

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 3 Features of a Representative Democracy

GOV3

Tuesday 5 June 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 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.

Extract removed due to copyright constraints.

Source: adapted from P WEBSTER, 'Reshuffle Threat May Tame Rebel Ministers' © *The Times*, 28 January 2006

- (a) Explain the term *select committee* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'The main threat to the policies of any government comes from its own backbenchers in the House of Commons.' Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

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

Extract removed due to copyright constraints.

Source: adapted from B AXFORD et al., 'The European Union - A New Model?', in *Politics: An Introduction*, Routledge, 1997 pages 306-7

- (a) Explain the phrase *threat to the sovereignty of the Westminster Parliament* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Assess the relative power of the main political institutions of the European Union. (22 marks)

Turn over for Section B

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.

The Cabinet System

Power within the Cabinet system has swung substantially from one Prime Minister to the next, and within the term of office of the same Prime Minister. Thatcher started in a more collective and collegial mode than she ended. Major's Cabinet started united but ended divided. So far Blair has managed successfully to blend prime ministerial authority – reinforced by the use of *bilateral ministerial meetings* and an informal 'Kitchen Cabinet' when making policy – with Cabinet collegiality. Consequently there is much evidence to support both the theory of prime ministerial government and that of Cabinet government. Some political scientists have stopped debating prime ministerial versus Cabinet government to focus on the much wider network of power and authority relations within the core executive.

Source: adapted from I BUDGE et al, *The New British Politics*, Longman, 2004

- (a) Explain the term *bilateral ministerial meetings* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Neither "prime ministerial government" nor "Cabinet government" accurately describes the distribution of power within the Cabinet system.' Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

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

The Government and the Permanent Civil Service

The *government*, having been voted into power by the electorate, has a democratic mandate to determine policy. However, without the help of the Civil Service it is largely powerless to achieve anything. Of crucial importance in understanding this is the fact that most civil servants are permanent. Many are recruited direct from school and university. Some may spend their entire careers in the Civil Service, often working in the same department for many years. Few members of the general public know their names or even what they do and yet they play a crucial role both in giving advice and in implementing policy. Civil servants are often more than a match for the ministers whom they are supposed to serve.

- (a) Briefly explain the term *government* used in the passage. (8 marks)
- (b) ‘Permanent unelected “politicians”.’ Discuss this view of the modern British Civil Service. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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