



GCE AS/A LEVEL – NEW

2160U10-1



S19-2160U10-1

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

FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2019 – AFTERNOON

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 importance of Statute Law within the British Constitution. [6]
2. Using examples, describe the main features of the plenary session in the National Assembly for Wales. [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

Identikit of an ideal cabinet minister

- Sets clear departmental goals.
- Makes decisions; has good judgment.
- Accepts the doctrine of individual ministerial responsibility.
- Can take advice and learn from senior civil servants.
- Has personal resilience and stamina.
- Copes well and maintains good relationships under pressure.
- Knows how to motivate junior ministers and civil servants.
- Has authority within Government, Parliament/Assembly and externally with the media and the public.

[Extract adapted from The challenge of being a minister, report of The Institute for Government, (2011)]

Using Extract A as well as your own knowledge, compare and contrast the roles of cabinet ministers with those of civil servants. [24]

Or,

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

Extract B

Judicial Independence

The independence of judges in the UK is protected in several ways: judges are independent of the executive and the legislature and do not get involved in political debate. Apart from modern rules relating to age and health, judges of the High Court and above cannot be removed from office without a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament. Judges are almost entirely immune from the risk of being sued or prosecuted for what they do in their capacity as a judge.

The Constitutional Reform Act 2005, which came into force in April 2006, considerably modified the role of the Lord Chancellor and in so doing, strengthened the independence of the Judiciary.

[Extract adapted from the website of politics.co.uk, accessed 2018]

Using Extract B as well as your own knowledge, explain how the main features of the Judiciary of the UK connect to the political independence of the Judiciary. [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. Assess the extent to which devolution has improved the governance of the United Kingdom. [22]
6. Assess the extent to which parliamentary sovereignty is the most important principle of the British Constitution. [22]
7. 'Prime Ministerial power is greater than the power of the Cabinet.' Analyse and evaluate this statement. [22]

END OF PAPER