

Politics and Government

Vocabulary Lesson, Examples & Practice Questions

Politics and Government: Upper-Intermediate Vocabulary

Whether you are reading a newspaper, watching a debate on television, or discussing current affairs with colleagues, the language of **politics and government** is impossible to avoid. For B2 learners, moving beyond basic words like "president" or "vote" means developing a richer, more nuanced vocabulary — one that allows you to express complex ideas, understand formal political texts, and participate confidently in discussions about how societies are run.

Consider this situation: *It is election season in a fictional country. A journalist is writing an article about a controversial new policy, a politician is defending their party's record in parliament, and ordinary citizens are debating whether the government has truly represented their interests. Every sentence they speak or write draws on the specialised vocabulary of politics and government.*

In this lesson, you will learn the key vocabulary you need to understand and discuss politics and government at an upper-intermediate level, including formal collocations, subtle distinctions between similar words, and common errors to avoid.

Key Vocabulary & Meaning Breakdown

1. Democratic Processes & Elections

These words relate to how citizens participate in political life — from casting a ballot to holding politicians accountable.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
electorate	<i>noun</i> — the body of people entitled to vote in an election	The party needed to appeal to a broader electorate if it hoped to win a majority.	address the electorate; win over the electorate; the voting electorate
constituency	<i>noun</i> — a geographic area represented by an elected official; also the group of voters in that area	The MP returned to her constituency every weekend to meet local residents.	represent a constituency; a safe/marginal constituency; constituency office
incumbent	<i>noun / adjective</i> — the current holder of a political office; already holding a position	The incumbent prime minister faced a strong challenge from the opposition leader.	the incumbent president/MP; incumbent government; as adjective: incumbent upon (meaning "required")

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
mandate	<i>noun</i> — authority given by voters to a government to carry out a particular policy	The newly elected government claimed a clear mandate to reform the tax system.	win/have a mandate; a clear/strong mandate; mandate for change; democratic mandate
referendum	<i>noun</i> — a direct vote in which the entire electorate is invited to vote on a particular proposal	The government announced a referendum on membership of the trade bloc.	hold/call a referendum; referendum campaign; referendum result; plural: referendums or referenda
turnout	<i>noun</i> — the number or percentage of eligible voters who actually vote in an election	Low voter turnout was seen as a sign of public disillusionment with politics.	high/low turnout; voter turnout; turnout figures; increase/boost turnout
swing	<i>noun / verb</i> — a shift in voter support from one party to another between elections	A five-percent swing to the opposition would be enough to change the government.	a swing to/away from; a dramatic swing; swing voters; swing state/seat
canvass	<i>verb</i> — to go around an area soliciting votes or opinions from the public	Party volunteers spent the weekend canvassing door-to-door in marginal seats.	canvass for support/votes; canvass an area; canvassing campaign

2. Government Structures & Political Power

These words describe how governments are organised, how power is distributed, and how political decisions are made and implemented.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
legislature	<i>noun</i> — the branch of government responsible for making laws (e.g. parliament, congress)	The bill was passed by the legislature after months of heated debate.	national/state legislature; the legislature votes/passes; legislature and executive
executive	<i>noun / adjective</i> — the branch of government responsible for implementing laws and running the country	The executive branch oversees the day-to-day administration of government policy.	the executive branch; executive power/authority; executive decision; chief executive

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
coalition	<i>noun</i> — a government formed by two or more parties that have agreed to govern together	Neither party won an outright majority, so they formed a coalition government.	form/build a coalition; coalition government/partner; coalition talks; fragile coalition
devolution	<i>noun</i> — the transfer of power from a central government to regional or local authorities	Devolution gave the regional assembly greater control over education and health policy.	devolution of power; support/oppose devolution; devolved government/powers
sovereignty	<i>noun</i> — supreme power or authority, especially of a state to govern itself	The debate over European integration centred on the question of national sovereignty .	national sovereignty; assert/protect sovereignty; sovereignty debate; parliamentary sovereignty
bureaucracy	<i>noun</i> — a system of government with complex rules and many officials; can imply excessive red tape	Small businesses complained that excessive bureaucracy was holding back growth.	government bureaucracy; cut through bureaucracy; red tape and bureaucracy; entrenched bureaucracy
veto	<i>noun / verb</i> — the right or power to reject or block a decision or piece of legislation	The president used his veto to block the controversial immigration bill.	exercise/use a veto; presidential veto; veto power; veto a bill/decision
accountability	<i>noun</i> — the obligation of officials to be answerable for their actions and decisions	Greater accountability in public spending is essential for maintaining public trust.	political accountability; demand/ensure accountability; lack of accountability; accountability measures

3. Political Ideology, Policy & Debate

These words are used when discussing political beliefs, the direction of policy, and the way political arguments are framed and contested.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
ideology	<i>noun</i> — a system of ideas and ideals that forms the basis of political or economic theory	Despite belonging to the same party, the two candidates held very different political ideologies .	political ideology; dominant ideology; share an ideology; ideological differences/clash

