



AQA Politics: Paper 3

3.3.1.2 Conservatism

Learning about this topic is important because:

Understanding of the significance of this ideology in terms of shaping the political systems & structures within Britain & USA.

Synoptic Links to other units include (i.e. this builds on):

Paper 1 & Paper 2 Political Parties, Democracy & Participation etc. Paper 3 – Liberalism & Socialism

This leads to:

Recapping & revising Paper 3 ideologies & overall revision.

We will learn:

Students should analyse and evaluate:

1. Debates about the nature of conservatism
2. Core conservative ideas and values concerning government, the free market and the individual
3. Different strands of conservative thinking from traditional Conservatism to the New Right
4. In their study of the following thinkers' students should focus on the aspects indicated after each thinker's name and relate this to conservative thinking on human nature, the state, society and the economy:
 - 4.1. Thomas Hobbes – concept of human nature/laws of nature, power of the sovereign/the individual and self-protection
 - 4.2. Edmund Burke – Anti-Jacobinism/Whig principles, Burke's reaction to the American and French Revolutions
 - 4.3. Michael Oakeshott – importance of tradition/criticisms of rationalism, 'Politics of Faith' vs 'Politics of Scepticism'
 - 4.4. Ayn Rand – opposition to collectivism and statism, rational and ethical egoism/individual rights
 - 4.5. Robert Nozick – limited functions of the State, justification of inequalities of wealth resulting from freely exchanged contracts

We will develop/practise skills including:

Explanation: demonstrating knowledge and understanding of political events, concepts and ideas including the use of relevant examples.

Analysis: demonstrating understanding of the significance, causes, and effects of political ideas, events and concepts, as well as the relationship between them.

Comparison: Identifying similarities and differences between extracts, considering their significance and impact in a political context.

Evaluation: Making reasoned judgments about the strengths and weaknesses of an argument, concept, or theory in a statement or extract.

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

- Government, the free market, the individual
- Authority, tradition, private property human nature, the state, society and the economy
- Traditional conservatism
- The new right

Extended Reading/Listening/Viewing (You could learn more about this topic by):

Read:

- Andrew Heywood conservatism chapter
- Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy entries: Hobbes, Burke & Conservatism
- BBC Bitesize A-level Politics
- Institute of Economic Affairs explainers (for New Right perspective)

Listen:

- **Talking Politics (BBC/academic vibe):** Ideology episodes
- **Intelligence Squared:** Debates on capitalism, state size

Watch:

- **Politics Explained:** Conservatism overview; New Right vs One Nation Conservatism



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- **Mr Patel Politics:** AQA-specific thinker summaries & essay structure advice
- **Tutor2u Politics:** Clear ideology comparisons & good evaluation material

□ **How each resource maps to AQA thinkers**

Thinker	Best resource type
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Hobbes	Leviathan summaries + YouTube explainers
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Burke	Reflections extracts + Heywood
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Oakeshott	Rationalism in Politics essays + lectures
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Rand	Short essays + debates on libertarianism
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Nozick	Heywood + SEP + minimal state videos
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Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are:

Section A (9 marks)

Section B (25 marks)

End of Unit Test: Knowledge Test and essay or extract question



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✓ 9-MARK QUESTIONS (Explain / Analyse)

These test **clear explanation + accurate use of thinkers**.

Core ideas

1. Explain three key features of conservatism.
2. Explain three conservative views about human nature.
3. Explain three conservative arguments in favour of tradition.
4. Explain three conservative views on authority.
5. Explain three conservative views about society.

State + government

6. Explain three conservative views about the role of the state.
7. Explain three conservative arguments for limited government.
8. Explain three conservative arguments for strong leadership.
9. Explain three conservative views about law and order.

Economy

10. Explain three conservative views about the free market.
11. Explain three conservative arguments against collectivism.
12. Explain three conservative views about inequality.

Internal divisions

13. Explain three differences between traditional conservatism and the New Right.
14. Explain three similarities between conservative strands.
15. Explain three differences between One Nation conservatism and the New Right.
16. Explain three ways conservatives disagree about the economy.

Thinker-specific

17. Explain three ways Hobbes influenced conservative thinking.
18. Explain three conservative ideas derived from Burke.
19. Explain three features of Oakeshott's conservative philosophy.
20. Explain three libertarian ideas associated with Nozick.
21. Explain three reasons why Ayn Rand is linked to the New Right.

□ 25-MARK EXTRACT QUESTIONS (AQA Style)



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These mirror **Paper 3 Section A** format:

- Two short extracts
- Evaluate using knowledge + thinkers

CORE CONSERVATISM QUESTIONS

1. Nature of conservatism

Extract A: Conservatism is defined by its defence of tradition and resistance to change.

Extract B: Conservatism is primarily about individual freedom and free markets.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatism is defined more by tradition than individualism.*

2. Unity vs division

Extract A: Conservatism is a unified ideology rooted in pessimistic views of human nature.

