		NEW		WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHY?	
MODULE	TITLE	UNIT	TITLE	WHAT HAS CHANGED?	WHY HAS IT CHANGED?
AS 1	The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland	AS 1	The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have deleted the current AS 3 unit. We have included some content from this current Political Behaviour unit in the new AS 1 unit; we have removed other aspects altogether. • Content is now specified in terms of learning outcomes. • AS 1 is now weighted at 40% and AS 2 is now worth 60% of the AS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fulfil subject criteria requiring that three AS units be reduced to two • To clarify what is expected of candidates • Our response to consultation with teachers
AS 2	The Inter-Relationships of the UK Executive, Legislature and Judiciary	AS 2	The British Political Process		
AS 3	Political Behaviour				
A2 1	The Government and Politics of the USA or The Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland	A2 1	Comparative Government: The UK and the USA or the UK and the Republic of Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have deleted what is the current A2 3 unit, so in the new specification there are now two assessment units instead of three. The new A2 1 unit now comprises the current A2 1 and A2 2 units. Within the A2 1, we have removed some content, such as the US Supreme Court and Irish Political parties. The new A2 unit contains much of the content of the existing A2 3 unit. • Content is now specified in terms of learning outcomes. • A2 1 is now weighted at 30% of A Level; A2 2 is now worth 20% of the A Level. • The A2 papers now contain more open-ended questions and textual analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fulfil subject criteria requiring that three A2 units be reduced to two • To clarify what is expected of candidates • To reflect the content of units and the length of exams • To fulfil subject criteria requiring greater stretch and challenge for A2 candidates
A2 2	The Government and Politics of the UK and the USA – Comparative Study or The Government and Politics of the UK and The Republic of Ireland – Comparative Study	A2 2	Political Power and Political Ideas (choice of Power or Ideas options)		
A2 3	Political Power or The Contemporary Relevance of Political Ideologies				

COUNT ON US FOR SUPPORT...

LOCAL SUPPORT > IN PERSON

- We are your **local awarding body**, so we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer named on the back cover if you would like to arrange for us to visit you, your department or your students.
- If you have a query or require advice/guidance, please contact the relevant person listed on the back cover.



CONTACT US IF YOU DON'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

LOCAL SUPPORT > AT TEACHER-FOCUSED EVENTS

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support this specification which includes:

- **FREE launch events** to introduce you to the revised specification; and
- **FREE seminars** to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will mail invitations to Heads of Department at least three weeks in advance of each event. Alternatively, check out our full list of support events online at www.ccea.org.uk/spec-changes

SUPPORT > ONLINE

Most of the support we provide will be available on your subject microsite. The site will contain:

- The latest version of the GCE Government and Politics specification;
- Schemes of Work;
- Chief Examiner's Reports with top tips for improving examination performance;
- Exemplar Papers and Mark Schemes; and
- Exemplification of Standards (available after the first examination series).

Visit your subject microsite by logging on to www.ccea.org.uk and selecting it from the dropdown menu.

SUPPORT > IN PRINT

Some of the materials listed above are also available in print. To find out which materials and publications are currently available for your subject:

- Contact Bernard Trainor in our Distribution Team on (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168; or
- Go to www.ccea.org.uk to view our *Examination and Assessment Sales Catalogue*.

BACKGROUND TO THE REVISION PROCESS

During the Revision of Specifications process, we consulted our stakeholders through:

- Questionnaires
- Focus Group meetings
- Subject Advisory Team meetings.

We have drawn up this revised specification with the help of:

- Teachers and Heads of Departments in post-primary schools;
- Lecturers in Institutes of Further and Higher Education;
- Representatives from Employer Committees; and
- Specialists from our Curriculum Development Teams.

