

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2597

Government of the UK

Tuesday

6 JUNE 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.

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) Outline the sources of the British constitution. [20]
 (b) Discuss the view that Britain would be better off with a written constitution. [20]
- 2 (a) Describe the main features of judicial review in the United Kingdom. [20]
 (b) Discuss the view that judicial review in the United Kingdom is ineffective. [20]
- 3 (a) Outline the main features of debates and questions in the House of Commons. [20]
 (b) Discuss the view that debates and questions are an ineffective check on the power of the government. [20]
- 4 (a) Outline the convention of collective responsibility. [20]
 (b) Discuss the importance of collective responsibility in the United Kingdom today. [20]
- 5 (a) Describe the role of the higher civil service in British government. [20]
 (b) Discuss the view that higher civil servants should have a greater influence on policy-making. [20]
- 6 (a) Outline the functions of parliament. [20]
 (b) Discuss the view that the House of Lords is of little importance in the British system of government. [20]

Section B

Answer one question from this section.

- 7 Discuss the impact that membership of the European Union has on parliament. [20]
- 8 Discuss the importance of the treaties of Maastricht and Amsterdam. [20]

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