

UPDATED FOR 2020 EXAMINATIONS

London Thursday 19 March 2020

Keynote
educational



A LEVEL POLITICS

CONFERENCE FOCUS

This NEW conference will provide students with a highly motivational revision day, at which they will hear presentations from leading experts on crucial political issues, linked directly to the examinations. They will receive top quality advice, guidance and examples which will assist in producing examination answers of the highest levels.

The conference is designed for students of all examination boards.

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

Dr William Sheward

Dr William Sheward is a Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Winchester. He is Programme Leader for the BA Politics and Global Studies, and Global History degrees, and, from September 2018, the MA in Politics and International Relations. His teaching and academic interests and specialisms lie in US politics, especially in relations to ideology, political philosophy and elections.

Dr Philip Catney

Dr Philip Catney is a senior lecturer in Politics at Keele University. Before that, he worked at Sheffield University and was a guest lecturer for Oxford University's Sustainable Urban Development MSc (2013-2017).

BENEFITS

- Exciting sessions including discussions and talks which will enhance exam answers and are directly relevant to the specification
- Ask questions and gain first hand advice and guidance from a senior examiner and a leading expert on US Politics
- Gain enhanced and relevant understanding and knowledge of key areas of the specification
- Engaging, interactive examiner workshops to improve student performance in the exams
- Get a full set of conference notes, with examination tips and example answers

PROGRAMME

TIME

Welcome and Introduction

10.25 – 10.35am

- Feedback from 2019 exams – what students did well and how to do the same

UK Politics Session 1: Are we in a 'constitutional moment'? Philip Catney

10.35 – 11.10am

- The changing nature of the UK constitution: structure and scrutiny of the executive
- How far have reforms since 1997 changed the UK constitution?
- The impact of devolution and Brexit on the government of the UK: Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales – and England

Break - Submit your questions on Politics to our expert panel

11.10 – 11.30pm

UK Politics Session 2 – The Politics of the UK and the UK's changing party system Philip Catney

11.30 – 12.20pm

- Elections and referendums and their impact on the party system
- The UK's changing party system: ideology, party structure and party funding
- Development towards a multi-party system in the UK and its impact on government and policy
- What explains the rise of minor parties? Policies of minor parties and their impact on political debates and political agenda

Answering questions on UK Politics Nick Axon

12.20 – 1.00pm

- Mastering the shorter questions
- Dealing with the extract questions: the key features of an excellent response
- Essay writing: the qualities of a Level 5 essay
- Student marking exercise – what gains A and A* and why

Lunch

1.00 – 1.45pm

Ask the Experts

1.45 – 1.55pm

- The experts answer the questions submitted by the students

US Politics: Has the Trump era changed the presidency and the framework of US government? William Sheward

1.55 – 2.35pm

- Presidential power under Trump: sources of power, formal and informal powers and their development
- Relations with Congress: checks, balances and key variables such as party support
- Foreign policy
- The presidency in an age of hyper-partisanship: the attitudes of the media and public opinion
- Comparison to previous presidents: how different is Trump and will any changes last into the next presidency?

US Politics and Comparative Politics: Comparing constitutions: does a liberal democracy require a codified constitution? William Sheward

2.40 – 3.20pm

- Limiting the power of the government: compositions, structures, strengths and weaknesses
- Adapting to changes in society – the role of the Supreme Courts and the legislative
- Protecting civil rights: whose rights and when? Pressure groups, focus groups, minority rights

Final Top Tips and Exam Technique Nick Axon

3.20 – 3.30pm

- The study habits of a top Politics student
- Understanding the top level criteria
- Top 5 tips for revision

Lots of excellent advice – relevant points delivered clearly and helpfully. Great example answers which will be really useful.

Framingham Earl High School, April 2018



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CONFERENCE DETAILS

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