

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

**Edexcel GCE**

# Government and Politics

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

Monday 21 May 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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**PEARSON**

**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 Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

**Extracts from the Coalition Agreement for Stability and Reform, 2010**

There is no constitutional difference between a coalition government and a single party government, but working practices need to reflect the fact that the UK has not had a coalition in modern times.

The initial allocation [in May, 2010 after the general election] of cabinet, ministerial, whip and special adviser appointments between the two parties was agreed between the prime minister and the deputy prime minister.

Future allocation will continue to be based on the principle that the parliamentary party with fewer MPs will have a share of the cabinet, ministerial and whip appointments approximately in proportion to the size of the parliamentary parties. The prime minister, following consultation with the deputy prime minister, will make nominations for the appointment of ministers. The prime minister will nominate Conservative Party ministers and the deputy prime minister will nominate Liberal Democrat ministers.

The principle of collective responsibility, save where it is explicitly set aside, continues to apply to all government ministers. This requires that there is an appropriate degree of consultation and discussion among ministers, that the opinions expressed and advice offered within government remain private, and that the decisions made by the cabinet are binding on and supported by all ministers.

Source: Adapted from Cabinet Office, The Coalition Agreement for Stability and Reform, 2010

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, outline how coalition government has affected appointments to the Cabinet. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain why collective responsibility is an important aspect of UK government. (10)
- (c) How important is the Cabinet? (25)

**(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)**



## 2 The Constitution

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

We need wholesale constitutional reform, not piecemeal and compromised change. I want our democratic structures to be transparent and fair and I want them to be the basis of our pluralism – this is one of the ways we rebuild trust with the electorate. For example, I support AV for the Commons and a directly elected House of Lords using PR.

We also need to look at how the rights and responsibilities of citizens are properly recognised and codified and how government is held to account. The 1998 Human Rights Act brought about progress, but the case for a codified constitution remains a strong one, both for the benefits it would bring and, crucially, for the process of debate, discussion and democratic engagement through which it would be brought about. A codified constitution would be good for increasing citizen power and good for checking executive power.

On this Labour was too cautious in government. Our 1997 White Paper said ‘we ought to think about whether we should have a written [codified] constitution’. Again in 2006 Gordon Brown called for a codified constitution. But words were never turned into action and we never created a pathway to a codified constitution.

I want Labour to be the party of radical democratic and constitutional reform. This is how we begin to reshape the way we do politics so that it is more open, more plural and more real for citizens.

Source: adapted from David Miliband’s blog, September 2010

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, outline **two** constitutional reforms proposed by David Miliband. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain the arguments in favour of introducing a codified constitution. (10)
- (c) To what extent have the coalition government’s proposals to reform the UK constitution been controversial? (25)

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(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

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(Total for Section A = 40 marks)





(a) continued

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(5)

You should start the answer to part (b) on page 6







(b) continued) .....

Lined area for writing the answer to part (b).

(10)

You should start the answer to part (c) on page 9





(c)

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You should start the answer to Section B on page 15





((c) continued) .....

Ruled area for writing with horizontal dotted lines.

You should start the answer to Section B on page 15



(c) continued .....

Lined writing area consisting of multiple horizontal dotted lines for text entry.

You should start the answer to Section B on page 15





**SECTION B**

**Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.**

**EITHER**

**3** How effective are backbench MPs?

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**(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)**

**OR**

**4** To what extent do judges protect individual rights and freedoms in the UK?

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**(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)**

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**(Total for Section B = 40 marks)**



**Indicate your second question choice on this page.**

**Put a cross in the box ☒ indicating the second question that you have chosen.  
If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒  
and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.**

Chosen Question Number: **Question 3** ☒          **Question 4** ☒

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(Total for Question = 40 marks)

(Total for Section B = 40 marks)

**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS**



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