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
consensus	<i>noun</i> — general agreement among a group of people, especially on a political matter	There was broad political consensus on the need to tackle climate change, though not on the methods.	reach/build consensus; broad/political consensus; consensus politics; by consensus
austerity	<i>noun</i> — government policies of reducing public spending, often in response to financial difficulties	Years of austerity led to significant cuts in public services and welfare benefits.	austerity measures/cuts; impose austerity; austerity programme; age of austerity
lobbying	<i>noun / verb</i> — the act of seeking to influence politicians or officials on behalf of a particular interest group	The pharmaceutical industry spent millions on lobbying against the new pricing regulations.	lobby for/against something; lobbying group/firm; intense lobbying; lobby parliament/congress
rhetoric	<i>noun</i> — language used to persuade or impress, especially in political speech; sometimes implies empty or misleading language	Critics argued that the minister's promises were mere rhetoric with no concrete plan behind them.	political rhetoric; empty/lofty rhetoric; fiery rhetoric; rhetoric vs reality; rhetorical question
bipartisan	<i>adjective</i> — involving cooperation between two opposing political parties	The new infrastructure bill received bipartisan support, with both parties backing the proposals.	bipartisan support/agreement; a bipartisan approach; cross-party (British equivalent)
polarisation	<i>noun</i> — the division of society or political opinion into two opposing and often extreme camps	Increasing political polarisation has made it almost impossible to pass cross-party legislation.	political polarisation; growing/increasing polarisation; polarisation of opinion; deeply polarised
scrutiny	<i>noun</i> — close and critical examination of something, especially the actions of those in power	The minister's financial affairs came under intense public scrutiny following the allegations.	come under scrutiny; intense/public scrutiny; subject to scrutiny; parliamentary scrutiny

Collocations & Useful Expressions

In political English, words rarely appear alone. Learning the natural collocations — the words that regularly go together — is essential for sounding fluent and accurate. Below are the most important and frequently tested combinations from this topic.

Verb + Noun Collocations

hold + a referendum

The government decided to hold a referendum on the proposed constitutional changes.

form + a coalition

After the inconclusive election, the two centrist parties agreed to form a coalition government.

exercise + a veto

The permanent members of the Security Council have the right to exercise a veto on any resolution.

win + a mandate

The party won a mandate for radical reform after its landslide election victory.

impose + austerity

The international lenders insisted the government impose austerity before any bailout could be agreed.

call + an election

Faced with a collapsing coalition, the prime minister was forced to call an early election.

pass + legislation

Parliament worked through the night to pass the emergency legislation before the deadline.

undermine + democracy

Many commentators argued that the new press restrictions were designed to undermine democracy.

Adjective + Noun Collocations**sweeping + reforms**

The newly elected government promised sweeping reforms to the healthcare and education systems.

fragile + coalition

The fragile coalition government collapsed after just eight months in office.

marginal + constituency

Both parties poured resources into the marginal constituency, knowing it could decide the election.

political + deadlock

The country entered a period of political deadlock, with neither side willing to compromise.

heated + debate

The bill prompted a heated debate in parliament that lasted well into the early hours.

Useful Fixed Expressions & Idioms**toe the party line**

Several backbench MPs refused to toe the party line and voted against the government's proposals.

Meaning: to follow your party's official position, even if you personally disagree.

come under fire

The health secretary came under fire for her department's handling of the crisis.

Meaning: to be strongly criticised.

on the campaign trail

The candidates spent three weeks on the campaign trail, visiting towns and cities across the country.

Meaning: actively campaigning for election.

a hung parliament

The exit polls suggested a hung parliament, with no single party likely to win an overall majority.

Meaning: a parliament where no party has enough seats for a majority government.

cross the floor

In a dramatic move, two senior MPs crossed the floor and joined the opposition benches.

Meaning: to change political allegiance, especially by switching parties in parliament.

the balance of power

The smaller parties held the balance of power and could determine which government would be formed.

Meaning: the situation in which small groups have the decisive influence between two larger competing groups.

Important Differences & Confusing Words

Policy vs Politics vs Politcs

These three words are closely related but have distinct meanings that are often confused, especially by learners whose first language uses a single word for all three concepts.

Politics (*noun, uncountable*) refers to the activities associated with governing a country or area, the competition for power, and the relationships between different groups.

*She has always been fascinated by **politics** and hopes to stand for parliament one day.*

Policy (*noun, countable/uncountable*) refers to a specific course of action adopted by a government, party, or organisation to achieve a goal.

*The government's economic **policy** has been criticised for favouring the wealthy over ordinary workers.*

Politics takes a singular verb when it means "the subject or discipline" and can take a plural verb in informal use when referring to political activities or manoeuvring.

