



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2016

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit AS 1
The Government and
Politics of Northern Ireland

MV18

[AQ111]

THURSDAY 9 JUNE, AFTERNOON

Time

1 hour 15 minutes, plus your additional time allowance.

Instructions to Candidates

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.

Study the source provided and answer questions **1** and **2** and either **3(a)** or **3(b)**.

Information for Candidates

The total mark for this paper is 50.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in questions **2** and **3**.

Figures in brackets printed at the end of each question indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

Advice to Candidates

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

You are advised to study the source before attempting to answer questions **1** and **2**, and to refer to the source in your answers to these questions.

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(Questions start overleaf)

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow:

Source

The fallout from Sinn Fein's initial refusal to implement welfare reforms and the subsequent budget cuts led the First Minister to admit we need to change. There were daily public rows between ministers because there is no collective responsibility. In Dublin, where coalition government is the norm, Collective Cabinet Responsibility is in the constitution.

The Stormont institutions all too easily lead to ministerial "solo runs" and an inability of the Executive Committee to agree to decisions.

© **Ministers must show some unity** by John McCallister.

Published by Belfast Telegraph, 12 September 2014

- 1** With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **two** reasons for differences within the Executive Committee. [8 marks]

- 2** With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain some of the proposals for reform of the Executive Committee. [16 marks]

3 Either

(a) Assess how successful the Ulster Unionist Party and the SDLP have been in reversing their decline since 2007.
[26 marks]

Or

(b) Assess the reasons why the Alliance Party has continued to struggle since 2007. [26 marks]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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