

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
AS GCE**

F852/01/I

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Contemporary Government of the UK

INSERT

MONDAY 21 MAY 2012: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

MODIFIED ENLARGED

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- You must use your own knowledge and the sources in this Insert to answer Question 1.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- This document consists of 4 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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SOURCES FOR QUESTION 1

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

SOURCE A

THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION

There is really little that the ordinary backbench MP can do to influence what laws are made and how they are made. What goes into the Queen's Speech is decided by the government while the Whips and the Leaders of the two Houses 'fix' the rest of the process. All that is left to backbench MPs is the very occasional chance to bring in a Private Member's bill, while the Lords can occasionally have some influence at the committee stage in their chamber.

SOURCE B

THE ROLE OF THE OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT

It was once argued that the role of the Opposition in Parliament was ‘to oppose everything and propose nothing’. However there are opportunities for Opposition MPs to make an impact which is constructive. They have some scope to put forward legislation as well as topics for debate, and they also have many opportunities, such as seats on select committees, to make constructive policy proposals.

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