

Centre No.						Paper Reference	Surname	Initial(s)
Candidate No.						6 4 9 3 / 0 1	Signature	

Paper Reference(s)  
**6493/01**

Examiner's use only

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Team Leader's use only

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# Edexcel GCE

## Government and Politics

### Advanced Subsidiary

### (8067/9067-70)

Unit Test 3: The Changing UK System  
Friday 23 May 2008 – Morning  
Time: 1 hour

Question Number	Leave Blank
1	
2	
Total	

Materials required for examination Nil  
Items included with question papers Nil

#### Instructions to Candidates

In the boxes above, write your centre number, candidate number, your surname, initial(s) and signature. Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2. Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box (☒). If you change your mind, put a line through the box (☒) and then indicate your new question with a cross (☒).

#### Information for Candidates

The marks for individual questions and the parts of questions are shown in round brackets: e.g. (5). All questions carry 50 marks. The total mark for this paper is 50. Any blank pages are indicated.

#### Advice to Candidates

You will be assessed on your ability to organise and present information, ideas, descriptions and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account your use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

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Turn over

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

Question 2 is on page 13.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box (☒).  
If you change your mind, put a line through the box (☒) and then indicate your new question with a cross (☒).

### Question 1

If you choose question 1 put a cross in this box .

Study sources 1 and 2, and answer the questions that follow.

#### Source 1

##### Elections and Electoral Reform

On the flimsy basis of just over one-third support of those who voted, Labour dominates the House of Commons, fuelling charges that a government formed in this way is, in effect, an elected dictatorship.

Labour's claim to a mandate is weak; it has to be set in context. 9,556,183 people voted Labour, fewer than in any post-war election; it represented a lower figure than the so-called disaster that was inflicted on Labour in 1983. A combination of a 61% turnout, the growth of multi-party politics, and the unfairness of the electoral system, combine to mean that no administration since 1929 has been elected by fewer voters than the one elected in 2005.

(Source adapted from: Duncan Watts, *British Government and Politics A Comparative Guide* published by Edinburgh University Press 2006)

#### Source 2

Is it defensible to introduce electoral reform for Scotland, Wales, London and Europe but not for Westminster? Among the benefits of electoral reform are the end of adversarialism in policy-making, bringing UK politics into the modern world. It ends a situation in which governments elected by a minority of voters behave as if they have a mandate to do whatever they choose. It also reduces short-termism in policy-making, and prevents the mismanagement of politics.

(Source adapted from: Stephen Ingle, *The British Party System* (third edition), published by Pinter 2000)



- (a) Using Source 1, why was Labour's claim to a mandate considered to be weak? (5)
  
- (b) Using Source 2, and your own knowledge, what may be the benefits of electoral reform? (10)
  
- (c) Explain the positions adopted by the main UK political parties on electoral reform in recent years. (15)
  
- (d) What are the disadvantages of electoral reform in the UK? (20)

**(Total 50 marks)**

**Q1**



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(b)

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(Total 50 marks)

Q1

OR



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**Question 2**

If you choose question 2 put a cross in this box .

Study the source below, and answer the questions that follow.

**Source 1****Devolution**

We can now make clear-cut assessments of the impact of devolution across the UK. The road has not always been smooth. In Northern Ireland devolution has been suspended for more time than it has been in operation. In England, the rejection of regional devolution in the North East in November 2004 led to the abandonment of plans to extend devolution to other English regions.

Only in Scotland and Wales has devolution bedded down smoothly. People like self-government. We have seen important innovations in policy which challenge, reverse or simply show different priorities from those at Westminster. That is surely what devolution was for. In Scotland, different policies on education, health, care for the elderly and methods of electing local government have been introduced. Wales has demonstrated flexibility over its education and health services.

However, even where devolution is working there is something amiss. There has been remarkably little thinking about devolution as a package of reforms which collectively reshape the UK. The tendency is to think of devolution as a set of separate reforms, each tailored to the needs of a particular part of the UK. There is no clear co-ordination on policy and, as a result, on some issues we do not have the capacity to think UK-wide any more. That could signal trouble. The system works for now, largely because Labour, the governing party who implemented the devolution process, has been in office in Westminster and has wanted the project to succeed. Where problems have arisen they have been managed informally through party channels.

(Source adapted from: *Devolution and Constitutional Change*, an ESRC Research Programme)

- (a) Using the source, why have devolution plans not worked smoothly? (5)
- (b) Using the source, and your own knowledge, where and why has devolution proved to be successful? (10)
- (c) How do the political parties view the devolution process? (15)
- (d) What are the advantages and disadvantages of the devolution process in Scotland and Wales? (20)

(Total 50 marks)

**Q2**



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(d)

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Q2

(Total 50 marks)

**TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50 MARKS**

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