



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2160U10-1



S25-2160U10-1

THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2025 – AFTERNOON

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – AS unit 1
Government in Wales and the United Kingdom

1 hour 30 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Section A: Answer **both** Question 1 **and** Question 2.

Section B: Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Section C: Answer **two** questions from Question 5, Question 6 **or** Question 7.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example

0	1
---	---

.

Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

The quality of your written communication, including appropriate use of punctuation and grammar, will be assessed in your answers to Section C questions.

Section A

Answer both questions from this section.

In your answer credit will be given for accurate knowledge and understanding.

0	1
---	---

Using examples, briefly describe the role of peers in the UK Parliament. [6]

0	2
---	---

Using examples, briefly describe works of constitutional authority relating to the UK Constitution. [6]

Section B

Answer one question from this section.

In your answer credit will be given for accurate knowledge and understanding and also your ability to interpret and apply political information.

Either,

0	3
---	---

Read the extract below and answer the question that follows.

Extract A

The civil service: what is its role?

The UK civil service is permanent and politically impartial. Civil servants continue in post when governments change and are forbidden from offering political advice to ministers – a role performed instead by special advisers.

However, the civil service is not independent. Its fundamental role is to serve actively the government of the day in policy development and delivery. This does not simply mean following ministers' instructions: good governance requires ministers to draw on a range of evidence that is objective and balanced before making decisions. Hence, civil servants provide such advice as the pros and cons of policy options – even if that sometimes contains unwelcome messages. Civil servants also translate policy decisions into action, implementing the policy direction set by ministers.

[Extract adapted from "The civil service: what is its role?", from UCL's *The Constitution Unit Blog*, 11 July 2023 <https://constitution-unit.com/2023/07/11/the-civil-service-what-is-its-role/> – accessed 17 October 2024]

Using Extract A, as well as your own knowledge, explain the impact of the civil service on the way the UK is governed. [24]

Or,

0	4
---	---

Read the extract below and answer the question that follows.

Extract B Mark Drakeford, in a speech made in June 2021. At the time the speech was made, Mr Drakeford was the First Minister of Wales.

First Minister sets out ideas to strengthen ‘fragile’ Union

“Wales’s future is best served by having strong devolution, so decisions about Wales are made in Wales, and by being a strong and equal partner in a revitalised United Kingdom.

For this to happen, the way the Union works must change. And the need for change is urgent, the Union has never been this fragile. If matters continue in their current vein, the case for the break-up of the UK will only increase.

Too often we see the UK government act in an aggressively unilateral way, claiming to act on behalf of the whole UK, but without regard for the status of the nations and the democratic mandates of their government.

It’s time for relationships to be reset.”

[Extract adapted from “First Minister sets out ideas to strengthen ‘fragile’ union”, a Welsh Government press release, 29 June 2021, <https://www.gov.wales/first-minister-sets-out-ideas-to-strengthen-fragile-union> – accessed 17 October 2024]

Using Extract B, as well as your own knowledge, explain the impact of devolution on the United Kingdom. [24]

Section C

Answer two questions from this section.

In your answer credit will be given for accurate knowledge and understanding, and also your ability to analyse and evaluate.

0	5
---	---

“Welsh Government is not effectively scrutinised by the Welsh Parliament.”
To what extent do you agree with this statement? [22]

0	6
---	---

“Backbench MPs have significant power within the UK Parliament.” Discuss. [22]

0	7
---	---

“The rule of law is the most important constitutional principle in the UK.” Discuss. [22]

END OF PAPER

BLANK PAGE