Extract B: Conservatism contains deep divisions, especially over the role of the state.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatism is a divided ideology.*

3. Human nature focus

Extract A: Conservative ideas are rooted in a pessimistic view of human nature.

Extract B: Some conservatives believe humans are rational and capable of self-direction.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatism is based on a pessimistic view of human nature.*

STATE QUESTIONS

4. Size of the state

Extract A: Conservatives support strong authority and order above all.

Extract B: Conservatives believe the state should be minimal and limited.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatives disagree fundamentally about the role of the state.*

5. Authority

Extract A: Authority is central to all forms of conservatism.

Extract B: Some conservatives prioritise liberty over authority.

✎ *Evaluate the view that authority is the core principle of conservatism.*

TRADITION QUESTIONS

6. Tradition centrality



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Extract A: Tradition is the defining feature of conservatism.

Extract B: Modern conservatism is driven more by economics than tradition.

✎ *Evaluate the view that tradition remains central to conservatism.*

ECONOMY QUESTIONS

7. Free market

Extract A: Conservatives are united in their support for free markets.

Extract B: Some conservatives support state intervention where necessary.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatives agree about the free market.*

8. Inequality

Extract A: Conservatives believe inequality is natural and inevitable.

Extract B: Some conservatives believe inequality should be moderated.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatives support inequality.*

THINKER-FOCUSED QUESTIONS

9. Hobbes vs Nozick

Extract A: Conservative views of the state originate in Hobbes' support for strong authority.

Extract B: Modern conservative views are better represented by Nozick's minimal state.

✎ *Evaluate the view that Nozick represents conservatism better than Hobbes.*

10. Burke relevance

Extract A: Burke's ideas remain central to conservatism today.

Extract B: Modern conservatism has moved far beyond Burke.

✎ *Evaluate the view that Burke remains the most important conservative thinker.*

11. New Right dominance

Extract A: Modern conservatism is dominated by New Right ideas.

Extract B: Traditional conservatism remains influential.

✎ *Evaluate the view that the New Right defines modern conservatism.*

THEMATIC QUESTIONS (VERY EXAM REALISTIC)

12. Individual vs society



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Extract A: Conservatism prioritises society over the individual.

Extract B: Conservatism prioritises individual freedom.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatism prioritises society over the individual.*

13. Pragmatism

Extract A: Conservatism is defined by pragmatism rather than ideology.

Extract B: Some conservatives hold rigid ideological beliefs.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatism is best understood as a pragmatic ideology.*

14. Change

Extract A: Conservatives resist change.

Extract B: Some conservatives support radical change.

✎ *Evaluate the view that conservatives are resistant to change.*



AQA Politics: Paper 3

3.3.1.1 Liberalism

Learning about this topic is important because:

Understanding of the significance of this ideology in terms of shaping the political systems & structures within Britain & USA.

Synoptic Links to other units include (i.e. this builds on):

Paper 1 & Paper 2 Political Parties, Democracy & Participation etc.

This leads to:

3.3.1.1 Liberalism

We will learn:

1. Students should analyse and evaluate:
2. debates about the nature of liberalism
3. core liberal ideas and values concerning the individual and freedom
4. classical liberalism, modern (new/progressive) liberalism
5. In their study of the following thinkers students should focus on the aspects indicated after each thinker's name and relate this to liberal thinking on human nature, the state, society and the economy:
 - 5.1. John Locke – natural rights, liberty and individualism, fiduciary power of government
 - 5.2. John Stuart Mill – criticism of hedonism, freedom, integrity and self-respect of the individual, self-regarding and other regarding actions
 - 5.3. John Rawls – concept of justice, principles of justice
 - 5.4. Thomas Hill Green – self-development/role of the State, negative and positive freedom
 - 5.5. Mary Wollstonecraft – equality and rights, 'revolution controversy', criticisms of aristocracy and republicanism
 - 5.6. Betty Friedan – equal rights, Civil Rights and feminist movements in the USA.

We will develop/practise skills including:

Explanation: demonstrating knowledge and understanding of political events, concepts and ideas including the use of relevant examples.

Analysis: demonstrating understanding of the significance, causes, and effects of political ideas, events and concepts, as well as the relationship between them.

Comparison: Identifying similarities and differences between extracts, considering their significance and impact in a political context.

Evaluation: Making reasoned judgments about the strengths and weaknesses of an argument, concept, or theory in a statement or extract.

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

- The individual & freedom
- Human nature, the state, society & the economy
- Classical liberalism
- Modern liberalism

Extended Reading/Listening/Viewing (You could learn more about this topic by):

Read:

- McNaughton, McCorkindale & McLean – *Political Ideas for AQA A-level*
- Bennett – *AQA A-Level Politics: Ideas*
- Tutor2U
- *Politics' Review*

✂ What to focus on: Classical vs modern liberalism, synoptic tables & thinker comparisons (Locke / Mill / Green / Rawls)

Listen:

Podcasts

🔊 **BBC In Our Time – Liberal Thinkers**

Episodes on: John Locke, John Stuart Mill & Liberalism



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3.3.1.1 Liberalism

Talking Politics

Episodes on: Liberal democracy & Rights and freedoms

📌 Helps with **Section C evaluative arguments**.

