



**ADVANCED GCE  
GENERAL STUDIES**

The Social Domain 2 (Coursework)

**2967/AS**

**To be opened on receipt**

**JUNE 2010**

**OCR Supplied Materials:**

- Resource Booklet (2967/RB)

**Other Materials Required:**

None



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Assignment Themes: 'Ideologies and Values'  
'Explanation and Evaluation of Human Behaviour'  
'The Relationship between Law, Culture and Ethics'
- The total number of available marks for this assignment is **90**.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

## Guidance for candidates

The Assignment for Unit 2967 comprises 15% of the A Level Award. Your assignment should reflect the social content of the unit:

- Ideologies and Values
- Explanation and Evaluation of Human Behaviour
- The Relationship between Law, Culture and Ethics

## Assignment Brief - The best form of government for the United Kingdom

There has been a longstanding debate on what is the 'best' form of government. Citizens of ancient Athens had a direct democracy, which has been seen as an ideal form of government. All citizens participated all the time in all decision making and there were regular referendums on all major issues. However women and slaves were not considered as citizens and were excluded from the franchise. There have been more authoritarian models; at one extreme a single individual has complete control over the whole state. At another extreme, anarchists feel that no government at all would be an ideal 'state'. For some, 'the best form of government is enlightened despotism tempered by the possibility of assassination.'

The current feeling in Europe is that liberal democracy, with its government by elected representatives subject to due checks, is the 'best' form of government. Adherence to its principles and practices is seen as an essential criterion for membership of the EU, for example. However, the attempt to impose a liberal democracy on Iraq, after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, is still uncertain of success. In Eastern Europe, too, the new and more 'democratic' regimes which have emerged out of the collapsed soviet system have found it difficult to provide much in the way of stability and security for their citizens. Recent events such as these continue to fuel the debate on the 'best' form of government.

In the light of this debate, what might be the best form of government, consider whether or not the current system of liberal democracy in the UK provides UK citizens with the 'best' possible form of government.

Factors which might be considered are:

- whether UK citizens might respond favourably to the cult of the individual on which autocracy can depend
- whether UK citizens are prepared to sacrifice traditional liberties to ensure security and economic well-being
- the most appropriate form of government for a multi-ethnic society
- what degree of centralisation or devolution/subsidiarity is most suited to the UK
- the impact of electoral apathy
- how far the constitutional, political and social history and traditions of the UK should determine what is the best form of government for the UK
- further expansion of the role of supra-national bodies such as the EU
- the value of radically reducing the power of the state
- the importance of traditional constitutional principles such as the sovereignty of parliament and the rule of law.

With reference to the question of what might be considered the 'best' form of government for the UK, you are required to write a report that covers all the following tasks:

- (a)** Consider whether the present system of government is the most appropriate for the UK, evaluating both the strengths and weaknesses of that system.
- (b)** Explore different viewpoints, sampling a range of different socio-economic groups.
- (c)** Outline the responses you might expect from people of conservative, liberal and socialist beliefs towards the issue.
- (d)** Suggest your personal answer to the question, considering both ideological and practical approaches.

## Specification of responses

Project reports should normally include:

- a title
- a review of the evidence and the development of the topic
- a plan
- coherent use of appropriate terms
- clear tabulation of any data collected
- analysis of the issues raised
- appropriate illustrative material such as graphs, charts, statistics and photographs
- clarification of the dilemmas raised
- critical analysis of the methods used and the recognition of facts and opinions
- relevant conclusions and an assessment of the reliability of results
- a list of the source materials used (which may include the Internet and CD ROM).

The report has a maximum word limit of **3000** words, which includes a short synopsis (about 50 words) and appendices.

## Submission of your assignment

Make sure your name and centre number are on each page of your assignment.

Put your work in order and number all pages. Prepare a contents page and a short synopsis.

If you wish to use your assignment as key skills evidence, you should keep an electronic or hard copy.

Hand your completed assignment to your teacher.



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