

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname

Other names

Pearson Edexcel
Level 3 GCE

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Tuesday 21 May 2019

Afternoon (Time: 1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper Reference **8PL0/02**

Politics

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 2: UK Government

You do not need any other materials (including calculators which are not permitted).

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- There are **three** sections and you must answer **four** questions:
 - in Section A answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** 1(b)
 - in Section B answer **both** Question 2 **and** Question 3
 - in Section C answer **either** Question 4(a) **or** 4(b).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
 - *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
 - *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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Pearson

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b).

EITHER

1 (a) Describe the powers of the House of Commons. (10)

OR

(b) Describe what is meant by the rule of law. (10)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS



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SECTION B

Answer BOTH Question 2 AND Question 3.

- 2 Source 1 is adapted from the report on the role and powers of the Prime Minister from the House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, published in June 2014. It considers whether the role of the Prime Minister should be defined in statute.

Source 1

There is a clear need to define in statute the role and powers of the Prime Minister (PM), both to ensure democratic control and to recognise how the office has changed in recent decades. There is an increased media focus on PMs and government is now more complex. This means that the PM will require a larger and better structured team of staff to help oversee and manage the expanding work of government.

Among other things, this statute would also set out the powers of Parliament and the PM, including those presently carried out by the PM using the Royal Prerogative. These would be placed under full parliamentary control, and subject to votes in the House of Commons. These powers include:

- the ability to enter into armed conflict;
- the right to appoint ministers;
- the right to sign or ratify treaties (though some degree of statutory provision for parliamentary oversight has been introduced here).

The PM alone currently exercises these significant powers, but these need to be subject to parliamentary control.

(Source 1: adapted from House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, First Report of Session 2014–15)

Using the source, explain the advantages of defining in statute the role and powers of the Prime Minister.

(10)

*In your response you must use knowledge and understanding to analyse **only** points that are in the source. You will **not** be rewarded for introducing any additional points that are not in the source.*

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(Total for Question 2 = 10 marks)



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3 Source 2 and Source 3 are adapted from a summary of the arguments for and against having an uncodified constitution in the United Kingdom. A constitution provides the 'ground rules' of a political system - who goes where, what anyone has the right to do, and what everyone should try to do.

Source 2

Arguments for

Uncodified constitutions are more flexible because of the less rigid separation of powers they contain. Therefore they are better able to cope with uncertainty and protect our rights in a fast-changing world. They also allow governments to update the constitution with ease, to address contemporary issues.

They allow the constitution to evolve in an ever-changing world. The rules and regulations come about from trial and error. The ones that stay do so because they 'work' and have clearly 'stood the test of time'. The UK constitution is one of the oldest in the world.

Source 3

Arguments against

Codified constitutions are more stable as there is greater clarity over the separation of powers and the roles of each political body. They are also harder for governments to change to their advantage.

With a codified constitution, there is little room for dispute over which powers each of the three branches have. The powers of the judiciary are clearly laid out in codified systems. This makes these systems less liable to incremental change and better able to guarantee the rights of citizens, often through an entrenched Bill of Rights.

The UK constitution is one of the oldest surviving in the world. This is often cited as an advantage, but it is actually a disadvantage, as it incorporates elements of pre-modern political systems, such as the House of Lords.

(Source 2 and 3: adapted from <https://owlcation.com/social-sciences/what-is-a-constitution>, Public Law—Concise Argument for and Against Codified Constitutions, updated on 3 February 2017)

Using the sources, assess whether the UK should retain an uncodified constitution.

*In your response you must compare and contrast **similarities** and **differences** and consider competing points by analysing and evaluating them; **only** knowledge which supports this analysis and evaluation will gain credit.*

(10)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS



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SECTION C

Answer EITHER Question 4(a) OR Question 4(b).

EITHER

4 (a) 'Sovereignty lies in Parliament alone.'

How far do you agree with this view of where sovereignty lies?

In your answer you must:

- refer to the European Union and devolution
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding of study from Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

OR

(b) 'The Supreme Court is too powerful.'

How far do you agree with this view of the Supreme Court?

In your answer you must:

- refer to **both** judicial independence **and** the use of judicial review
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding of study from Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

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(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS

