

General Certificate of Education  
June 2005  
Advanced Level Examination



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

Tuesday 28 June 2005 Morning Session

**In addition to this paper you will require:**  
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or 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 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 read through 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.

Each question carries 40 marks.

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- 1 Study the following extract and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

**Party Politics in Scotland and Wales**

*Devolution has changed Britain into a multi-layered democracy* with different levels of government and institutions. This, coupled with other changes in the basis of parties' support, has changed, fundamentally, the nature of the party systems in Scotland and Wales. Scottish and Welsh politics, in fact, have changed dramatically since the 1950s. In Scotland the party system is more fragmented, competitive and complex than before, with Labour-Conservative dominance being replaced by Labour-SNP dominance since the establishment of the Scottish Parliament. The Conservatives have declined, with little hope of electoral revival to become even the second most popular party in Scotland. The SNP has taken over as the main opposition party and challenger to Labour whilst the Liberal Democrats have become a party of government for the first time since the 1930s. Scottish politics has also become much more Scottish with the rise of nationalism and the creation of a devolved Parliament.

In Wales Labour still remains the most powerful party but is increasingly being challenged for that position by the Welsh Nationalists – Plaid Cymru – whose electoral support was negligible until the 1960s and even then was largely confined to mainly Welsh speaking areas. The use of the Additional Member System for Welsh Assembly elections has increased Plaid Cymru's political significance but has also helped the Conservatives. However, whilst the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats remain significant forces, neither is likely to form a Welsh government in its own right. Since the Assembly was established, parties in Wales have co-operated or even formed partnerships in order to secure policy objectives. Welsh politics has therefore moved out of the era of one party domination to a considerable degree.

*Source: adapted from R DEACON et al., Devolved Great Britain: The New Governance of England, Scotland and Wales (The Politics Association/Sheffield Hallam University Press) 2000*

- (a) Explain the phrase *devolution has changed Britain into a multi-layered democracy* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, explain why the establishment of the Welsh Assembly has resulted in an increase in the political significance of the Conservatives and Plaid Cymru. (12 marks)
- (c) Discuss the view that Scottish party politics is now characterised by the dominance of Labour and the Scottish Nationalists. (20 marks)

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

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- 2 Why has it proved so difficult to achieve a resolution to the Northern Ireland conflict?  
(40 marks)
- 3 Discuss whether the establishment of a devolved Parliament has strengthened or weakened Scotland's influence within the United Kingdom.  
(40 marks)
- 4 How far have historical factors shaped the nature of contemporary Scottish and Welsh nationalism?  
(40 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE**

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