*Office **politics** can make working life unnecessarily stressful.* (plural idea — the informal manoeuvring)

Government vs Administration vs Regime

All three words can refer to those in power, but they carry very different connotations and are used in distinct contexts.

Government is neutral and general. It refers to the group of people who control a country or the system by which it is governed. Used in both formal and informal contexts.

*The **government** has announced a new spending review for the coming financial year.*

Administration is particularly common in American English to refer to the executive branch led by a president. It can also refer to the management of an organisation.

*The Biden **administration** reversed several policies introduced by its predecessor.*

Regime carries a strongly negative connotation. It implies an authoritarian or illegitimate government that rules by force or suppression. Using "regime" about a democratic government sounds biased or hostile.

Human rights organisations condemned the **regime** for silencing opposition journalists.

Legislation vs Law vs Act vs Bill

These words all relate to legal rules, but they describe different stages and types.

Legislation (*uncountable noun*) is the general term for written laws made by a governing body. It refers to laws collectively or the process of making laws.

New **legislation** on data protection came into force last spring.

Bill refers to a proposed law that is being debated and has not yet been passed.

The **bill** was amended several times before it was put to a final vote.

Act refers to a law that has been formally passed and is now in force. Bills become Acts once they receive royal assent (in the UK) or are signed into law.

The Equality **Act** of 2010 brought together previous anti-discrimination legislation.

Law is the most general term and can refer to any individual rule or the entire system of legal rules in a country.

Under British **law**, a person is innocent until proven guilty.

Authoritarian vs Autocratic vs Totalitarian

These adjectives all describe systems or leaders that concentrate power, but there are important degrees of meaning.

Authoritarian describes a system that demands obedience to authority and restricts personal freedoms, but may not control every aspect of life.

The **authoritarian** government cracked down on protests and restricted press freedom.

Autocratic focuses on the concentration of power in a single ruler who has absolute authority with few checks or limits.

His increasingly **autocratic** leadership style alienated even his closest allies.

Totalitarian is the most extreme term. It describes a system in which the state seeks to control virtually all aspects of public and private life — economy, media, culture, and personal behaviour.

Under the **totalitarian** regime, even private conversations could lead to arrest.

Common Mistakes

✗ The government have passed a new politic to reduce emissions.

✓ **The government has passed a new policy to reduce emissions.**

"Politic" is not a noun in standard usage; the correct word is "policy". Note also that in British English, collective nouns like "government" can take either singular or plural verbs, but consistency is important.

✗ *She voted for the referendum.*

✓ **She voted in the referendum.**

You vote "in" a referendum or an election, not "for" it. You vote "for" a candidate or a party.

✗ *The minister made a strong rhetoric about education.*

✓ **The minister used powerful rhetoric about education.**

"Rhetoric" is an uncountable noun and collocates with verbs like "use" or "employ", not "make". It is also used with adjectives: "empty rhetoric", "fiery rhetoric".

✗ *The opposition party is very critic of the new legislation.*

✓ **The opposition party is very critical of the new legislation.**

"Critic" is a noun (a person who criticises). The correct adjective form is "critical of".

✗ *The bill was voted and became a law.*

✓ **The bill was passed and became law.**

Bills are "passed" or "approved", not "voted". Also, "law" in this context is used without the article: "became law", not "became a law".

✗ *The regime of our country is a democracy.*

✓ **The system of government in our country is a democracy.**

"Regime" implies an authoritarian or illegitimate form of rule. Using it to describe a democracy sounds highly inappropriate or insulting in formal contexts.

✗ *There was a big turn out at the elections.*

✓ **There was a high turnout at the election.**

"Turnout" is written as one word in this context (noun). Pair it with "high" or "low", not "big". Also, use "the election" (singular) when referring to a specific vote.

✗ *The politician lobbied the voters to support the new policy.*

✓ **The politician canvassed voters to support the new policy.**

"Lobby" means to try to influence politicians or decision-makers. "Canvass" means to seek support directly from voters. These verbs are frequently confused.

Politics and Government: Quick Summary & Review

In this lesson, you have explored a wide range of vocabulary connected to **politics and government** at an upper-intermediate level. Here is a summary of the key areas covered:

- **Democratic processes:** Words like *electorate*, *constituency*, *mandate*, *referendum*, and *turnout* allow you to discuss elections and civic participation with precision.
- **Government structures:** Vocabulary such as *legislature*, *executive*, *coalition*, *sovereignty*, and *accountability* helps you describe how power is organised and exercised.
- **Political ideology and debate:** Terms like *rhetoric*, *consensus*, *austerity*, *polarisation*, and *scrutiny* are essential for engaging with political arguments and media commentary.
- **Register matters:** Words like *regime* carry strong negative connotations and should be chosen carefully depending on context.
- **Collocations are crucial:** In political English, knowing that you "hold a referendum", "win a mandate", "impose austerity", or "pass legislation" — rather than just knowing the words in isolation — is what makes your English

sound natural and accurate.

