

Answer EITHER question 1 OR question 2.

Question 2 is on page 12.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

**Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box (☒).
If you change your mind, put a line through the box (☒) and then indicate your new question with a cross (☒).**

Question 1

If you choose question 1 put a cross in this box ☐.

Study sources 1 and 2, and answer the questions that follow.

Source 1

2005 General Election

How you voted	MPs Returned to Westminster
Labour 35.2%	356 MPs (55.1%)
Conservative 32.3%	196 MPs (30.7%)
Liberal Democrat 22%	62 MPs (9.6%)
Others 10.5%	30 MPs (4.6%)



Source 2

Electoral Reform

Labour MP David Chaytor stated that the 2005 General Election had secured the lowest share of the vote for a majority government. He said, ‘it is time for a change, for the people to choose what voting system they want to elect their representatives.’ Liberal Democrat MP Nick Harvey said, ‘the dynamics of Britain’s first-past-the-post system meant that political parties were targeting a very small section of the electorate. We have a system of 646 parliamentary seats, 500 of which never change hands...this can’t be healthy for democracy.’ Just 20,000 voters living in marginal seats across the country could decide the next election. The increasingly volatile battle over the diminishing middle ground of British politics has left millions of people ‘disenfranchised’ and threatens the fundamental principles of a fair democracy.

(Source adapted from: *The Independent*, 16 November 2005)

- (a) Using source 1, comment on the levels of representation achieved by the three main parties in the 2005 General Election. **(5)**
- (b) Using source 2 and your own knowledge, why are marginal seats important under the first-past-the-post electoral system? **(10)**
- (c) Explain the advantages of electoral reform for Westminster elections. **(15)**
- (d) Make a case against electoral reform for Westminster elections. **(20)**

Q1

(Total 50 marks)

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Question 2

If you choose question 2 put a cross in this box .

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source 1**Tony Blair on the UK and the EU**

The dilemma of a British Prime Minister over Europe is acute to the point of being ridiculous. Basically you have a choice. Either cooperate in Europe and you betray Britain; or be unreasonable in Europe, be praised back home, and be utterly without influence in Europe. It's choice between isolation or treason.

Our aim was to put Britain back at the centre of the European debate. We did so but it was never easy. There was always a feeling that at best the British role was to be the pebble in the shoe: the thing that made others stop and think, but nothing more.

Gradually we changed that. We achieved enlargement. We took over with France the shaping of European defence. We formulated the economic reform programme from the Lisbon Summit onwards. Finally we put through a budget deal that most thought could not be done.

We have achieved a new Europe. It has the potential for a new direction. We are part of it, in at the ground floor. It is where we should always have been. Now we're there, we should stay there.

There is no other way for Britain. Britain won't leave Europe. No Government would propose it. And despite what we are told, the majority of the British people in the end would not vote for withdrawal. The manner in which we originally joined the European project has dogged us for too long. From now on, let the manner of our staying in define us.

(Source adapted from: Speech on Europe by the Prime Minister Tony Blair MP to St Anthony's College Oxford, 2 February 2006)

- (a) Using the source, explain the dilemma which the Prime Minister perceived over his relationship with Europe. (5)
- (b) Using the source and your own knowledge, what have been the achievements of the Labour government with regard to the European Union since 1997? (10)
- (c) Explain the major differences between the UK political parties over the European Union. (15)
- (d) Why, and to what extent, has the UK had a difficult relationship with the European Union? (20)

Q2**(Total 50 marks)**

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Q2

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TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50 MARKS

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