

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Edexcel GCE

Government and Politics

**Advanced Subsidiary
Unit 2: Governing the UK**

Wednesday 18 January 2012 – Afternoon
Time: 1 hour 20 minutes

Paper Reference
6GP02/01

You do not need any other materials.

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **two** questions, **one** from Section A and **one** from Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- 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.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 Parliament

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Select Committees

There is a House of Commons select committee for each government department, examining three aspects: spending, policies and administration. These departmental select committees have a minimum of 11 members, who decide upon a line of inquiry and then gather written and oral evidence. Findings are reported to the Commons, printed, and published on the Parliament website. The government then usually has 60 days to reply to the committee's recommendations.

Following the adoption by the House of Commons of recommendations from the Reform of the House of Commons Committee:

- Departmental select committee chairs are elected by their fellow MPs
- A backbench business committee has been established with the ability to schedule business in the Commons chamber and in Westminster Hall on days, or parts of days, set aside for non-government business.

Legislative committees

Both Houses of Parliament refer legislation to committees for detailed discussion and approval. These committees are part of the process of making laws. They scrutinise proposed laws and may consider amendments to improve the legislation. Amendments approved in legislative committees must be approved by the whole House.

Source: adapted from www.parliament.gov.uk, October, 2010.

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, why are legislative committees needed? (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain the ways in which backbench MPs can call government to account. (10)
- (c) To what extent has the formation of a coalition altered the relationship between Parliament and government? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 The Judiciary

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Constitutional Reform Act of 2005 guaranteed the rule of law. The rule of law is the foundation stone of any healthy democracy, in that it establishes that all conduct and behaviour throughout society should conform to a framework of law. Its principles include equality before the law and punishment only for breaches of law.

The Constitutional Reform Act drew a better division between the roles of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice, as well as between the Lord Chancellor and the House of Lords, which now has its own Lord Speaker. The Lord Chancellor is bound by oath to preserve the principle of judicial independence.

The Act also created the UK's Supreme Court. Its opening in October 2009, together with the other reforms, marked the end of a long process towards establishing the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. The process by which judicial appointments are made is also more independent and distanced from government. Indeed, there is now no meaningful role for the government in the appointment of judges, except for the most senior. Even in the case of senior judges, the government's influence is extremely limited.

Source: adapted from a memorandum by Jack Straw to the Justice Select Committee, March, 2010.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, what is the rule of law? (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain how the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed. (10)
- (c) To what extent can judges check the power of the executive and the legislature? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

- 3** To what extent have constitutional reforms since 1997 reduced the powers of UK governments?

(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)

OR

- 4** Are UK prime ministers as powerful as is sometimes claimed?

(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section B = 40 marks)



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(Total for Question = 40 marks)

(Total for Section B = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS



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