



GCE AS/A level

1402/01



S16-1402-01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP2

Governing Modern Wales

P.M. THURSDAY, 9 June 2016

1 hour 30 minutes

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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.

Towards a new Bill of Rights?

The Human Rights Act legislation of 1998 (HRA) has not been popular with everyone. Some have branded it a “criminals’ charter”, following suggestions that it has been abused. Some have argued that the HRA does little to protect historic constitutional rights and liberties, such as the right to trial by jury or the right to free speech.

5 In 2007 the Labour Government began to consult on developing the HRA to create a Bill of Rights. Other political parties have also called for a Bill of Rights. Consequently, each party has its own ideas of what a Bill of Rights should contain.

10 A Bill of Rights might also be brought forward together with a new written constitution. This could *entrench* constitutional legislation and allow the courts to rule legislation unlawful.

[Extract adapted from www.parliament.uk]

- (a) What is meant by the term ‘*entrench*’ (line 9)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain why some people want to replace the Human Rights Act with a Bill of Rights. [10]
- (c) Assess whether the uncodified UK constitution protects British citizens sufficiently. [25]

2. Parliamentary Structures in Wales and the UK

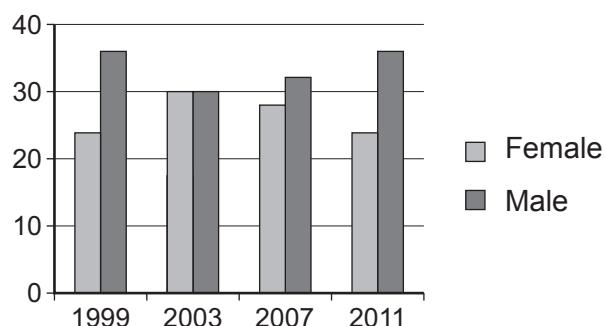
Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

The Composition of the Fourth National Assembly for Wales (elected in 2011)

The 2011 election resulted in 23 first time members of the Assembly. The Fourth Assembly has seen a fall in female representation to the same level as that of 1999 with 24 female and 36 male Assembly Members. (The 2003 election delivered an exact 50:50 split between women and men leading to the Assembly being hailed as the world leader in equal representation.)

5

Male/Female split following each Assembly election



[Extract adapted from *The composition of the Fourth Assembly*, Dr. Alys Thomas and Martin Jennings, Research Service, National Assembly for Wales (<http://www.assemblywales.org>)]

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- (a) What is meant by the term 'National Assembly for Wales' (title)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain how the National Assembly for Wales is socially representative of the people of Wales. [10]
- (c) 'Legislating is a function that is not performed effectively by either the UK Parliament or the National Assembly for Wales.' Discuss. [25]

3. The Core Executives in Wales and Westminster

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

Prime Ministerial power – has it changed since 1997?

Prime Ministers have a set of institutional power resources that make them pre-eminent within their government. The Prime Minister is the legal head of the government, and exercises the *Royal Prerogative powers*. He or she controls the government's news media operation. This alone helps to distance Prime Ministers away from their cabinet colleagues.

5 However, if these institutional powers are reinforced by personal power resources, then he or she will be predominant as well as pre-eminent.

[Extract adapted from *Prime Ministerial power – has it changed since 1997?*
Richard Heffernan, Politics Review, November 2013]

- (a) What is meant by the term '*Royal Prerogative powers*' (line 3)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain why Prime Ministers are more powerful than individual cabinet ministers. [10]
- (c) Evaluate the view that the Cabinet is the least powerful part of the core executive in the UK and Wales. [25]

4. Multi-level Governance in Wales and the UK

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

Local Government

The lowest level within the UK's system of *multi-level governance* is local government. This consists of the co-ordination and provision of a wide range of public services by local authorities, including schools, social services and planning. Under the UK's unitary constitution, the roles and responsibilities of local government are determined by central government. However, the UK has a long and impressive tradition of local democracy, at the heart of which are elected local councillors. This implies a measure of local autonomy and accountability.

The 1980s saw a series of clashes between local government and the Thatcher government, elected in 1979, which was committed to 'rolling back the state' and reducing the power and independence of local government.

[Extract adapted from Essentials of UK Politics, Andrew Heywood, 2008]

- (a) What is meant by the term '*multi-level governance*' (line 1)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain the relationship between local and central government in the UK. [10]
- (c) 'The main problem facing local government is that its role and purpose are unclear.' Discuss. [25]

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