



GCE AS/A level

1402/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP2
Governing Modern Wales

A.M. THURSDAY, 23 May 2013

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.

Flexibility in the British Constitution

Many political systems in the world operate within the constraints of a constitution. In most cases, the constitution of the state is a written document that has been agreed on some particular occasion, such as a revolution. There are, however, a few countries (including the UK) that operate without such a specifically written constitution, and instead have something altogether more
5 vague.

The supporters of the current arrangements in the UK say that this gives the constitution flexibility; the constitution can adapt. In the UK the constitution can be changed in several ways, e.g. Parliament can simply pass a new *statute*
10 *law*, in the same way as all other statutes.

- (a) What is meant by the term '*statute law*' (lines 9-10)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how the British Constitution is flexible. [10]
- (c) Critically assess the view that decisions of the judiciary have become more important than any other source of the British Constitution. [25]

2. Parliamentary Structures in Wales and the UK

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

Plenary in the National Assembly for Wales

Plenary meetings are attended by all Assembly Members and provide one of the key mechanisms for Members to hold the Welsh Government to account, make laws for Wales and represent their constituents. Different categories and types of business can be taken in Plenary. These include debates, statements
 5 from Ministers and legislative proceedings. Transcripts of Plenary meetings are published shortly after the end of the meeting.

Plenary meetings take place in the Siambr, the Assembly's debating chamber, each Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Plenary meetings usually begin at 13.30 and are always held in public. *The Presiding Officer* and his/her Deputy
 10 are responsible for maintaining order.

- (a) What is meant by '*the Presiding Officer*' (line 9)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how the National Assembly for Wales scrutinises the Welsh Government. [10]
- (c) Critically evaluate how effectively the UK Parliament carries out its functions. [25]

3. The Core Executives in Wales and Westminster

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

Prime Ministerial power

On 20th March 2003, the Iraq War started with an invasion launched by the USA and the UK. British involvement in this war was a remarkable example of Prime Ministerial power. Tony Blair persisted with his determination to ‘stand by the USA’, despite mass anti-war demonstrations on the streets of London and
5 other UK cities, and despite suffering the largest backbench revolt against any government in over a century.

The UK’s involvement in the Iraq War was a personal decision by the Prime Minister. For many, this decision to go to war was a clear reflection that the UK no longer had a prime minister, but a president. Personal leadership had
10 replaced the collective leadership implicit in a *cabinet system*.

- (a) What is meant by the term ‘*cabinet system*’ (line 10)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the main powers of the UK Prime Minister. [10]
- (c) ‘The Cabinet is the most powerful player in the modern core executive.’ Discuss. [25]

4. Multi-level Governance in Wales and the UK

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

Multi-level Governance	
5	National governments of member states are the most important part of the European Union. They have authority in major policy areas and are the key players in big decisions in the EU (e.g. treaty changes, and common foreign and security policy). As the EU has enlarged, the requirement for unanimous voting has been reduced, and most decisions of the Council of Ministers are taken by Qualified Majority Voting. From 2014 a qualified majority will be reached when at least 55% of member states, representing at least 65% of the population of the EU, vote in favour of a proposal.
10	But member states do not monopolise decision-making. Supranational bodies, such as the <i>European Commission</i> , have their own authority and are more important in technical areas of policy (e.g. single market rules).

- (a) What is meant by the '*European Commission*' (line 10)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how member states have influence in the European Union. [10]
- (c) Critically evaluate whether membership of the European Union presents a major threat to UK sovereignty. [25]

Extracts adapted from:

1. *Government and Politics for AS*, Neil McNaughton, 2008
2. www.assemblywales.org
3. *Essentials of UK Politics*, Andrew Heywood, 2008
4. *UK Government and Politics*, Lynch and Fairclough

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