- **Bills vs Acts vs Laws:** Understanding these distinctions helps you follow political reporting and academic texts with greater comprehension.

Now practise **politics and government** vocabulary in the exercises below.

Politics and Government – Practice Test

B2 | Practice Exercises: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap, Fill-in-the-Blank, Matrix Matching & Sorting

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 The government decided to _____ new legislation to combat rising levels of corruption among public officials.

- A** enforce
- B** enact
- C** impose
- D** abolish

2 After months of negotiation, the two rival parties finally reached a political _____, agreeing on a shared set of policies.

- A** controversy
- B** compromise
- C** confrontation
- D** consensus

3 The senator was accused of being _____, as he consistently voted in favour of policies that benefited his own business interests.

- A** impartial
- B** bipartisan
- C** corrupt
- D** partisan

4 The president used her _____ power to reject the bill passed by parliament, sending it back for further review.

- A** electoral
- B** veto
- C** legislative
- D** executive

5 The opposition party launched a fierce _____ against the government's proposed budget cuts to public healthcare.

- A** campaign
- B** mandate
- C** coalition
- D** referendum

6 Which word best describes a political system in which power is divided between a central government and regional authorities?

- A** autocracy
- B** federalism
- C** monarchy
- D** oligarchy

7 The new prime minister claimed she had a clear _____ from the electorate to reform the tax system after her landslide election victory.

- A** mandate
- B** veto
- C** amendment
- D** decree

8 Several smaller parties formed a _____ government after no single party won enough seats to govern alone.

- A** federal
- B** coalition
- C** minority
- D** bilateral

9 The proposed constitutional _____ would lower the voting age from 18 to 16, requiring approval from two-thirds of parliament.

- A** legislation
- B** amendment
- C** statute
- D** resolution

- 10** The government's decision to increase taxes without public consultation was widely criticised as _____, as it went against democratic principles.
- A** transparent
 - B** authoritarian
 - C** impartial
 - D** sovereign

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

- 11** The government decided to ____ a new policy to reduce carbon emissions across all industries.
- A** implement
 - B** dissolve
 - C** nominate

- 12** The opposition party accused the prime minister of acting in a ____ manner by concentrating power in his own hands.
- A** authoritarian
 - B** transparent
 - C** diplomatic

- 13** Voters were disappointed when the senator failed to fulfil his electoral ____.
- A** mandate
 - B** tenure
 - C** constituency

- 14** After the scandal, several members of parliament called for a full ____ into the minister's conduct.
- A** inquiry
 - B** coalition
 - C** referendum

- 15** The two rival parties agreed to form a ____ government in order to achieve a working majority in parliament.
- A** coalition
 - B** partisan
 - C** federal

16 The new legislation was strongly ____ by civil liberties groups who feared it would restrict freedom of speech.

- A** opposed
- B** ratified
- C** delegated

17 The constitution guarantees the ____ of the judiciary, ensuring that courts are free from political interference.

- A** independence
- B** sovereignty
- C** legitimacy

18 The president's decision to ____ the parliament was widely criticised as an abuse of executive power.

- A** dissolve
- B** endorse
- C** lobby

19 Environmental groups spent months trying to ____ politicians into passing stronger climate legislation.

- A** lobby
- B** impeach
- C** ratify

20 The treaty was finally ____ by all member states, making it legally binding across the region.

- A** ratified
- B** contested
- C** appointed

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

21 The opposition party called for a vote of no _____ in the prime minister after the financial scandal was revealed.

22 The two countries signed a _____ trade agreement that will benefit both economies equally.

- 23 After months of debate, the parliament finally reached a _____ on the new environmental legislation.
- 24 The government introduced a policy of _____ to reduce the national debt, cutting public spending significantly.
- 25 The senator used her _____ from voters to push forward major healthcare reforms.
- 26 Power in the country is divided between the central and regional governments in a system known as _____.
- 27 The whistleblower accused senior officials of _____, claiming they had accepted bribes in exchange for government contracts.
- 28 The newly elected president promised to increase _____ in government by publishing all ministerial expenses online.
- 29 The rebel group refused to negotiate until the government agreed to grant the region greater _____.
- 30 The new law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court because it violated the principle of _____ guaranteed in the constitution.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values (Questions 31–40)

31 Match each political term on the left with its correct definition on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** A direct vote by the public on a specific political question or policy
- B** A group of voters in a specific area who elect a representative
- C** The management of relations between countries through negotiation
- D** The supreme authority of a state to govern itself without outside interference

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Sovereignty	[]
Constituency	[]
Diplomacy	[]
Referendum	[]

32 Match each word on the left with its closest synonym on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Current officeholder
- B** Autocratic
- C** Cross-party

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Authoritarian	[]
Bipartisan	[]
Incumbent	[]

33 Match each political collocation on the left with the word that correctly completes it on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Office
- B** Vote
- C** Bill
- D** Sanctions

