

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 6W**

**HS6P**

**Alternative P: Politics and Patronage in the Later Years of  
George II, 1748–1760**

Thursday 12 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS6P.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part (c).

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Answer **all** questions.

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- 1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

A brief text extract adapted from W A SPECK, *Stability and Strife, England 1714-1760*, 1977, discussing the widespread view that the Duke of Newcastle should not lead the Commons but instead that it should be led by a member of the cabinet who could gain the support of the Crown. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

**Source B**

A brief text extract adapted from a letter written by the Earl of Hardwicke, 9 April 1757, taken from *Portraits and Documents, the Eighteenth Century*, 1962. It states of his determination not to enter into an organised general opposition thereby keeping away from any alliance with any other political party. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- Source C** With almost 40 years' experience of office, the Duke of Newcastle brought a close knowledge to the endless work of persuading, exhorting and bribing Whig supporters to return MPs loyal to the ministry, and to the equally important task of keeping those MPs, once returned, in faithful attendance to their parliamentary duties. It was an intricate business, for the appeal varied from person to person. Moralising on the national interest might be sufficient for one; the promise or half-promise of a place for another. The hint of a threat or the reminder of a favour owed might also be used.

Adapted from G WILLIAMS and J RAMSDEN, *Ruling Britannia: A Political History of Britain, 1688-1988*, 1990

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- (a) Study **Source A** and use your own knowledge.

Assess the validity of the view in **Source A** about control of the House of Commons during Newcastle's ministry. *(10 marks)*

- (b) Study **Source B** and use your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence about the attitude of leading politicians towards opposition in the later years of George II's reign? *(10 marks)*

- (c) Study **Sources A, B and C** and use your own knowledge.

'Despite the lack of organised opposition, prime ministers experienced problems in maintaining parliamentary support in the later years of George II.'  
Assess the validity of this statement. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source A: WA SPECK, *Stability and Strife, England 1714–1760*, Arnold, 1977. Reprinted by permission of Edward Arnold (publishers) Ltd.

Source C: G WILLIAMS and J RAMSDEN, *Ruling Britannia: A Political History of Britain, 1688–1988*, Longman, 1990

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