



Rewarding Learning
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2008

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit AS 1

assessing

Module 1: The Government and
Politics of Northern Ireland

[ASQ11]

THURSDAY 29 MAY, AFTERNOON



TIME

1 hour.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided. Study the source material provided and answer **both** questions which follow.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 24.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **both** questions.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to study the source material before attempting to answer the questions.

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question in allocating the available examination time.

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Source Material



Source A

The Northern Ireland Assembly

The Assembly engaged in a number of debates – including abortion, equality, expenditure allocations, hospital closures, the Patten Report on policing, flags and transport. It also made provision for ministerial question time on Mondays, when three ministers appear in succession for thirty minutes each to answer oral questions. The committees continue to operate, although still in their infancy and yet to exert a decisive effect upon their departments.

Source: Rick Wilford and Robin Wilson 2002

Source B

Assembly Election Results

	DUP	UUP	Alliance	Others	SDLP	Sinn Fein
Seats won (2007)	36	18	7	3	16	28
Vote share (2007)	30.1%	14.9%	5.2%	8.0%	15.2%	26.2%
Seats won (2003)	30	27	6	3	18	24
Vote share (2003)	25.6%	22.7%	3.7%	7.5%	17.0%	23.5%

Source: www.ark.ac.uk/elections

Questions

- 1 With reference to **Source A** and any other material you have studied, explain the functions of MLAs. [10]
- 2 With reference to **Source B** and any other material you have studied, assess the reasons why the DUP has gained so much support since 1998. [14]

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