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
To pass a ____	[]
To run for ____	[]
To cast a ____	[]
To impose ____	[]

34 Match each term on the left with the political system or concept it best describes on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** A system of government based on religious authority
- C** A system ruled by a small, powerful elite group

- B** A system in which power is shared between central and regional governments

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Oligarchy	[]
Federalism	[]
Theocracy	[]

35 Match each word on the left with its correct antonym on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Disagreement
- C** Reject

- B** Dictatorship
- D** Opacity

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Consensus	[]
Transparency	[]
Democracy	[]
Ratify	[]

36 Match each formal political phrase on the left with its plain English equivalent on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** To formally propose something for discussion
- C** To choose not to vote

- B** To be required to explain or justify one's actions

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
To table a motion	[]
To abstain from voting	[]
To be held accountable	[]

37 Match each noun on the left with the verb it most commonly collocates with on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Implement / adopt

B Sign / ratify

C Exercise / override

D Hold / spark

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
A treaty	[]
A policy	[]
A debate	[]
A veto	[]

38 Match each definition on the left with the correct political vocabulary word on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Hung parliament

B Parliamentary privilege

C Devolution

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
The gradual transfer of power from a central government to regional bodies	[]
A political situation in which no single party has an overall majority	[]
The right of a member of a legislative body to speak without the risk of legal action	[]

39 Match each political ideology on the left with its core belief on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Prioritises individual freedoms, civil rights, and social reform

B Claims to represent ordinary people against a corrupt elite

C Emphasises tradition, social stability, and limited government intervention

D Promotes the interests and identity of one's own nation above others

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Conservatism	[]
Liberalism	[]
Populism	[]
Nationalism	[]

40 Match each sentence beginning on the left with the correct ending on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** bilateral negotiations over trade. **B** a vote of no confidence in the prime minister.
C on corruption within public institutions.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
The opposition party threatened to call	[]
The two nations agreed to enter into	[]
The new administration pledged to crack down	[]

Part 5: Sort the Values (Questions 41–50)

41 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

to the electoral system. sweeping reforms The government to implement has pledged

.....

42 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

heated parliamentary debates. at the centre of Civil liberties are often

.....

43 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

in parliament, become law. a majority is reached the bill Unless cannot

.....

44 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

the election results. the ruling party of manipulating The opposition accused

.....

45 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

of democratic society. is widely regarded Freedom of speech as a cornerstone

.....

46 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

about political apathy.

over the past decade,

raising concerns

Voter turnout

significantly

has declined

47 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

to hold their government

that all citizens

It is essential

have the right

accountable.

48 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

on matters of national security.

The newly elected president

is expected

to address

the nation

49 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

Despite widespread criticism,

with its controversial

austerity measures.

pushed ahead

the cabinet

50 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

within the ruling administration.

allegations of corruption

to investigate

The committee

was set up

Answer Key & Explanations

Politics and Government | B2

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** Correct Answer: enact

✓ **Explanation:** To **enact** legislation means to formally pass or establish it into law. While *enforce* means to make people obey an existing law, **enact** specifically refers to the process of creating and passing new laws. *The parliament enacted a series of anti-corruption measures.*

2. **D** Correct Answer: consensus

✓ **Explanation:** **Consensus** refers to a general agreement reached by a group, especially after discussion or negotiation. It is different from *compromise*, which involves each side giving up something. *The committee reached a consensus on the new budget plan.*

3. **C** Correct Answer: corrupt

✓ **Explanation:** **Corrupt** describes someone who uses their power dishonestly for personal gain. While *partisan* means strongly supporting one side, and *bipartisan* means involving two parties, **corrupt** specifically implies dishonest or illegal behaviour for self-interest. *The corrupt official accepted bribes from several companies.*

4. **B** Correct Answer: veto

✓ **Explanation:** A **veto** is the constitutional right of a head of state to reject a decision or proposal made by a legislative body. It is used as both a noun and a verb. *The president exercised her veto to block the controversial tax bill.*

5. **A** Correct Answer: campaign

✓ **Explanation:** A **campaign** in a political context refers to an organised course of action aimed at achieving a specific goal, such as opposing a policy. A *referendum* is a public vote, and a *coalition* is an alliance of parties, making these contextually incorrect here. *The party launched a nationwide campaign against the austerity measures.*

6. **B** Correct Answer: federalism

✓ **Explanation:** **Federalism** is a system of government where power is constitutionally divided between a national government and individual states or regions. An *autocracy* is ruled by one person with absolute power, while an *oligarchy is controlled by a small group*. *The United States operates under a system of federalism.*

7. **A** Correct Answer: mandate

✓ **Explanation:** A **mandate** refers to the authority granted to a leader or government by voters to carry out a particular policy or set of policies. It suggests public approval and support. *The party interpreted its election win as a mandate for economic reform.*

