



GCE AS/A level

1402/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP2
Governing Modern Wales

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 23 January 2013

1½ hours

1402
010001

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.

The Rule of Law

The Rule of Law is a fundamental principle of the *British Constitution*. In particular it underpins the very important constitutional principle of the separation of powers, whereby, although executive and legislative branches are ‘fused’, the judicial branch is largely independent and separate.

- 5 The fundamental idea is that people are subject to the rule of law, not to the random decisions of the government. No-one is above the law. Ministers and public authorities are bound by the law. Actions without the authority of the law can be challenged in the courts.

- (a) What is meant by the term *British Constitution* (line 1)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how the British Constitution limits the power of government. [10]
- (c) Assess the strengths and weaknesses 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.

Bicameralism

Most countries have a *legislature* as part of their institutions of government. Legislatures may be unicameral or bicameral. Unicameral legislatures have one chamber, whereas bicameral legislatures have two. Bicameral legislatures are less common in unitary states than federal ones, where they can represent the interests of the individual states or regions.

Bicameralism now operates in over 60 countries, and is often said to have several advantages, including that a second chamber can act as a check on the first chamber, particularly important if one party has a landslide majority in that first chamber.

- (a) What is meant by the term *legislature* (line 1)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the main advantages of having a bicameral legislature. [10]
- (c) ‘The executive dominates the UK Parliament.’ Discuss. [25]

3. The Core Executives in Wales and Westminster

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

Collective Responsibility

According to the convention of collective responsibility, *Cabinet Ministers* are responsible for all Cabinet decisions, and a Minister who refuses to accept, or opposes, a Cabinet decision is expected to resign. The convention now extends beyond the Cabinet, to incorporate all junior government ministers as well.

- 5 The convention is supported by the secrecy of Cabinet proceedings, as the refusal to make public the disagreements that precede a Cabinet decision assists the presentation of a united front to Parliament and the country. However, collective responsibility has come under pressure in recent years, with the increase of 'leaks' about Cabinet disagreements to the media.

- (a) What is meant by the term *Cabinet Ministers* (line 1)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why collective responsibility is important to governments. [10]
- (c) Discuss the view that the constraints on Prime Ministers are greater than their powers. [25]

4. Multi-level Governance in Wales and the UK

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

The Welsh Local Government Association

The WLGA provides a wide range of support for improving the ways in which councils provide services, organise themselves and engage with citizens. It provides information for all those interested in local government.

5 The WLGA established an ‘Improvement Board’ in 2009. The Improvement Board consists of the key *local politicians* with leadership roles in the delivery of local services, and is advised by senior professionals from within local government and elsewhere. The Board promotes improvement from within the family of local government, encouraging the sharing of best practice and peer support between authorities.

- (a) What is meant by the term *local politicians* (line 5)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the roles of the Welsh Local Government Association. [10]
- (c) Evaluate the view that local government does not matter. [25]

Extracts adapted from

1. *British Politics*, Leach, Coxall and Robins, 2006
2. *AS Government and Politics*, Duncan Watts, 2008
3. *Politics UK*, Jones, Kavanagh, Moran and Norton, 2007
4. The website of the Welsh Local Government Association, www.wlga.gov.uk

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