Preface and acknowledgements

The contents of this book, and its general structure, have been very largely governed by the aim of fulfilling the various examining board syllabuses for GCE Government and Politics A2 level. It is particularly relevant to OCR (Module 7), 'UK Politics and Modern Political Ideas: Theory and Practice'; EDEXCEL Route B (Units 4, 5 and 6), 'Political Ideologies'; AQA (Module 7), 'Ideas in Contemporary British Politics'; and AQA (Module 8), 'Government and Politics – Synoptic Module'.

The book should also be relevant to a broad range of Open College Network Level Three Access courses in Political Ideas, Political Studies or Modern Political Movements, and introductory undergraduate courses in Politics.

We hope that people not studying for examinations will find this book of use in helping them understand the political world and the assumptions that shape the clatter and chatter of those who presume to govern us.

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Finally, we would like to dedicate this book to Tony Ivers, our late friend and colleague, who is much missed.

Kevin Harrison
Tony Boyd

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