8. **B** Correct Answer: coalition

✓ Explanation: A **coalition** government is one formed by two or more political parties that join together, typically when no single party has an overall majority. A **minority** government is formed by one party without a majority, while **bilateral** refers to agreements between two countries. *The coalition government struggled to maintain unity among its members.*

9. **B** Correct Answer: amendment

✓ Explanation: An **amendment** is a formal change or addition made to a law or constitution. It is commonly collocated with **constitutional amendment**. While **legislation** and **statute** refer to laws in general, **amendment** specifically means a modification to an existing legal document. *The amendment to the constitution was ratified after a national debate.*

10. **B** Correct Answer: authoritarian

✓ Explanation: **Authoritarian** describes a style of governance that enforces strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom and democratic participation. It contrasts with **transparent**, which means open and accountable. *Critics accused the regime of becoming increasingly authoritarian in its decision-making.*

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** Correct Answer: implement

✓ Explanation: To **implement** a policy means to **put it into action** or enforce it officially. *The government implemented stricter environmental regulations.*

12. **A** Correct Answer: authoritarian

✓ Explanation: **Authoritarian** describes a style of leadership that enforces **strict obedience** and limits individual freedoms. *The authoritarian regime silenced any form of dissent.*

13. **A** Correct Answer: mandate

✓ Explanation: A **mandate** refers to the **authority or instruction given by voters** to an elected official to carry out specific policies. *The party claimed a strong mandate after winning by a large majority.*

14. **A** Correct Answer: inquiry

✓ Explanation: An **inquiry** is an **official investigation** into a matter of public concern. *A parliamentary inquiry was launched to examine the allegations.*

15. **A** Correct Answer: coalition

✓ Explanation: A **coalition** is an **alliance of political parties** that join together, usually when no single party has a majority. *The coalition collapsed when the smaller party withdrew its support.*

16. **A** Correct Answer: opposed

✓ Explanation: To be **opposed** to something means to be **against it** or to actively resist it. *Human rights organisations were strongly opposed to the new surveillance law.*

17. **A** Correct Answer: independence

✓ Explanation: The **independence** of the judiciary means that **courts operate without influence** from the government or other political bodies. *Judicial independence is a cornerstone of any democratic system.*

18. **A** Correct Answer: dissolve

✓ Explanation: To **dissolve** parliament means to **officially bring it to an end**, typically before calling new elections. *The president dissolved parliament ahead of the snap election.*

19. **A** Correct Answer: lobby

✓ Explanation: To **lobby** means to **try to persuade politicians** to support a particular cause or policy. *The pharmaceutical companies lobbied heavily against the price controls.*

20. **A** Correct Answer: ratified

✓ Explanation: To **ratify** a treaty means to **formally approve and confirm** it through an official process, giving it legal force. *The agreement was ratified by a two-thirds majority in the senate.*

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **confidence** Correct Answer: confidence

✓ Explanation: A **vote of no confidence** is a formal parliamentary procedure used to remove a leader who has lost the support of the legislature. *The government survived the vote of no confidence by a narrow margin.*

22. **bilateral** Correct Answer: bilateral

✓ Explanation: **Bilateral** means involving two parties or countries, from the Latin *bi* (two) and *latus* (side). *A bilateral summit was held to strengthen diplomatic ties.*

23. **consensus** Correct Answer: consensus

✓ Explanation: **Consensus** refers to a general agreement reached by a group, especially after discussion. *Building consensus among rival parties is a key challenge in coalition governments.*

24. **austerity** Correct Answer: austerity

✓ Explanation: **Austerity** refers to strict economic measures taken by a government to reduce spending and debt. *Austerity measures led to widespread protests across the country.*

25. **mandate** Correct Answer: mandate

✓ Explanation: A **mandate** is the authority given to a political leader or party by voters to carry out specific policies. *The party claimed a clear mandate after winning the election by a landslide.*

26. **federalism** Correct Answer: federalism

✓ Explanation: **Federalism** is a system of government in which power is shared between a national authority and regional states or provinces. *Federalism allows regions to govern themselves while remaining part of a larger nation.*

27. **corruption** **Correct Answer: corruption**
✓ **Explanation: Corruption** in politics refers to dishonest or illegal behaviour by those in power, often involving bribery or abuse of authority. *Anti-corruption campaigns are essential for maintaining public trust in government.*

28. **transparency** **Correct Answer: transparency**
✓ **Explanation: Transparency** in government means openness and accountability, ensuring that citizens can see how decisions and spending are made. *Greater transparency helps prevent corruption and builds public confidence.*

29. **autonomy** **Correct Answer: autonomy**
✓ **Explanation: Autonomy** refers to the right or power of a region or group to govern itself independently. *The province was granted autonomy to manage its own education and tax policies.*

30. **sovereignty** **Correct Answer: sovereignty**
✓ **Explanation: Sovereignty** refers to the supreme authority of a state to govern itself without interference from outside. *National sovereignty is a fundamental concept in international law and diplomacy.*

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values

31. **Sovereignty: D • Constituency: B • Diplomacy: C • Referendum: A** **Correct Matches:**

- **Sovereignty** → The supreme authority of a state to govern itself without outside interference
- **Constituency** → A group of voters in a specific area who elect a representative
- **Diplomacy** → The management of relations between countries through negotiation
- **Referendum** → A direct vote by the public on a specific political question or policy

✓ **Explanation: Sovereignty** relates to a nation's independence and self-governance, while a **constituency** is a key unit of electoral geography. **Diplomacy** is used in formal international contexts, as in *skilled diplomacy resolved the border dispute*. A **referendum** empowers citizens to vote directly, e.g. *the Brexit referendum of 2016*.

