

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS  
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE**

**F852**

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Contemporary Government of the UK**

**FRIDAY 28 MAY 2010: Morning**

**DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES**

**Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet**

**OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:**

**8 page Answer Booklet**

**OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

**None**

**READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- **Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.**
- **Write your answers in black ink in the Answer Booklet provided.**
- **Answer BOTH questions in Section A and ONE question in Section B.**
- **You must use your own knowledge AND the source material in your answer to Question 1.**
- **Write the numbers of the questions you answer on the front of the Answer Booklet.**
- **If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten the sheets to the Answer Booklet.**
- **Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **You are advised to spend 65 minutes on Section A and 25 minutes on Section B.**

## **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- **The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.**
- **The total number of marks for this paper is 100.**
- **You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication including clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.**

## **SOURCES FOR QUESTION 1**

Read all the sources below and use them when answering Question 1.

### **SOURCE A**

#### **DEBATES AND QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS**

Attendance at debates in the House of Commons, as any viewer of the BBC Parliament Channel can see, is often very low indeed. With most recent governments having comfortable majorities in the Commons, votes at the end of debates are foregone conclusions in the vast majority of cases. Points put forward by either opposition or backbenchers seem to have little effect. Committees which deal with legislation are controlled by the Whips. Question Time has become little more than an empty ritual, where leaders try and score points off each other and ministers try hard to avoid answering awkward questions. Only written answers have much effect, but they rarely arouse much media attention.

[Original material]

## **SOURCE B**

### **THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR HOME AFFAIRS – ENQUIRIES FOR 2008**

**July 2008    Wheel clamping**

**July 2008    Knife crime**

**July 2008    Managing migration**

**June 2008    Policing for the 21st century**

**June 2008    Human trafficking**

### **REPORTS IN 2008 FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

**24 June        Preparations for the 2012 Olympics**

**22 June        Defence contracts review**

**17 June        Funding for ethnic minority employment**

**10 June        Paying for decommissioning nuclear  
power stations**

**8 June         Benefit fraud**

**3 June         Overseas aid**

**[Original material]**

## **SECTION A**

**Answer ALL the questions in this section.**

- 1 (a) Using the sources and your own knowledge, describe the methods by which the House of Commons scrutinises the executive. [12]**
- (b) Using the sources and your own knowledge, discuss the importance of parliamentary committees. [28]**
- 2 Discuss the view that the appointment and dismissal of ministers is the Prime Minister's most important power. [30]**

**Section A Total: [70]**

## **SECTION B**

**Answer ONE question from this section.**

- 3 Discuss the view that statute law is the most important source of the UK constitution. [30]**
  
- 4 To what extent is the judiciary independent in the UK? [30]**
  
- 5 Discuss whether enlargement has been the most important European Union development for the UK since 1997. [30]**

**Section B Total: [30]**

**Paper Total: [100]**



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