

A Level Politics

Exam Style Questions

Component 1: UK Politics

Democracy and Participation

1. Evaluate the view that the UK is facing a 'participation crisis'.
2. Evaluate the extent to which compulsory voting and lowering the voting age may be the best ways to improve participation in the UK.
3. Evaluate the various ways rights are protected in the UK.
4. Evaluate the extent to which pressure groups enhance democracy in the UK.

Political Parties

1. Evaluate the extent to which the current Conservative Party are more influenced by One Nation principles than Thatcherism.
2. Evaluate the view that modern Conservative policies do not conform to the traditional ideas of the party.
3. Evaluate the view that small parties are having an increasingly important impact on UK politics.
4. Evaluate the case for introducing the state funding of parties.

Electoral Systems

1. Evaluate the extent to which the increased use of referendums would improve democracy in the UK.
2. Evaluate the criticisms that have been levelled against the use of referendums in the UK.
3. Evaluate the arguments in favour of retaining the 'first past the post' electoral system to elect the House of Commons.
4. Evaluate the case for introducing proportional representation for UK general elections.

Voting behaviour and the media

1. Evaluate the view that the influence of the media is the most important factor that determines the success or failure of a political party.

2. Evaluate the relative importance of different demographic factors in voting behaviour.
3. Evaluate the impact of turnout in determining the outcome of elections.
4. Evaluate the extent to which general elections in the UK are lost by the government rather than won by the opposition.
5. Evaluate the extent to which social factors determine voting behaviour.

Ideologies

1. To what extent are there tensions in key strands of conservatism?
2. To what extent do liberals disagree over the role of the state?
3. To what extent do liberals do liberals agree over the rights and freedoms of individuals
4. To what extent do liberals is there agreement between classical and modern liberals?
5. To what extent do different conservatives agree on the role of paternalism?
6. To what extent is there agreement between traditional and one nation conservatives?
7. To what extent is conservatism a philosophy of human imperfection?

Component 2: UK Government

1. To what extent has the UK constitution been criticised?
2. Evaluate the extent which the UK Constitution has been reformed significantly.
3. Evaluate the extent to which reform of Parliament has increased the power of MPs
4. Evaluate the extent to which the role of the media changed the role of the Prime Minister
5. Evaluate the extent to which the power and influence of Cabinet has increased.
6. Evaluate the extent to which the UK Supreme Court has been politicised since its creation.
7. Evaluate the extent to which Parliament remains a sovereign body.

Feminism

1. To what extent do feminists agree that the personal is political?
2. To what extent do feminists identify patriarchy as a natural aspect of human nature?
3. To what extent do feminists see equality as a goal for society?
4. To what extent do feminists see the state as useful for achieving equality in society?

Component 3: US Politics

Constitution

1. Evaluate the extent to which the Constitution protects state power.

2. Evaluate the extent to which the Constitution protects the rights of the individual.
3. Evaluate the extent to which the Constitution enhances democracy in USA.
4. Evaluate the extent to which the US Constitution is inflexible.
5. Evaluate the extent to which the USA operates within a constitutional framework of federalism.
6. Evaluate the extent to which the three branches of government have failed to protect constitutional rights in recent years.
7. Evaluate the extent to which the US constitution is anti-democratic.

Congress

1. Evaluate the extent to which Congressional oversight of the President is ineffective.
2. Evaluate the extent to which Congress is a representative institution.
3. Evaluate the extent to which Congress can be said to be a 'hyper-partisan' institution
8. Evaluate the extent to which the Supreme Court is now an 'imperial judiciary'.
9. Evaluate the extent to which racial equality has been advanced in the 21st century.
10. Evaluate the extent to which Congress carries out its functions effectively.
11. Evaluate the extent to which Congress become the weakest of the three branches of government?
12. Evaluate the extent to which Congress is significantly less effective when different parties control its two chambers.

US Presidency

1. Evaluate the extent to which presidential power has become increasingly constrained.
2. Evaluate the extent to which the 'the power to persuade' is the president's most important power.
3. Evaluate the extent to which the President cannot always have the foreign policy he wants.

The Supreme Court and Civil Rights

1. Evaluate the extent to which the Supreme Court has become too powerful.
2. Evaluate the extent to which the Supreme Court a political rather than a judicial institution.
3. Evaluate the extent to which political measures to promote racial equality are doomed to failure.
4. Evaluate the extent to which the Supreme Court can be said to have advanced conservative values since 2005

Democracy and participation

1. Evaluate the extent to which pressure groups have taken over the key functions of US political parties.

2. Evaluate the extent to which the Democratic Party remains a party of the centre.
3. Evaluate the extent to which US elections, particularly congressional elections, fail to make politicians truly accountable to voters.
4. Evaluate the extent to which candidate personality, rather than campaign finance or policies has become the deciding factor in the outcome of recent presidential elections.
5. Evaluate the extent to which the major parties adequately represents minority voters.
6. Evaluate the extent to which influencing Congress the most successful route for pressure groups?
7. Evaluate the extent to which the Electoral College is fit for purpose.
8. Evaluate the extent to which the two major parties have an overlap in ideas and policies.
9. Evaluate the extent to which The Republicans are now a more divided party than the Democrats.
10. Evaluate the extent to which local factors are more important than national factors in congressional midterm elections