32. Authoritarian: B • Bipartisan: C • Incumbent: A

Correct Matches:

- **Authoritarian** → Autocratic
- **Bipartisan** → Cross-party
- **Incumbent** → Current officeholder

✅ **Explanation:** An **authoritarian** or **autocratic** regime enforces strict obedience to authority, e.g. *an authoritarian leader who silenced opposition*. **Bipartisan** and **cross-party** both describe cooperation between political parties. The **incumbent** is the person currently holding an official position, as in *the incumbent president sought re-election*.

33. To pass a ____: C • To run for ____: A • To cast a ____: B • To impose ____: D

Correct Matches:

- **To pass a** → **Bill**
- **To run for** → Office
- **To cast a** → **Vote**
- **To impose** → Sanctions

✅ **Explanation:** These are fixed collocations in political English. You **pass a bill** (turn it into law), **run for office** (seek election), **cast a vote** (participate in an election), and **impose sanctions** (apply economic or political penalties), e.g. *The UN imposed sanctions on the regime*.

34. Oligarchy: C • Federalism: B • Theocracy: A

Correct Matches:

- **Oligarchy** → A system ruled by a small, powerful elite group
- **Federalism** → A system in which power is shared between central and regional governments
- **Theocracy** → A system of government based on religious authority

✅ **Explanation:** An **oligarchy** concentrates power among a privileged few, e.g. *critics accused the country of becoming an oligarchy*. **Federalism** divides authority between levels of government, as seen in the USA. A **theocracy** governs according to religious law, e.g. *Iran is often described as a theocracy*.

35. Consensus: A • Transparency: D • Democracy: B • Ratify: C

Correct Matches:

- **Consensus** → Disagreement
- **Transparency** → Opacity
- **Democracy** → Dictatorship
- **Ratify** → Reject

✓ **Explanation:** **Consensus** means general agreement, while **disagreement** is its opposite. **Transparency** in government means openness, contrasted with **opacity** (secrecy). **Democracy** emphasises citizen power, unlike a **dictatorship**. To **ratify** a treaty means to formally approve it; to **reject** means to refuse it, e.g. *The senate rejected the proposed amendment.*

36. To table a motion: A • To abstain from voting: C • To be held accountable: B

Correct Matches:

- **To table a motion** → To formally propose something for discussion
- **To abstain from voting** → To choose not to vote
- **To be held accountable** → To be required to explain or justify one's actions

✓ **Explanation:** **Tabling a motion** is a parliamentary procedure to introduce a topic formally. **Abstaining** is a deliberate non-vote, distinct from being absent. **Accountability** is a core principle of democratic governance, e.g. *Ministers must be held accountable for their decisions.*

37. A treaty: B • A policy: A • A debate: D • A veto: C

Correct Matches:

- **A treaty** → Sign / ratify
- **A policy** → Implement / adopt
- **A debate** → Hold / spark
- **A veto** → Exercise / override

✓ **Explanation:** These are standard collocations in political discourse. You **sign or ratify** a treaty, **implement or adopt** a policy, **hold or spark** a debate, and **exercise or override** a veto. For example, *The president exercised his veto against the new legislation.*

38. *The gradual transfer of power from a central government to regional bodies: C • A political situation in which no single party has an overall majority: A • The right of a member of a legislative body to speak without the risk of legal action: B*

Correct

Matches:

• **The gradual transfer of power from a central government to regional bodies →**

Devolution

• **A political situation in which no single party has an overall majority →**

Hung

parliament

• **The right of a member of a legislative body to speak without the risk of legal action →**

Parliamentary privilege



Explanation:

Devolution is prominent in UK politics, e.g. *the*

devolution of powers to the Scottish

Parliament. A

hung

parliament

often leads to coalition

negotiations.

Parliamentary privilege

protects free speech within legislature,

e.g. *the MP*

used

parliamentary

privilege to
name the
suspect.