Audiobooks / Talks:

- **John Rawls summaries** (YouTube/audio)
- **Isaiah Berlin – Two Concepts of Liberty** (lecture audio)

📌 Excellent for **freedom debates**.

Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are:

Section A (9 marks)

Section B (25 marks)

End of Unit Test: Knowledge Test and essay or extract question



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3.3.2.2. Feminism

Learning about this topic is important because: This topic establishes historical understanding of the importance of Feminism, as well as its different strands and key thinkers	
This builds upon: foundational knowledge of core ideologies of Conservatism and Socialism	
This leads to: Overall understanding of the four political ideologies: Socialism, Conservatism, Liberalism and Feminism	
We will learn: 1. Debates about the nature of feminism 2. Core feminist views and values concerning equality of treatment, recognition of gender differences, affirmative action 3. Liberal feminism and radical feminism, and more recent developments such as difference feminism and post-feminism 4. In their study of the following thinkers' students should focus on the aspects indicated after each thinker's name and relate this to feminist thinking on human nature, the state, society and the economy: 4.1. Charlotte Perkins Gilman – reform Darwinism, role of females in society, androcentric culture 4.2. Simone de Beauvoir – feminist existentialism 4.3. Kate Millett – theory of sexual politics, radical feminism 4.4. Sheila Rowbotham – oppression of women and the working class, socialist feminism 4.5. bell hooks (Gloria Jean Watkins) – intersectionality	We will develop/practise skills including: • Explanation: demonstrating knowledge and understanding of political events, concepts and ideas including the use of relevant examples. • Analysis: demonstrating understanding of the significance, causes, and effects of political ideas, events and concepts, as well as the relationship between them. • Comparison: Identifying similarities and differences between extracts, considering their significance and impact in a political context. • Evaluation: Making reasoned judgments about the strengths and weaknesses of an argument, concept, or theory in a statement or extract.
Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes: • Human nature, the state, society and the economy • Liberal feminism, radical feminism • Separatism • Equality of treatment, recognition of gender differences • Public and private spheres • The patriarchy • intersectionality	You could learn more about this topic by: Watch: The Suffragettes Read: "The Second Sex" - Simone de Beauvoir "Sexual Politics" - Kate Millett "The Yellow Wallpaper" - Charlotte Perkins Gilman Listen: "In Our Time", "Feminism" episode (podcast)
Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are: Section A (9 marks) Section B (25 marks) End of Unit Test: Knowledge Test and essay or extract question	



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3.3.1.3 Socialism

Learning about this topic is important because:

This topic establishes foundational knowledge of the historical origins of Socialism, the various strands that exist today as well as studying the specific contributions of 5 key thinkers

This builds on: The understanding of the political systems and mechanisms in both Britain and the US; two places where Socialist ideas have had influence, to a greater or lesser extent

This leads to:

The equivalent ideological study of Conservatism; Socialisms ‘opposite number’ as a competing ideology

We will learn:

1. Debates about the nature of socialism
2. Core socialist views and values concerning Marxism, class analysis and the fundamental goals of socialism
3. Differing views and tensions within and between revolutionary socialism and social democracy
4. In their study of the following thinkers’ students should focus on the aspects indicated after each thinker’s name and relate this to socialist thinking on human nature, the state, society and the economy:
 - 4.1. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels – class and class struggle
 - 4.2. Rosa Luxemburg – inevitability of the triumph of revolution
 - 4.3. Beatrice Webb – co-operative movement
 - 4.4. Anthony Crosland – criticism of Marxism/Revisionism
 - 4.5. Anthony Giddens – rejection of traditional conception of socialism

We will develop/practise skills including:

- **Explanation:** demonstrating knowledge and understanding of political events, concepts and ideas including the use of relevant examples.
- **Analysis:** demonstrating understanding of the significance, causes, and effects of political ideas, events and concepts, as well as the relationship between them.
- **Comparison:** Identifying similarities and differences between extracts, considering their significance and impact in a political context.
- **Evaluation:** Making reasoned judgments about the strengths and weaknesses of an argument, concept, or theory in a statement or extract.

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

- Proletariat
- Bourgeoisie
- Dialectical change
- Historical materialism
- Common ownership
- Nationalisation
- Mixed economy
- Keynesianism

You could learn more about this topic by:

Watch:

[Socialism for Absolute Beginners - YouTube](#)

Read:

Socialism Is Dead! Long Live Socialism!: The Marx Code—Socialism with a Human Face: A New World Order - by Todor Bombov
Socialism: Utopian and Scientific by Friedrich Engels

Listen:

"In Our Time", "Marx" episode (podcast)

Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are:

Section A (9 marks)

Section B (25 marks)

End of Unit Test: Knowledge Test and essay or extract question