

A LEVEL **ATTAINING A AND A* IN PEARSON/ EDEXCEL A-LEVEL POLITICS**

CODE 7636

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course will demonstrate how to guide your best students to achieve grades A & A* in future Edexcel A-Level Politics examinations, particularly for those choosing the USA 3A option. Led by a highly experienced senior examiner for a major awarding body, the course will demonstrate teaching and learning ideas for all three exams which will stretch and challenge able students and develop their higher-level skills. The course will offer detailed analysis of what is expected the top levels and explore ways to build your teaching practice around this.

PROGRAMME

	TIME
Grades A and A*: how to achieve the highest levels	10.00 – 10.45am
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Structure of the specification, A-Level Politics exams and what they require of the best students● Analysis of mark schemes: what are the examiners looking for?● What do the three Assessment Objectives mean for A & A* grade students?● Grades A and A*: what are the difference between these with Pearsons A-level Politics● Key attributes of Grade A and A* students in the classroom● Avoiding potential hazards: what can cost a top student their A grade?	
Discussion: coffee break	10.45 – 11.00am
Teaching UK and US Politics: key challenges for Grade A/A* students	11.00 – 12.00pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tackling the toughest context: approaches to unpick the hardest topics in UK and US Politics● Approaches to the 30-mark source question: how can students achieve Level 5?● Writing essays with 'well substantiated conclusions': how can students meet the criteria for Level 5 in the 30-mark essay?● Stretching top students with examples● Managing the content: how much should A and A* grade students know?● How A*/A students can keep up to date with political developments and apply their knowledge	
Teaching Political Ideas: stretching and challenging the most able	12.00 – 1.00pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Political Ideas: how to organise your teaching to stretch the most able● Political Ideas: demands of the question and how to plan them● Using thinkers effectively – what differentiates the best answers● Utilising wider reading to support A and A* answers● Deep examination of content – using who?/what?/why?/when? to push students	
Lunch and informal discussion	1.00 – 2.00pm
Gaining the highest marks in the 12-mark USA Comparative questions	2.00 – 2.45pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What could be asked and what are the potential pitfalls for students● How to structure Question 1 & Question 2 answers to reach the top mark band● How to add theory to Q2 most effectively● What makes a strong A-level answer and how can we build up to this	
Revision approaches for A and A* students	2.45 – 3.30pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Working to the standard: reviewing and marking specimen scripts to work to the top grades● Revision ideas to help students to produce high grade answers● Varying answer practice to stretch the most able	
Plenary, discussion and depart	3.30 – 3.45pm

LOCATION/DATE

Online

Tuesday 23 March 2021

Tuesday 22 June 2021

COURSE LEADER

Kathy Schindler has taught at and led an A Level Politics department at a top state school for nearly 20 years. She is an experienced A Level Politics examiner and Team Leader for a major awarding group. She was involved in writing the new A Level Politics linear specification and has co-written two A Level Politics textbooks, published by Pearson. She runs many training sessions to help teachers prepare for the new Politics A Level. She also runs sessions in schools to support teachers as well as students.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All teachers of Edexcel A-level Politics (especially, Option 3A USA)
- Heads of Department

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Gain a clear understanding of the demands of Grades A & A* in Edexcel Politics
- Benefit from a detailed look at the different demands of questions across the UK, Ideas and US units in all three papers
- Develop a confident grasp of the mark schemes and clarify your understanding of the requirements of the highest levels.
- Sample answers at Grades A and A* will be discussed and marked