

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Government of the UK

THURSDAY 10 JANUARY 2008

2597

Afternoon
Time: 1 hour

Additional materials: Answer Booklet (8 pages)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Write your answers, in blue or black ink, in the Answer Booklet provided.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **three** questions.
- Answers should be written in continuous prose.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten these securely to the Answer Booklet.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer on the front of your Answer Booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **120**.
- 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.

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Answer **three** questions.

- 1 (a) Explain what is meant by 'statute law' and 'convention'. [12]
(b) Discuss the view that statute law is the most important source of the British constitution. [28]
- 2 (a) Explain what is meant by 'the backbenches' and 'the opposition' in the House of Commons. [12]
(b) Discuss the view that the opposition plays no useful role in the House of Commons. [28]
- 3 (a) Outline the role of higher civil servants in a government department. [12]
(b) Discuss the view that higher civil servants have a major influence on policy-making. [28]
- 4 (a) Outline the main features of judicial review in the United Kingdom. [12]
(b) Discuss the view that judicial review is of little importance in the British system of government. [28]
- 5 (a) Outline the aims and purpose of the European Union. [12]
(b) Discuss the view that the Maastricht Treaty has been the most important development in the European Union since 1990. [28]

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