



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2012

## Government and Politics

## GOVP2

### Unit 2 Governing Modern Britain

Monday 21 May 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-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 on each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Use continuous prose.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- In questions 

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 and 

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 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.

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

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### Topic 1 The British Constitution

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 1**, **0 2** and **0 3** which follow.

#### The form of the constitution

What form do constitutions take? Most, but not all, are drawn up as a single, codified document. Some are short, others are remarkably long. Some include provisions that exhort citizens to act in a certain way ('It shall be the duty of every citizen . . .'); others confine themselves to establishing the formal structures and powers of the state bodies. Most, but not all, have *entrenched provisions*.

The British constitution differs from most in that it is not drawn up in a single codified document but is found in a number of sources. As such, it is often described as an 'unwritten' constitution. However, much of the constitution does exist in 'written' form. No formal procedures are laid down in Parliament for the amendment of the constitution and this has made it very flexible.

Source: adapted from P NORTON, 'The Changing Constitution', in B JONES (Ed.), *Politics UK*, © Pearson Education Limited, 2001, 2004

- 0 1** Explain the term *entrenched provisions* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** sources of the British constitution. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'The case for Britain retaining its uncodified constitution remains extremely strong.' Discuss. (25 marks)

**Topic 2 Parliament**

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 4**, **0 5** and **0 6** which follow.

**Motions of no confidence**

The House of Commons can remove the government by defeating it on a motion of no confidence (also known as a vote of confidence). The convention of collective ministerial responsibility states that the entire government must resign if this happens.

Government defeats on confidence motions are rare; there have only been four since 1895. The most recent was in 1979 when James Callaghan's Labour government, which did not have a *parliamentary majority*, was defeated on a motion of no confidence initiated by the Opposition. The House of Commons carried the Conservative motion by 311 votes to 310, making Callaghan the first prime minister since Ramsay MacDonald in 1924 to be forced into an election.

However, a government can itself initiate a vote of confidence to pressure its MPs to support key legislation, as did John Major over the Maastricht Treaty in 1993.

Source: adapted from P LYNCH and P FAIRCLOUGH, *UK Government and Politics*, 3rd edn, Philip Allan Updates, 2010

- 0 4** Explain the term *parliamentary majority* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why government defeats on confidence motions are rare. (10 marks)
- 0 6** 'The legislative process in the House of Commons offers backbench MPs significant opportunities to influence policy.' Discuss. (25 marks)

**Turn over for the next question**

**Turn over ►**

**Topic 3 The Core Executive**

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 7**, **0 8** and **0 9** which follow.

The extract has been removed due to third-party copyright constraints.

- 0 7** Explain the term *Secretary of State* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider why it is necessary to have four or five ministers within most government departments. (10 marks)
- 0 9** 'Ministers have considerable power and opportunity to restrain a prime minister.'  
Discuss. (25 marks)

**Topic 4 Multi-level Governance**

Read the extract below and answer questions 

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 which follow.

The extract has been removed due to third-party copyright constraints.

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 Explain the term *directly elected mayor* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** reasons why elected councils can be seen as 'central to local democracy'. (10 marks)
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 'The European Parliament has seen a gradual increase in its power and authority.'  
Discuss. (25 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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