

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**Advanced Subsidiary GCE**

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**2597**

Government of the UK

Wednesday

**11 JANUARY 2006**

Afternoon

1 hour

Additional materials:  
8 page Answer Booklet

**TIME** 1 hour

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- Answer **three** questions. Choose **two** from **Section A** and **one** from **Section B**.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- If you use more than one answer booklet, fasten the booklets together.
- Answers should be written in continuous prose.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer on the front of your answer booklet.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- There are **two** sections in this paper.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of your written communication including clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

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**This question paper consists of 2 printed pages.**

## GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Answer three questions, choosing two from Section A and one from Section B .

## Section A

Answer two questions from this section.

- 1 (a) Describe the main features of the convention of individual ministerial responsibility. [20]  
 (b) Discuss the view that the convention of individual ministerial responsibility is no longer important in British politics. [20]
- 2 (a) Outline the role of the whips in parliament. [20]  
 (b) Discuss the view that MPs should always vote with their party in parliament. [20]
- 3 (a) Outline the process by which members of the higher judiciary are appointed. [20]  
 (b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this process. [20]
- 4 (a) Distinguish between devolution and federalism. [20]  
 (b) Discuss the view that more power should be devolved to the English regions. [20]
- 5 (a) Outline the traditional characteristics of the British civil service. [20]  
 (b) Discuss the view that changes to the civil service have undermined these characteristics.[20]
- 6 (a) Outline the role of the cabinet in the government of the United Kingdom. [20]  
 (b) Discuss the view that the cabinet is now of little practical value. [20]

## Section B

Answer one question from this section.

- 7 Discuss the reasons why some people in Britain are opposed to European Monetary Union (EMU) for political reasons. [20]
- 8 Discuss the view that the creation of a 'federal Europe' is a desirable objective. [20]