



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2160U10-1



THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2023 – 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.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

Section A: Answer **both** questions.

Section B: Answer **one** question from either question 3 **or** 4.

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

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 questions 5, 6 and 7.

Section A

In Section A, you must answer **both** questions 1 and 2.

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

1. Using examples, briefly explain the role of Collective Responsibility within the Cabinet of **either** Wales or the UK. [6]
2. Using examples, briefly outline the main features of an uncodified constitution. [6]

Section B

In Section B, you must answer **one** question.

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

Either,

3. Read the extract below and answer the question that follows.

Extract A

The role of peers in the House of Lords

Members spend more than half their time in the House considering bills (draft laws). All bills have to be considered by both Houses of Parliament before they can become law. During several stages, members examine each bill, line by line, before it becomes an Act of Parliament (actual law). Many of these bills affect our everyday lives, covering areas such as welfare, health and education.

Members use their extensive individual experience to investigate public policy. Much of this work is done in select committees – small groups appointed to consider specific policy areas.

Members scrutinise the work of the government during question time and debates in the chamber, where government ministers must respond. In the 2016–17 session, members held the government to account with 7,380 oral and written questions and 154 debates on topical issues and public policy.

[Extract adapted from <https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/work-of-the-house-of-lords/what-the-lords-does/>]

Using Extract A as well as your own knowledge, compare and contrast the roles and influence of backbench MPs and peers in the parliament of the UK. [24]

Or,

4. Read the extract below and answer the question that follows.

Extract B

The main principles of the British Constitution.

Parliamentary sovereignty is commonly regarded as the defining principle of the British Constitution. This is the ultimate law-making power vested in a democratically elected Parliament to create or abolish any law.

Other core principles of the British Constitution include the rule of law, the separation of government into executive, legislative, and judicial branches, the accountability of ministers to parliament, and the independence of the judiciary.

Recently, there has been a discussion about the possibility of a codified constitution in the UK. But the difficulties of agreeing a written constitution should not be underestimated, and the democratic benefits of a written constitution should not be exaggerated.

[Extract adapted from 'What is the UK Constitution?' accessed from <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/what-uk-constitution/what-uk-constitution>, September 2022]

Using Extract B as well as your own knowledge, explain how the principles of the British Constitution relate to the way the UK is governed today.

[24]

Section C

In Section C, you must answer **two** questions.

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

5. 'The Supreme Court has improved the way the UK is governed.' Discuss. [22]
6. Assess where power actually lies in the core executive of the UK. [22]
7. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Welsh Parliament (Senedd Cymru) in its roles of legislation and scrutiny. [22]

END OF PAPER