



GCE AS/A level

1402/01

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
UNIT GP2
GOVERNING MODERN WALES**

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 18 January 2012

1½ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer any **TWO** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The maximum mark for this paper is 80.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that credit will be given for reference to concepts and examples, where relevant, from the politics and government of Wales.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in answers that involve extended writing (part *(c)* questions).

Answer **two** questions.

Each question is worth **40** marks.

1. The British Constitution

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

A New Constitution

The last decade has seen radical changes in the way we are governed. Reforms such as the Human Rights Act and *devolution* have, in practice, limited the rights of Westminster as a sovereign parliament, and undermined the doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty.

- 5 It used to be thought that the principle of Parliamentary sovereignty meant that rights could not really be protected in the UK because they could not be entrenched. Whatever one Parliament did could be undone by another. However, in 2002 judges ruled that there are certain ‘constitutional statutes’ in the UK (including the treaties of the European Union and the Human Rights Act) that do, in fact, bind future parliaments – laws cannot be passed subsequently that are in conflict with these statutes.
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Extract adapted from *The New British Constitution*, Vernon Bogdanor. Hart Publishing Ltd. Oxford, 2009.

- (a) What is meant by the term ‘*devolution*’ (line 2)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the political importance of the Human Rights Act. [10]
- (c) ‘The British Constitution is now as codified as it needs to be.’ Discuss. [25]

2. Parliamentary Structures in Wales and the UK

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Petitions to the National Assembly for Wales

The National Assembly can consider a petition on any subject that affects Wales or Welsh citizens; however it has no powers regarding *matters reserved to the UK Government*.

What are the possible outcomes of a petition?

5 Outcomes will vary, depending on the course of action determined by the National Assembly.

The petitions system is particularly suited to heightening the profile of an issue that may not previously have been on the political agenda. This can result in:

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- a National Assembly legislative or scrutiny committee holding an inquiry on the issue;
- individual Assembly Members taking action themselves, for instance, by asking questions of Ministers or seeking time to debate an issue in the Assembly.

Ultimately this creates opportunities for petitioners to:

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- influence the development of new legislation;
- propose a change of government policy or other public body's policy.

Extract adapted from the website of the National Assembly for Wales,
www.assemblywales.org.uk

- (a) What is meant by the term '*matters reserved to the UK government*' (lines 2-3)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how the petition system enhances representation and democracy in Wales. [10]
- (c) Assess whether we have 'elective dictatorship' in Wales and Westminster. [25]

3. The Core Executives in Wales and Westminster

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Hiring and Firing

The most important element of Prime Ministerial patronage is the ability to select the 100 or so politicians who at any given moment form the government. By no means all politicians seek ministerial office, but most probably do. The continuing power to 'hire and fire' is a formidable source of control for the Prime Minister.

5 Ministerial changes – by forced or deliberate reshuffle - occur quite frequently. For example, only half of Tony Blair's first *Cabinet* of 1997 remained in the Cabinet after the 2001 general election. Before the 2005 election another four Cabinet members had already departed, including Clare Short and Robin

10 Cook who resigned over the issue of the Iraq War. Gordon Brown's long tenure as Chancellor of the Exchequer was exceptional, as the average tenure for a Cabinet post is around two years.

Extract adapted from *British Politics*, Leach, Coxall, Robins. Reproduced by permission of Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

- (a) What is meant by '*Cabinet*' (line 7)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why Prime Ministers reshuffle their Cabinets. [10]
- (c) Assess the claim that political leadership in Wales and Westminster has now become presidential. [25]

4. Multi-level Governance in Wales and the UK

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Law making in the EU

Much of UK law derives from EU legislation, or is inspired by it.
 European law-making generally begins with the European Commission making a proposal, often in response to the invitation of a particular member state. The European Council and the *European Parliament* will then debate and amend it before adopting it. How the EU legislation affects domestic law in each member state will vary according to the form it takes, and on how the member state chooses to implement it.

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In practice, member states have two key roles in the European legislative process - advising on the form that the proposal will take, and then ensuring it is given effect domestically.

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Member states are responsible for ensuring that their national legislation is consistent with European law. Where it is not, they must amend existing provisions, and introduce such new law as is necessary.

Extract adapted from *Q & A: How the UK adopts EU Laws*, www.bbc.co.uk.

- (a) What is meant by the term '*European Parliament*' (line 4)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the impact of EU law on member states. [10]
- (c) 'The European Union is becoming more and more centralised.' Discuss. [25]

End of Questions