

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Pearson
Edexcel GCE

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Government and Politics

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 2: Governing the UK

Thursday 4 June 2015 – 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 the questions.

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The UK Constitution

Study the following source and answer the questions that follow.

The UK constitution, based on principles such as parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law, is derived from a number of sources, stretching back over hundreds of years. However, they have not been brought together in one official written document. What the UK has instead is an accumulation of various statutes, conventions, judicial decisions and treaties, including those with the EU, which collectively can be referred to as the UK Constitution.

Parliamentary sovereignty is, arguably, the key principle of the UK constitution. It developed as a result of the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688, when Parliament succeeded in establishing its dominance over the monarchy. The principle of parliamentary sovereignty has several key features. In the first place, Parliament is sovereign because statute law outranks all other forms of law, such as common law and case law. Second, there is no legislature that can challenge the authority of Parliament.

There has been considerable debate as to whether, and to what extent, parliamentary sovereignty remains. Some argue that Parliament remains legally sovereign. Nevertheless, concern has been expressed about Parliament's declining sovereignty. This has, allegedly, occurred primarily as a result of EU membership. It has been argued that sovereignty within the UK is now best understood as 'parliamentary sovereignty within the context of EU membership'. But this decline has also been brought about through the introduction of devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Indeed, some commentators have claimed that the devolution arrangements in the UK have developed into a form of 'quasi-federalism'.

- (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** of the sources which make up the UK constitution. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain the features of parliamentary sovereignty. (10)
- (c) To what extent does Parliament remain sovereign? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Judges and Civil Liberties

Study the following source and answer the questions that follow.

Civil liberties are composed of a range of rights and freedoms which have been granted to individuals. In the UK, they include the right to freedom of expression, often seen as the right to free speech. Alongside this is the right to a free press, not censored or restricted by the state. The right to protest and to challenge openly both government and other actors within the state is also a key civil liberty. Freedom of association encompasses the right to form groups. Freedom of religion covers the right of individuals to choose and practise their religious beliefs.

Safeguarding civil liberties is a significant aspect of a liberal democracy. These rights can be limited by law in order to protect the interests of others, but only when the limitation is proportionate and necessary. In recent years, governments have been accused of acting in an authoritarian manner by passing legislation which restricts civil liberties. Limitations on the right to a jury trial have been introduced and public order legislation has restricted the right to protest. More controversial has been anti-terrorism legislation, which has had a major impact on civil liberties. Governments have argued that these restrictions are vital to maintain a free and open society in the face of serious threats from groups which would undermine our basic way of life. Protesters claim that governments have created a framework of laws that damage civil liberties and give governments far too much power over individuals.

The task of protecting civil liberties in the UK largely falls to judges. In being willing to strike down actions by ministers and other public bodies which infringe civil liberties, judges have increasingly come into conflict with the executive.

- (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** civil liberties in the UK. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain how and why governments have restricted civil liberties in recent years. (10)
- (c) How effectively do judges protect civil liberties in the UK? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 40 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

Either

- 3** 'The House of Commons is in greater need of reform than the House of Lords.'
Discuss.

(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)

OR

- 4** To what extent are modern prime ministers now presidents in all but name?

(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)

(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 ☐

Dotted lines for writing the answer.



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