

Political Thought Specialist Group Constitution

1 Name

The group shall be called the Political Thought Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association.

2 Objects

1. To promote the study of political theory, political philosophy and the history of political thought.
2. To facilitate contact and communication between scholars engaged in the study of political theory, political philosophy and the history of political thought.
3. To organize panels and workshops at the annual conferences of the PSA and such other conferences as may facilitate the achievement of the above objectives.

3 Membership

Membership shall be open to all members of the Political Studies Association (PSA) of the United Kingdom.

There may be an annual membership fee, the amount to be determined by the Annual General Meeting of the Political Thought Specialist Group.

4 Officers

The officers of the group shall be members of the group at the time of election. They shall comprise a Convenor (or two Co-convenors), a Treasurer and such other officers as the group deems necessary. They shall hold office for three years and each may serve up to two terms consecutively. They shall be current members of the PSA and shall be elected by a separate vote from among the members of the group at the Annual General Meeting, which will be held during the annual conference of the PSA.

The duties of the Convenor shall include:

- Maintaining current membership lists;
- Producing and circulating newsletters and other suitable communications;
- Ensuring that arrangements are made for the annual conference and the group's activities at the PSA conference;
- Liaising with the PSA.

The duties of the Treasurer shall include:

- Maintaining financial records and overseeing financial arrangements;
- Handing over the books of account to his/her elected successor.

In undertaking these tasks, responsibility may from time to time be delegated to other members of the group.

5 Records

The records shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available for inspection by any member of the group if so required. These records will include the minutes of the AGM and of any other meetings, and the Annual Report. Current membership lists shall be maintained, including details of membership fees paid.

6 Government

The group shall be governed by its officers who shall not be less than two. The officers shall be elected every three years, as indicated above (para. 4). The officers shall have powers to co-opt previous officers of the group as advisors. These latter shall offer advice and support to the current officers.

7 Vacation of office

Officers may resign at any time or may be removed by resolution of the annual general meeting of the group. If necessary, interim arrangements shall be made.

8 Casual Vacancies

Casual vacancies shall be filled by election from the members of the group at the annual general meeting of the group at the first available opportunity.

9 Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting (AGM) shall be held during the PSA annual conference every year. The AGM may be held at another time of the year if special circumstances demand it. In such cases, not less than fourteen clear days' notice shall be given.

10 Finance

Applications by the group to the PSA for grants of money shall be made at the discretion of the Chair (Convenor) of the group. A Treasurer's and a Chair's report shall be presented to each Annual General Meeting, which will decide how current and expected income is to be spent during the period prior to the following Annual General Meeting.

On vacating office, the Treasurer of the group shall hand over the books of account to the duly elected successor.

11 Political Studies Association Constitution

The group shall be governed by the appropriate clauses of the Articles of Association of the PSA with regard to any matter not covered by this Constitution.

12 Amendment of the Constitution

This constitution may be amended or altered only by a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting at an annual general meeting, provided that no alteration shall contravene the Articles of Association of the PSA.

This constitution shall be made available to all members of the group on request.

[Revised: 21 November 2010]