Centre No.						Paper Reference	Surname	Initial(s)
Candidate No.						6 4 9 3 / 0 1	Signature	

Paper Reference(s)

6493/01

Edexcel GCE

Government and Politics

Advanced Subsidiary

(8067/9067-70)

Unit Test 3: The Changing UK System

Thursday 10 January 2008 – Afternoon

Time: 1 hour

Materials required for examination	Items included with question papers
Nil	Nil

Examiner's use only

Team Leader's use only

Question Number	Leave Blank
1	
2	
Total	

Instructions to Candidates

In the boxes above, write your centre number, candidate number, your surname, initial(s) and signature.
Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.
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 (☒).

Information for Candidates

The marks for individual questions and the parts of questions are shown in round brackets: e.g. **(2)**.
There are 50 marks for each question. The total mark for this paper is 50.
Any blank pages are indicated.

Advice to Candidates

You will be assessed on your ability to organise and present information, ideas, descriptions and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account your use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

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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 source 1 and answer the questions that follow.

Source 1

Constitutional Change and the UK's political system

"As the twentieth century came to a close the general public's opinion on constitutional matters was muted. For example, *The Economist* reported that only 2% of those polled thought that the state of the constitution to be "one of the most important issues facing Britain today". Even when a major party took a clear stand, as the Conservatives did on the devolution issue in 1997, it failed dismally to ignite public opinion (at least outside Scotland). As regards reform to the judicial system and the establishment of a Supreme Court, the public had no interest in the developments at all. It is interesting and quite surprising, how little major constitutional issues have impinged on public consciousness.

The Conservative Party, once staunch opponents of constitutional reform has altered its position. Originally hostile to devolution it now endorses the newly created assemblies. With regard to the House of Lords, the Conservative Party accepts change as inevitable and wishes to influence the process. Furthermore, the benefits which the Conservatives have reaped from proportional electoral systems have modified their initial disapproval.

By mid-2005, after May's general election, constitutional change no longer seemed to be on the political agenda. The Conservative Party has never shown much interest in constitutional reform and Labour seems to regard its reforms as being largely completed. In the general election campaign the Liberal Democrats made much of the constitution in their manifesto. The media gave constitutional issues scant attention beyond a brief mention of the vulnerability of postal voting to fraud, and the suggestion supported by Labour that the voting age be lowered to 16."

(Source adapted from: *The Changing Constitution* by Kevin Harrison and Tony Boyd published by The Edinburgh University Press 2006)

Leave blank

(a) Using the source, what was the state of public opinion in the UK on constitutional matters at the end of the twentieth century?

(5)

(b) Using the source and your own knowledge, how have Conservative views on constitutional reform changed since 1997?

(10)

(c) What problems have arisen from the reform of the UK constitution since 1997?

(15)

(d) What have been the benefits of the constitutional reforms introduced since 1997?

(20)

Q1

(Total 50 marks)

Leave blank

(a)

Leave blank

(b) ....

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(c)

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Leave blank

(d) ....

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Q1

(Total 50 marks)

OR

Leave blank

Question 2

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

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

Source 1

Sovereignty, the UK and the EU

"The European Union is not just a trading arrangement. It is a political project designed to take control of all the main functions of national governments. The EU controls farming and fishing, and its "harmonised" rules about everything from food labelling to taxation already account for 70% of our laws. This alien system of government is bad for our economy, our self respect and our prosperity. Yet all the old political parties remain firmly committed to the EU. They still pretend that despite the experience of 30 years of "negotiating", it can be shaped in Britain's interest. But the EU is a one way street towards European government. It is undemocratic, corrupt and unreformable. We must regain our sovereignty and leave."

(Source adapted from: "The UK Independence Party Manifesto 2005")

Source 2

All countries inside the EU have given up or pooled some sovereignty. As Mrs. Thatcher said in 1975, at the time of the referendum on Europe, "Almost every major nation has been obliged by the pressures of the post-war world to pool significant areas of sovereignty so as to create more effective political units". As such, the EU nations have come together to protect the environment, resist threats to international peace and security, promote free trade and investment, and defend human rights. Countries are prepared to pool sovereignty in particular areas because they recognise the practical benefits of doing so. The process gives the countries of the EU more effective control over global events and problems.

(Source adapted from: Sovereignty and the EU, The European Movement www.euromove.org.uk)

(a) Using source 1, how does the EU control the functions of the UK national government?

(5)

(b) Using source 2, and your own knowledge, how can it be argued that UK sovereignty has been retained?

(10)

(c) Compare the views of the UK political parties on the UK's relationship with the EU.

(15)

(d) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of further EU integration.

(20)

Q2

(Total 50 marks)

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(a) ....

Turn over

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(b) ....

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(c)

Leave blank

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(d) ....

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Q2

(Total 50 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50 MARKS

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