39. Conservatism: C • Liberalism: A • Populism: B • Nationalism: D

Correct Matches:

- **Conservatism** → Emphasises tradition, social stability, and limited government intervention
- **Liberalism** → Prioritises individual freedoms, civil rights, and social reform
- **Populism** → Claims to represent ordinary people against a corrupt elite
- **Nationalism** → Promotes the interests and identity of one's own nation above others

✓ **Explanation:** These ideologies shape modern political debate. **Conservatism** resists rapid change; **liberalism** champions reform and rights. **Populism** is often described as *anti-establishment*, while **nationalism** can range from cultural pride to exclusionary politics, e.g. *a surge in nationalist sentiment across Europe*.

40. The opposition party threatened to call: B • The two nations agreed to enter into: A • The new administration pledged to crack down: C

Correct Matches:

- The **opposition party threatened to call** → a vote of no confidence in the prime minister.
- The **two nations agreed to enter into** → bilateral negotiations over trade.
- The **new administration pledged to crack down** → on corruption within public institutions.



Explanation: A **vote of no confidence** is a formal mechanism to remove a government. **Bilateral negotiations** involve two parties and is common in diplomatic contexts. To **crack down on corruption** is a fixed collocation meaning to take strict action, e.g. *The president pledged to crack down on bribery.*

Part 5: Sort the Values

41. Correct Answer: The government has pledged to implement sweeping reforms to the electoral system.

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence follows a **subject + present perfect + infinitive + object + prepositional phrase** structure. The subject *The government* comes first, followed by the present perfect *has pledged*, the infinitive *to implement*, the noun phrase *sweeping reforms*, and the prepositional phrase *to the electoral system*. The collocation **sweeping reforms** is a fixed B2-level political expression.

42. Correct Answer: Civil liberties are often at the centre of heated parliamentary debates.

✓ **Explanation:** The sentence uses a **subject + verb + adverb + prepositional phrase** pattern. *Civil liberties* is the subject, *are* is the linking verb, *often* is the frequency adverb placed after the verb **to be**, and *at the centre of heated parliamentary debates* is the complement. The phrase **at the centre of** is a common B2 fixed expression.

43. Correct Answer: Unless a majority is reached in parliament, the bill cannot become law.

✓ **Explanation:** This is a **conditional sentence with an adverbial clause of condition** introduced by *Unless*. The subordinate clause *Unless a majority is reached in parliament* uses the **passive voice** and precedes the main clause *the bill cannot become law*. A comma separates the two clauses when the conditional clause comes first.

44. Correct Answer: The opposition accused the ruling party of manipulating the election results.

✓ **Explanation:** The verb **accuse** follows the pattern **accuse + object + of + gerund**. *The opposition* is the subject, *accused* is the past simple verb, *the ruling party* is the direct object, and *of manipulating the election results* is the prepositional complement. This is a key B2 reporting verb structure used in political discourse.

45. Correct Answer: Freedom of speech is widely regarded as a cornerstone of democratic society.

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence uses the **passive voice** with the pattern **be + past participle + as**. The adverb *widely* is placed between the auxiliary *is* and the past participle *regarded*. The phrase **regarded as** is a formal B2 collocation, and *cornerstone of democratic society* is a fixed political expression.

46. Correct Answer: Voter turnout has declined significantly over the past decade, raising concerns about political apathy.

✓ **Explanation:** The main clause uses the **present perfect** with the adverb *significantly* placed after the past participle *declined*. The **participial phrase** *raising concerns about political apathy* is attached at the end with a comma to add a consequence or result, a common structure in B2 academic and political writing.

47. Correct Answer: It is essential that all citizens have the right to hold their government accountable.

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence uses the **impersonal it + adjective + that-clause** structure, common in formal registers. *It is essential* is a fixed evaluative expression, followed by the *that*-clause *all citizens have the right*. The infinitive phrase *to hold their government accountable* uses the collocation **hold someone accountable**, a key B2 political expression.

48. Correct Answer: *The newly elected president is expected to address the nation on matters of national security.*

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence uses the **passive infinitive structure: be + expected + to + infinitive**. *The newly elected president* is the subject, modified by the adverb *newly* and the past participle adjective *elected*. The prepositional phrase *on matters of national security* follows the object *the nation*, specifying the topic. **Address the nation** is a fixed political collocation.

49. Correct Answer: *Despite widespread criticism, the cabinet pushed ahead with its controversial austerity measures.*

✓ **Explanation:** The sentence opens with a **concessive prepositional phrase** using *Despite*, followed by a comma. The main clause uses the phrasal verb **push ahead with**, meaning to continue with a plan despite opposition. *Austerity measures* is an important B2 political collocation, and *controversial* is a formal adjective modifying it.

50. Correct Answer: *The committee was set up to investigate allegations of corruption within the ruling administration.*

✓ **Explanation:** This sentence uses the **passive voice** (*was set up*) followed by a **purpose infinitive** (*to investigate*). The phrasal verb **set up** in the passive is common in formal and political English. *Allegations of corruption* is a key B2 political noun phrase, and the prepositional phrase *within the ruling administration* specifies the scope of the investigation.

Score Guide

45–50 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
38–44 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
30–37 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–29 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.