

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE UNIT  
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Politics of the UK

**TUESDAY 5 JUNE 2007**

**2596**

Afternoon  
Time: 1 hour

Additional materials: Answer Booklet (8 pages)



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces on the answer booklet.
- Write your answers, in blue or black ink, in the answer booklet provided.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten these securely to the answer booklet.
- Answers should be written in continuous prose.
- You must use your own knowledge and the source material in your answers.

**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**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication including clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

**POLITICS OF THE UK**

Read the source material and answer **all** the questions.

**Source A**

Pressure groups are widely regarded as essential to a democracy, and cause groups such as the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have reported memberships in excess of one million. However, some groups are also seen as an obstacle to good government, and sectional groups are sometimes perceived as a threat to the public interest.

**Source B**

The Human Rights Act of 1998 brought most of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law, making it more possible for civil and political rights to be enforced in UK courts. For example, Article 14 prohibits various forms of discrimination. Pressure groups such as Liberty welcomed the Act but more recently concerns have been raised by Conservatives worried about a compensation culture and some so-called rights.

Original material

- 1 (i) Define the term pressure group. [5]  
(ii) Using examples other than those in the sources above, explain the difference between cause and sectional groups. [5]
- 2 How does the UK government seek to limit sex, race and disability discrimination? [20]
- 3 Assess the merits and demerits of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law. [30]
- 4 Critically examine the view that pressure groups have too much influence. [40]

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