

General Certificate of Education
January 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 3 Features of a Representative Democracy

GOV3

Thursday 11 January 2007 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- 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.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and coherently and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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.

Text from *The Times*.

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- (a) Briefly explain the differences between the terms *MEP* and *MP* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) ‘The European Commission is too dominant in the European policy-making process.’
Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

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

The House of Commons

The fact that the House of Commons is neither a serious originator nor a shaper of legislation does not mean that the work spent in debate is pointless; only that its role must be understood within the context of the fact that it is a party dominated institution. This party domination both helps and hinders the ability to perform its political functions, of which six are particularly important:

- *constituency representation*;
- providing the personnel of government;
- providing a party battleground;
- scrutinising legislation;
- scrutinising the executive;
- redressing grievances.

Source: adapted from M MORAN, *Politics and Governance in the UK*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005

- (a) Explain the term *constituency representation* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss the extent to which party domination hinders the House of Commons in performing its main functions. (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.

Minister–Civil Service Relationships

The traditional model of minister–civil service relationships holds that there is a clear allocation of roles. It fits the constitutional doctrine that elected ministers decide policy and unelected civil servants provide them with the resources they need to make their decisions. The main criticism of the traditional model comes from the observation that civil servants have policy views of their own and that their advice to ministers will inevitably be coloured by their personal assumption of what is best. This is one reason why, in recent years, most ministers have appointed *special advisers*. The increasing use of these special advisers, sometimes known as policy advisers, reflects a downgrading of the role of permanent civil servants in giving advice and developing policy within government.

Source: adapted from J BURNHAM, *Whitehall and the Civil Service*, Politics Association, 2000

- (a) Explain the term *special advisers* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) ‘Ministers, rather than civil servants, determine the policies of their departments.’ Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

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

The Cabinet and Cabinet Office

The primary policy role of the modern Cabinet is the formal acceptance and approval of decisions and proposals which have normally been determined elsewhere within the government machine. In this respect, it is hardly an exaggeration to claim that with the majority of policy proposals, the Cabinet acts as a 'rubber stamp', endorsing decisions already agreed upon by government departments, individual ministers, small groups of ministers, the *Cabinet Office* or Cabinet committees. Just occasionally, however, a policy proposal does attract criticism from around the Cabinet table, possibly to the extent that the relevant minister is required to modify it.

Source: adapted from P DOREY, *Policy Making in Britain: An Introduction*, SAGE Publications, 2005

- (a) Explain the term *Cabinet Office* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss the view that the Cabinet, in modern times, has no significant influence on decision making within government. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 2 Reproduced with permission of Palgrave Macmillan

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