



GCE AS/A level

1402/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP2
Governing Modern Wales

A.M. THURSDAY, 16 January 2014

1 hour 30 minutes

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010001

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer any **TWO** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The maximum mark for this paper is 80.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that credit will be given for reference to concepts and examples, where relevant, from the politics and government of Wales.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in answers that involve extended writing (part (c) questions).

Answer two questions.

Each question is worth 40 marks.

1. The British Constitution

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

The British Constitution is thought of as an uncodified but partly written constitution, and draws on a variety of sources. Chief amongst these are statute law, which is made by Parliament, *case / common law*, conventions and various works of authority.

5 The absence of a codified document implies that the legislature enjoys sovereign or unchallengeable authority. It has the right to make or unmake any law whatsoever, no body having the right to override or set aside its laws. In theory, bodies such as the UK Parliament or the Knesset in Israel are able to function as ultimate arbiters of the constitution: the constitution means what they say it means.

Extract adapted from *Politics* by Andrew Heywood, 2007

- (a) What is meant by the term *case / common law* (line 3)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the importance of statute law as a source of the British Constitution. [10]
- (c) Analyse the view that Britain does not need to adopt a codified constitution. [25]

2. Parliamentary Structures in Wales and the UK

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

New laws for Wales

The Welsh Assembly was given new law-making powers in a *referendum held in March 2011*. Twelve months later it still had not passed any new laws.

5 Plaid Cymru's parliamentary leader, Elfyn Llwyd, said the Labour-run Welsh government wasn't solely responsible for the lack of legislation in that time. "The powers are there but there's no real thought about what to do with them," he said. "I think actually that's the biggest problem in Welsh civic life at the moment."

He said all parties should be thinking about what they are able to do now that they were not able to do before, "We (Plaid Cymru) are as guilty as anyone in not coming up with creative thinking, but for a government to be stagnant is worse."

10 Alternatively, it is possible that Welsh politicians have discovered that it is, after all, difficult to legislate away poverty or ill health.

Extract adapted from www.bbc.co.uk, February 2012

- (a) What is meant by a *referendum held in March 2011* (lines 1-2)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the current difficulties of making laws in Wales. [10]
- (c) Critically assess the effectiveness of Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales in performing the role of scrutiny of their executives. [25]

3. The Core Executives in Wales and Westminster

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Cabinet Committees

The cabinet as such has no legal powers; powers are vested in Secretaries of State. However, it has *collective responsibility* to Parliament. Peacetime cabinets have varied in size. Decisions about size and composition of cabinets have to balance the needs of sometimes speedy decision-making against those of deliberation and inclusiveness.

5 Cabinets can be too large to be a useful decision-making group.

The system of cabinet committees is a practical response to the increasing workload of the cabinet. A number of critics have seen the development of cabinet committees as a means for the Prime Minister to bypass the full cabinet and expand his or her own power.

Extract adapted from *Politics UK*, Jones, Kavanagh, Moran and Norton, 2007

- (a) What is meant by the term *collective responsibility* (line 2)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the roles of cabinet committees. [10]
- (c) Analyse whether the roles of the UK Prime Minister and Wales' First Minister have become presidential. [25]

4. Multi-level Governance in Wales and the UK

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

The European Union – A unique institution

The EU is a supranational and intergovernmental union of 27 states and it is an economic and political organisation. It is one of the largest economic and political entities in the world, having a total population of 494 million.

- 5 Today the EU is difficult to characterise. It has elements of both a state and an international organisation, *EU member states* have transferred considerable sovereignty to it, but in legal terms the member states remain the masters – additional powers can only be transferred to the EU with the agreement through international treaties of the member states. Decisions in many policy areas require broad agreement and compromise, bargaining amongst the leaders of the member states.

Extract adapted from *AQA Government and Politics*, Duncan Watts, 2008

- (a) What is meant by *EU member states* (line 5)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how the EU is both a supranational and an intergovernmental union. [10]
- (c) 'The European Council of Ministers is the real decision-making body of the European Union.' Discuss. [25]

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