

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 22 May 2025

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). Begin your answer on page 3.

EITHER

- 1 (a) Describe, using examples, the features of the Royal Prerogative. (10)

OR

- (b) Describe the role and composition of the Supreme Court. (10)

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(Total for Question 1 = 10 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS



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SECTION B BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.



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 Source 1, explain the significance of the Salisbury Convention for the House of Lords.

*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)



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

- 3 Using Sources 2 and 3, assess whether the uneven nature of devolution is a major problem.

*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 the knowledge from the sources will gain credit.*

(10)



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(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS



SECTION C

Answer EITHER Question 4(a) OR Question 4(b). Begin your answer on page 11.

EITHER

4 (a) 'The Prime Minister's power depends largely on the Cabinet.'

How far do you agree that the Prime Minister's power depends largely on the Cabinet?

In your answer you must:

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

(30)

OR

(b) 'Parliament is no longer sovereign.'

How far do you agree that Parliament is no longer sovereign?

In your answer you must:

- refer to **both** Parliament and other possible locations of sovereignty
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding from the study of Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

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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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Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ►

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Sources for use with SECTION B.

Source 1 is taken from the House of Lords library. The source considers how the Salisbury Convention has evolved since 1945.

Source 1

The Salisbury Convention implies that the House of Lords does not block government bills proposed in their manifesto: it is a convention of our uncodified constitution. A joint committee in 2006 examined the convention and considered its codification. Codification of the convention into Statute law may define the role of the Lords in relation to challenging all government legislation. However, the committee rejected moves to codify the convention arguing that it would give the Lords more power and stated the view that:

“...to reject bills on a regular basis would be inconsistent with the Lords’ role as the revising chamber”.

Professor Meg Russell argued that in practice the House of Lords typically acts in a way that respects the superiority of the Commons, so no action to the convention is needed.

However, the 2010 and 2017 general elections produced hung parliaments. This led to the question whether the Salisbury Convention applied to a coalition or minority government.

Additionally, since 2019, there have been changes of government with three Prime Ministers in one year. Thus, disagreement about the convention arose, with some people asking whether the Lords in these circumstances has the right to ignore the Salisbury Convention.

(Source: © House of Lords 2023)

Sources 2 and 3 are adapted from the publication 'A framework for reviewing the UK constitution' published by the IfG/Bennett Institute Review of the UK Constitution. It raises questions, asking if an uneven set of devolved powers across the UK is a major problem.

Source 2

Uneven devolution in the UK causes no problems

Devolution has been a success across the UK because it allows unity but recognises different cultures. Devolution is, and should continue to be, uneven and varied across all areas. It is a process emerging at its own pace. No major political party wishes to reverse the process. Devolution is embedded in Scotland and Wales – both of which have had their devolved powers increased. Devolution has been challenging in Northern Ireland; not because of the principle of devolution, but rather due to past conflicts. Handing out regional power across England is working and is a gradual process, operating in partnership with differing local communities. The process of devolution is enhancing and developing democracy across the entire UK.

Source 3

Uneven devolution causes problems

All major political parties are now committed to devolution and do not wish to see any reversal of the process. However, to say that devolution has been a complete success is far from the truth. It is riddled with faults and inconsistencies. The uneven nature of devolution is not fair. Why should different parts of the UK have different powers? The unequal nature of devolution is not improving democracy, it is preventing democracy. The worst aspect of all this is how England has been treated. England has been given different types of regionalism, meaning different things in different parts of England. No region in England has any legislative powers. Furthermore, the public in England do not desire regionalism or devolution. The problems that devolution causes will destroy the unity of the United Kingdom.

(Sources 2 and 3 adapted from: <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/framework-reviewing-uk-constitution.pdf>)

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