

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

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Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 25 May 2023

Morning (Time: 1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper
reference

8PL0/02

Politics

Advanced Subsidiary

PAPER 2: UK Government

You must have:

Source booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- There are **three** sections and you must answer **four** questions:
 - in Section A answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** 1(b)
 - in Section B answer **both** Question 2 **and** Question 3
 - in Section C answer **either** Question 4(a) **or** 4(b).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
 - *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
 - *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b).

EITHER

1 (a) Describe the role of backbench MPs. (10)

OR

(b) Describe the composition of the executive. (10)

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 1(a) Question 1(b)

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(Total for Question 1 = 10 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS



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P 7 0 9 3 4 R A 0 5 1 6

SECTION B

Answer BOTH Question 2 AND Question 3.

Read Source 1 on page 2 of the source booklet before answering Question 2 in the space provided.

2 Using the source, explain the role of the House of Lords in improving legislation.

*In your response you must use knowledge and understanding to analyse points that are **only** in the source. You will **not** be rewarded for introducing any additional points that are not in the source.*

(10)

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(Total for Question 2 = 10 marks)



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Read Sources 2 and 3 on page 3 of the source booklet before answering Question 3 in the space provided.

3 Using the sources, assess whether or not devolution has been a success.

*In your response you must compare and contrast **similarities** and **differences** and consider competing points by analysing and evaluating them. Only analysis and evaluation based on knowledge from the sources will gain credit.*

(10)

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(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS



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SECTION C

Answer EITHER Question 4(a) OR Question 4(b).

EITHER

4 (a) 'The UK constitution should be codified.'

How far do you agree that the UK constitution should be codified?

In your answer you must:

- refer to **both** the current uncodified nature of the UK constitution, and codification
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding of the study from Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

OR

(b) 'The House of Commons is able to exert significant control over the Prime Minister.'

How far do you agree that the House of Commons is able to exert significant control over the Prime Minister?

In your answer you must:

- refer to **one** pre-1997 Prime Minister and **one** post-1997 Prime Minister
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding of the study from Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: **Question 4(a)** **Question 4(b)**

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(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS



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Source Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Source 1 is adapted from the UK Parliament website and considers the impact of the House of Lords Act, 1999.

Source 1

Since the passage of the House of Lords Act 1999, no party has had a majority in the Lords. Over 180 crossbenchers have no party whip, and the chamber is known for its independence of thought and expertise. The coalition government, 2010–15, was defeated seven times in the Commons, but a hundred times in the Lords.

Although governments can reverse Lords' defeats in the Commons, the negative publicity sometimes makes them accept amendments. Under the Salisbury Convention, the Lords cannot challenge legislation arising from the manifesto of the winning party, although neither the 2010 nor 2017 elections produced a single party majority government.

The Lords has fewer powers than the Commons and is viewed as a revising chamber. Its main functions are to make laws, to check and challenge the actions of government and to provide a forum of independent expertise. With no constituents to represent, peers spend 60% of their time on legislation, with additional committee work. Debates are often high quality, including many former politicians and experts in their fields.

The Lords provides important checks on a government with a large Commons majority.

(Source: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/>)



Sources 2 and 3 consider whether devolution in the UK has been a success.

Source 2

Devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is established as a permanent feature of our constitution. There is no great demand for devolution to be abolished and no future government is likely to win a referendum for such change.

In Wales, almost two-thirds of voters voted in favour of further legislative powers for the Welsh Parliament. In Northern Ireland, the repeated collapse of power-sharing has resulted in periods of 'direct rule'. However, the devolved government remains by far the most popular constitutional option.

Devolution has allowed greater democratic expression. Each nation can make policy and spending decisions in line with local preferences.

It has created opportunities for greater policy and public service development, providing benefits from the devolved governments allowing them to learn from each other.

Source 3

Devolved institutions have added another, effectively permanent, layer of government. This has created significant and ongoing costs for taxpayers. It has allowed for policies to be developed closer to 'the people'. However, the lack of an English Parliament has led to an inequality of representation across the four nations.

The Northern Irish Assembly has been suspended several times due to a collapse of the power-sharing executive. These periods of 'direct rule' from Westminster undermine the whole point of devolution.

In terms of diverging policy and the quality of public services, it's less clear that devolution has been positive. In Wales, in particular, some significant health and education outcomes have fallen behind those in England.

(Sources 2 & 3 based on: <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/devolution-at-20>)

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