

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

**Edexcel GCE**

# Government and Politics

## Advanced Subsidiary Unit 2: Governing the UK

Tuesday 18 January 2011 – Afternoon  
**Time: 1 hour 20 minutes**

Paper Reference  
**6GP02/01**

**You do not need any other materials.**

Total Marks

### Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **two** questions, **one** from Section A and **one** from Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided  
– *there may be more space than you need.*

### Information

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets  
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- 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.

### Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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**Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.**

**Section B starts on page 14.**

**It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.**

**SECTION A**

**Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.**

**1 House of Commons**

**Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

**Extracts from three days proceedings of the House of Commons**

**January 12, 2010**

- Questions to the Secretary of State for Health
- Third Reading of the *Personal Care at Home Bill*

**January 13, 2010**

- Questions to the Secretary of State for Scotland
- Questions to the Prime Minister
- Opposition Motion presented by the Leader of the Opposition: '*That this House notes with concern the increase in the number of young people not in employment, education or training...[continued]*'
- Report presented by the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs on global security in Afghanistan and Pakistan

**January 14, 2010**

- Public Bill Committee on the Financial Services Bill to consider proposed amendments to clause 26.

Source: [www.parliament.gov.uk](http://www.parliament.gov.uk), January, 2010.

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, describe **two** functions of the House of Commons. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain how the House of Commons can control the power of government. (10)
- (c) To what extent is the House of Commons effective in carrying out its various functions? (25)

**(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)**



## 2 Prime Ministerial Power

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

It is often asserted that 'the British prime minister is as powerful as he or she wants to be'. Margaret Thatcher wanted to be dominant and ensured this by removing her political opponents in the cabinet and replacing them with people she could rely on. Tony Blair similarly strengthened his position by including his closest allies in the cabinet. Prime ministers who want to be dominant will take their prerogative powers and stretch them to the limits. This can also be seen in the area of foreign affairs. Both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown spent much time attempting to take a leading role in world affairs, including conducting wars and negotiating international treaties.

This picture may nevertheless be misleading. There are powerful forces which can be ranged against them. The prime minister's cabinet colleagues can turn against him or her, as occurred with Thatcher in 1990. In the case of Blair, his position was undermined by growing criticism within the party, particularly after the 2003 invasion of Iraq. The media, too, can become hostile. Brown received unfavourable press coverage and he was presented as a weak and indecisive leader. A prime minister's strength also depends on many factors beyond his or her direct control. These include the size of the parliamentary majority and the course of world events.

April, 2010.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, describe **two** limitations on prime ministerial power. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain the prime minister's prerogative powers. (10)
- (c) To what extent can the Prime Minister control the Cabinet? (25)

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(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

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(Total for Section A = 40 marks)

























**SECTION B**

**Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.**

**EITHER**

**3** 'The UK constitution is no longer fit for purpose.' Discuss.

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**(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)**

**OR**

**4** Is the judiciary too powerful, or is it not powerful enough?

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**(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)**

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**(Total for Section B = 40 marks)**





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Lined writing area with horizontal dotted lines.



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**(Total for Question = 40 marks)**

**(Total for Section B = 40 marks)**

**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS**



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