

General Certificate of Education  
January 2003  
Advanced Level Examination



**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS** **GOV6**  
**Unit 6 The Politics of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales**

Tuesday 28 January 2003 Afternoon Session

**In addition to this paper you will require:**  
a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen. Pencil should only be used for drawing.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV6.
- Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend approximately 10 minutes reading the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each question.

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Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

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1 Study the following extract and answer parts (a), (b) and (c).

**Total for this question: 40 marks**

**The Northern Ireland Question**

Since the partition of Ireland in 1921, two opposing ideologies have confronted each other in Northern Ireland: nationalism and unionism. The root cause of the Northern Ireland question is that the Unionist perspective stands in direct opposition to the Nationalist perspective. Nationalists demand the unification of the island of Ireland. Unionists believe that Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom.

In the 1960s, the tensions between the Nationalists and Unionists in Northern Ireland erupted onto the political scene, ultimately leading to the abolition of the Stormont Parliament in 1972 and the introduction of *Direct Rule*. Since then, several initiatives have been taken towards a solution of the conflict. The most recent was the 1998 Good Friday Agreement which has created new hope. *Devolution has returned accountable government to Northern Ireland* and has the potential to bring about a permanent end to the troubles and provide a basis for reconciliation. The Agreement just might succeed in producing the permanent peace which has proved so elusive in the past.

*Source: adapted from K TOTTEN and N COLLOMB-ROBERT (eds), The Northern Ireland Question: Towards a 21st Century Solution? (Sheffield Hallam University Press/Politics Association) 2001*

- (a) Explain the term *Direct Rule* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, explain how *devolution has returned accountable government to Northern Ireland*. (12 marks)
- (c) ‘The Unionist perspective stands in direct opposition to the Nationalist perspective.’  
Analyse and discuss this view. (20 marks)

2 To what extent, and why, does the Labour Party dominate Scottish and Welsh electoral politics? (40 marks)

3 ‘The government of Scotland and Wales has been significantly altered since the election of the Blair government in 1997.’ Discuss. (40 marks)

4 ‘The nature of contemporary nationalism in Scotland and Wales has been profoundly shaped by historical experience.’ Discuss. (40 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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