



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2011

# Government and Politics

# GOVP2

## Unit 2 Governing Modern Britain

Tuesday 7 June 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 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 GOVP2.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions in each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions [0 2] and [0 3], [0 5] and [0 6], [0 8] and [0 9], [1 1] and [1 2] should be answered in continuous prose.

For these questions you will be marked on your ability to:

- use good English
- organise information clearly
- use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**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 topic.

---

Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions in each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

---

**Topic 1 The British Constitution**

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 1**, **0 2** and **0 3** which follow.

This extract has been removed due to third-party copyright constraints.

- 0 1** Explain the term *codified constitution* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why having a flexible constitution may leave British citizens without adequate protection from the government. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'Judges in Britain now have too much power over the decisions of democratically elected politicians.' Discuss. (25 marks)

**Topic 2 Parliament**

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 4**, **0 5** and **0 6** which follow.

**House of Lords reform**

The 2007 White Paper, 'The House of Lords Reform', offered the hope that the programme of reform, started a decade earlier, might at last be completed. As 2007 drew to a close, however, it became apparent that this was another false dawn. It was not so much 'the beginning of the end' for Lords reform, but instead the 'end of the beginning' or something worse.

Although many would like to see further changes, there is no consensus on the key questions of what should be done and when. A major concern expressed by many MPs is that a partly elected House of Lords would give the new House a mandate, thereby undermining the primacy (dominance) of the House of Commons. Another is that it could make the new House less likely to scrutinise the Commons effectively. Fears have also been expressed about the practicalities of reform, for example over the election and appointment processes and what should happen to existing *life peers*.

Source: adapted from P FAIRCLOUGH, R KELLY, E MAGEE, *UK Government and Politics: Annual Survey 2008*, reproduced by permission of Philip Allan Updates

- 0 4** Explain the term *life peers* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why a partly elected House of Lords might undermine the primacy (dominance) of the House of Commons. (10 marks)
- 0 6** Discuss the extent to which party control limits the effectiveness of Parliament in performing its main functions. (25 marks)

**Turn over for the next question**

**Turn over ►**

### Topic 3 The Core Executive

Read the extract below and answer questions 

0	7
---	---

, 

0	8
---	---

 and 

0	9
---	---

 which follow.

#### A Prime Minister's department in Whitehall?

After his first term in office, Tony Blair, like some other recent prime ministers, realised that he needed more civil service support. He discussed with the Cabinet Secretary a proposal to turn the *Cabinet Office* into a 'Prime Minister's Department' by incorporating functions and staff from across Whitehall within Number 10.

This proposal did not go down well with either senior civil servants or ministers. Such a move, it was argued, would be a huge constitutional change, would give the proposed new department overwhelming power, and would be seen as a step towards the prime minister becoming presidential, which would be politically unwise.

Blair subsequently settled for a compromise arrangement. This brought together some of the civil servants in the Cabinet Office with those in the Prime Minister's Office and created several new units, such as the Communications and Strategy Unit. This arrangement was designed to give the prime minister both more administrative support and more overall control of government policy making and presentation.

Source: adapted from A SELDON, *Blair Unbound*, Simon & Schuster Ltd, 2007

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 7 |
|---|---|

 Explain the term *Cabinet Office* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 8 |
|---|---|

 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** reasons why some recent prime ministers have been seen as presidential. (10 marks)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 9 |
|---|---|

 'Both in constitutional theory and in practice, ministers rather than civil servants make the key policy decisions within government.' Discuss. (25 marks)

## Topic 4 Multi-level Governance

Read the extract below and answer questions 

1	0
---	---

, 

1	1
---	---

 and 

1	2
---	---

 which follow.

### Elected representatives at different levels of government

The responsibilities of the different levels of government are of major importance in the United Kingdom. While at all levels there are *elected representatives*, their power varies considerably. A criticism of local government, for example, is that it largely follows the orders of central government, with limited scope for councillors to decide on major issues in their own right. With devolved government, a major criticism lies in the inequalities in the representation of citizens from the various nations within the UK, leading some observers to suggest the creation of an elected English Parliament.

The most powerful elected representatives within the UK are found in the Westminster Parliament, where candidates elected by the people consider the electorate's best interests, along with possible consequences, when debating and agreeing the laws that the population must abide by. The only directly elected institution within the European Union (EU) is the European Parliament. However, although a supranational body, it does not hold the same authority as national parliaments because power is shared amongst the institutions of the EU.

Source: adapted from T HOLDEN-ROWLEY, M MITCHELL, *AS Citizenship Studies for AQA*, ISBN 978 0340 958407, Hodder and Stoughton Limited, copyright © 2009, reproduced by permission of Hodder and Stoughton Limited

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 0 |
|---|---|

 Explain the term *elected representatives* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1 |
|---|---|

 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** arguments in favour of the creation of an elected English Parliament. (10 marks)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|

 'Policy making within the European Union (EU) is dominated by the European Commission.' Discuss. (25 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.