



GCE AS/A level

1402/01



S15-1402-01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP2
Governing Modern Wales

P.M. THURSDAY, 4 June 2015

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.

A written constitution for Wales?

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Speaking to a conference in Cardiff Bay, First Minister Carwyn Jones has declared that the UK has changed beyond recognition over the past 15 years. Consequently, a written constitution is now needed to define and secure the relationship between the *devolved administrations* and UK institutions. He said that a written constitution is needed to entrench the position and role of the National Assembly and to safeguard it from abolition by Westminster. "Is it right for the UK Parliament to be able to abolish the National Assembly?" he asked. However unlikely that prospect might be, he said the possibility could not be right. "We need the protection an entrenched written constitution would provide us."

*Extract adapted from A written constitution for Wales?,
by John Osmond, 11 April 2012, www.opendemocracy.net*

- (a) What is meant by the term '*devolved administrations*' (line 4)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain why entrenchment of a constitution provides protection. [10]
- (c) Analyse the extent to which the current British constitution needs to be changed. [25]

2. Parliamentary Structures in Wales and the UK

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

Select Committees and Scrutiny

5 Parliament is not only a legislative institution. A good deal of its work is focused on scrutiny of government policy and actions. The Select Committees are significant as they are comprised of *backbench MPs* who examine government policy, expenditure and administration, hold inquiries and take evidence, and publish reports that often provide detailed criticism of government. The Select Committee system has grown more influential and effective in recent years.

*Extract adapted from Parliament: an effective check on coalition government?,
by Alexandra Kelso, Politics Review, November 2012*

- (a) What is meant by the term '*backbench MPs*' (line 3)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain why Select Committees are important in Parliament. [10]
- (c) Critically assess how effectively the UK Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales perform the function of representation. [25]

3. The Core Executives in Wales and Westminster

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

The Quad

When he came to power in 2010 David Cameron suggested that the coalition would see a return to cabinet government. In reality, many commentators suggest that Cameron has had to resort to the traditional device of an *inner cabinet*.

These are some main features of 'the Quad':

- 5
- The Quad decides all major items of policy.
 - The Quad is half blue (David Cameron and George Osborne are Conservatives) and half yellow (Nick Clegg and Danny Alexander are Liberal Democrats).
 - The Quad is half Treasury. Even though the Treasury has had 2 Cabinet positions since 1961 (more than any other department), it has always been outnumbered by the spending departments in Cabinet. Now it has half the number of people whenever major decisions are taken by the Quad.

*Extract adapted from UK Government and Politics Annual Update 2013,
published by Philip Allan*

- (a) What is meant by the term '*inner cabinet*' (line 3)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain why the Treasury is important in the Core Executive. [10]
- (c) 'The Prime Minister is still the most important player in the UK core executive.' Discuss. [25]

4. Multi-level Governance in Wales and the UK

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

Democratic deficit and the EU

5 As a member of the EU, Britain has given up certain national powers. However, Britain carries considerable weight in the EU. It is the third biggest economy and is the third most populous member of the club. The lack of democratic accountability is often given as a reason for Britain's withdrawal from the EU. However, the role of the elected European Parliament has grown substantially in recent years. Moreover, criticism of the unelected *Council of Ministers* overlooks the point that this body is made up of ministers from elected governments of member states and is in this sense no more undemocratic than the British cabinet.

*Extract adapted from Should the UK remain in the EU?,
by Kay Moxon and Ian MacEwan, Politics Review, September 2012*

- (a) What is meant by the term '*Council of Ministers*' (line 6)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain how the EU is democratic. [10]
- (c) 'The principle of subsidiarity is no longer important or relevant in the EU.' Discuss. [25]

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