

Wednesday 23 January 2013 – Afternoon

AS GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F852/01/I Contemporary Government of the UK

INSERT

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- You must use your own knowledge and the sources in this Insert to answer Question 1.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- This document consists of **2** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Sources for Question 1

Read the sources below and use them when answering Question 1.

Source A

MPs and Peers

There have been many criticisms of the membership of both the Commons and the Lords and many proposals for reform. Women-only shortlists and the Conservatives' A-List have been some of the attempts to change the sort of person who becomes an MP. The expenses scandal also fuelled the demand for change. The removal of most of the hereditary peerage and the new appointments process for the House of Lords has led to changes in the membership of the Upper House. However there is still the strong feeling that neither House really represents the citizens of the UK properly. Membership of governing institutions should resemble those they govern.

Source B

Membership of the House of Commons and the House of Lords in 2011

	House of Commons	House of Lords
% of women	22	20
% educated at independent schools	35	62
% university graduates	90	91

Source C

Reforming the House of Commons

Much more radical reform of the House of Commons is now needed. To get good people into parliament, MPs have to be given more substantial roles. The authority of the whips needs reducing and backbenchers need to be given real power to challenge the executive and look after the interests of their constituents.



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