



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2010

Government and Politics

GOVP2

Unit 2 Governing Modern Britain

Friday 28 May 2010 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 GOVP2.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions in each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions 02 and 03, 05 and 06, 08 and 09, 11 and 12, should be answered in continuous prose. For these questions you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - 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 topic.

Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions in each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1

The British Constitution

Read the extract below and answer questions 01, 02 and 03 which follow.

Rights in the UK

David Cameron has pledged to abolish the Human Rights Act (HRA) and replace it with a new UK Bill of Rights. The main drive behind Cameron's intention seems to be the desire to limit interference from the *European Court of Human Rights* in the UK. In reality, however, if the UK is to remain a member of the Council of Europe, as Cameron has also pledged, the European Court of Human Rights will continue to have jurisdiction over the UK. This will mean that the UK Government could still fall foul of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

While the HRA provides redress for the violations of rights, the courts have no power to strike out laws that are incompatible with the Act; an arrangement that protects the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty. This helps to take the protection of human rights out of the hands of judges and leave it with elected representatives of the people where it rightly belongs.

Source: adapted from H WILDBORE, 'Does Britain need a bill of rights?', *Politics Review*, 17:4, Philip Allan Updates, 2008

- 0 1** Explain the term *European Court of Human Rights* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why, in practice, parliamentary sovereignty is not undermined by the Human Rights Act. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'The British judiciary is both independent and impartial.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 2**Parliament**

Read the extract below and answer questions 04, 05 and 06 which follow.

The Power of Parliament

In his first Commons statement as Prime Minister, Gordon Brown unveiled sweeping constitutional reforms. Parliament would be given the final say on international treaties and declaring war, and would have a 'bigger role' in approving public appointments. Mr Brown also intends to limit or give up 12 royal prerogative powers, including the power to request the dissolution of Parliament. In addition, Ministers for the English regions will answer *parliamentary questions* in the Commons.

Mr Brown said he was putting Parliament's right to ratify new international treaties on a statutory footing. The Government will consult on guaranteeing that the House of Commons would make decisions on the 'grave issues of peace and war'. He also proposed that the Commons would have to approve any resolution for a dissolution of Parliament requested by the Prime Minister. A majority of MPs, not just the Prime Minister, would also have the right to demand the recall of Parliament.

Source: adapted from G JONES, 'Brown surrenders power to Parliament', *Daily Telegraph*, 4 July 2007

- 0 4** Explain the term *parliamentary questions* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, outline the arguments in favour of giving the House of Commons power to approve a dissolution of Parliament. (10 marks)
- 0 6** To what extent is parliamentary control of the government no longer effective? (25 marks)

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic 3**The Core Executive**

Read the extract below and answer questions 07, 08 and 09 which follow.

Policy Making Within the Core Executive

One of the most difficult things in modern government is trying to ensure that policy fits together in a consistent way. Without constant effort, there is no reason to suppose that policy decisions made in *government departments* will be co-ordinated effectively. On the contrary, every day of the week provides examples of one government department pursuing a policy which directly contradicts another.

The most important instrument of policy co-ordination within the core executive is the Cabinet system. However, the Prime Minister's right to appoint and dismiss ministers gives him considerable control over the Cabinet. Largely because of this the most important contributor to government policy-making can be said to be the Prime Minister.

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

- 0 7** Explain the term *government departments* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why 'the Prime Minister's right to appoint and dismiss ministers gives him considerable control over the Cabinet'. (10 marks)
- 0 9** 'Civil servants, not ministers, are the main policy-makers within the core executive.'
Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 4**Multi-level Governance**

Read the passage below and answer questions 10, 11 and 12 which follow.

Multi-level Governance and Accountability

The expression 'democratic deficit' usually refers to a lack of public accountability in the making of important political decisions. Euro-sceptics, for example, often use the term when they refer to the powers of the unelected European Commission, the legislative role of the unaccountable Council of Ministers and the limited powers of the European Parliament to control the Commission.

Multi-level governance, however, does not always bring 'democratic deficit'. The Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament, for example, are directly elected and both have considerable powers. The Scottish Parliament, in particular, has significant powers and has passed laws that have substantially changed the lives of the people it represents.

Source: adapted from C PILKINGTON, Representative Democracy in Britain Today, 1997

- 1 0** Explain the term *multi-level governance* used in the passage. (5 marks)
- 1 1** Using your own knowledge as well as the passage, explain the statement that 'the Scottish Parliament has significant powers'. (10 marks)
- 1 2** 'No single institution dominates the policy-making process within the European Union.' Discuss. (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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