



Rewarding Learning

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
January 2010**

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit AS 1

**The Government and
Politics of Northern Ireland**

[AQ111]



AQ111

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY, MORNING

TIME

1 hour 15 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Study the source material provided and answer questions **1** and **2** and either **3(a)** or **3(b)**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 50.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in questions 2 and 3.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to study the source material before attempting to answer questions 1 and 2.
You are advised to take account of the marks for each part question in allocating the available examination time.

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Study the source below and answer the questions that follow:

Source

NI Executive “being held hostage”

The Northern Ireland Executive has been held hostage to Sinn Fein’s demands on policing, Peter Robinson has said. The Democratic Unionist Party leader claimed republicans have issued threats and eroded confidence in power-sharing.

After a ‘honeymoon’ period during which real progress was made by the Executive, it has not met for months after Sinn Fein boycotted it over lack of progress towards handing policing responsibilities to a local minister.

A Sinn Fein spokesman said the DUP leader needed “to make it clear whether he supports the St Andrews Agreement, because that was the basis on which the institutions were resurrected.”

Adapted from: www.news.bbc.co.uk. 26/09/2008

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **two** criticisms of how power-sharing has operated since 2007. [8]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the areas of disagreement faced by the Executive since 2007. [16]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Assess the record of the Assembly, since 2007, in holding the Executive Committee to account. [26]

Or

 - (b) Assess the reasons for the changes in support for Sinn Fein since 1994. [26]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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