

General Certificate of Education
June 2004
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS **GOV3**
Unit 3 Features of a Representative Democracy

Wednesday 9 June 2004 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen. Pencil should only be used for drawing.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV3.
- Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.
In Section A answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
In Section B answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Advice

- You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each question.

Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.

SECTION A

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

1 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

"Blair calls for European Reforms", text adapted from an article by
P RIDDELL & P WEBSTER, © The Times, 29 November 2002, P. 2
- not reproduced here due to copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *qualified majority voting* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Examine the case for strengthening the powers of the European Parliament. (22 marks)

OR

- 2 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

"Councillors and MPs", text adapted from P COCKER & A JONES,
Contemporary British Politics and Government (Liverpool Academic
Press) 2002, pp. 240-241 - not reproduced here due to copyright
constraints.

- (a) Briefly explain the difference between *councillors and MPs*. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss the view that "most MPs tend slavishly to follow the party line". (22 marks)

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

Turn over ►

SECTION B

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

3 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

"Quasi-Government", text adapted from J GREENWOOD, R PYPER & D WILSON,
New Public Administration in Britain (Routledge/Thomson Publishing
Services) 2002, pp. 163-4 - not reproduced here due to copyright constraints.

- (a) Briefly explain why *quangos* may be criticised for being undemocratic. (8 marks)
- (b) "Quangos are far too useful to be abolished." Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

- 4 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

The Prime Minister and the Cabinet

It can be argued that there is nothing new in the way Tony Blair runs his Cabinet. The description of the role of Prime Minister as *primus inter pares* (*first among equals*) has long ceased to be accurate and the Cabinet is no longer the central decision taker. From this standpoint, Blair is simply responding to long-term developments strengthening the head of government which were also noticeable under Mrs Thatcher.

Source: adapted from G. P. THOMAS, "Has Prime Minister Major been replaced by President Blair?" in L. ROBINS AND B. JONES, *Debates in British Politics Today* (Manchester University Press) 2000

- (a) Explain the phrase *primus inter pares* (*first among equals*) used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss the view that "the Cabinet no longer makes the key decisions". (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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