

AS POLITICS

Government and Politics of the UK

Friday 17 May 2019

Afternoon

Time allowed: 3 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **7151**.
- Answer questions from both sections:
 - in Section **A**, answer questions 1, 2, 3 and **either** question 4 **or** question 5
 - in Section **B**, answer questions 6, 7, 8 and **either** question 9 **or** question 10.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Do **not** tear out any part of the book. All work must be handed in.
- If you use more than one book, check that you have written the information required on each book.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 98.

Section A – The Government of the UK

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3.

0	1
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Explain, with examples, the significance of statute law as a source of the UK constitution. **[6 marks]**

0	2
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Explain, with examples, the convention of individual ministerial responsibility. **[6 marks]**

Read the extracts below and answer question 3 that follows.

Extract 1

The extract below is adapted from an article in the opinion section of the Daily Telegraph, a right-wing newspaper, regarding reform of the House of Lords.

The House of Lords is working fine – don't fix it

The upper chamber contains a very significant body of expertise – men and women appointed for outstanding contributions to science, the arts, commerce and so on – that the lower chamber cannot match. The Lords are there to act as a check on MPs' desire to pass laws that may be badly thought out, or which fail to address the problems they are meant to solve. The biggest objection to the Lords is that it is not elected – but the electorate itself does not seem to be bothered by that fact. There are, however, many reasons for thinking that a wholly elected second chamber would perform their role less effectively than our current peers. The risk is that it would become a mere echo chamber for the Commons, blandly endorsing its legislative programme. If it tried to impose a programme of its own, it would make a direct challenge to the sovereignty of the Commons – which the present unelected body does not.

Extract 2

The extract below is from a statement made to the House of Commons by Nick Clegg (leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister 2010–2015) confirming the withdrawal of the House of Lords Reform Bill.

Nick Clegg's House of Lords Statement

I support an elected House of Lords because I believe that those who make the laws of the land should be elected by those who have to obey the laws of the land. That is democracy – and it is what people rightly expect from their politics in the 21st Century. When the Liberal Democrats came into Government, I knew that creating a democratic Lords would not be straightforward. This cause has long been blocked by an establishment resistant to change and by the vested interests who benefit from maintaining the power of political patronage, while keeping the power of people out.

0	3
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Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments presented in the above extracts on House of Lords reform.

[12 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Answer **either** question 4 **or** question 5.

In your answer you should draw on material from across the whole range of your course of study in politics.

Either

0 4

'Judges have become too powerful since 1997.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

Or

0 5

'Devolution has begun a process of the break-up of the United Kingdom.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

Section B – The Politics of the UK

Answer questions 6, 7 and 8.

0	6
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Explain, with examples, the main powers of the European Parliament.

[6 marks]

0	7
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Explain, with examples, the significance of class as a factor in voting behaviour.

[6 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Read the extracts below and answer question 8 that follows.

Extract 3

The extract below is adapted from a report from the Politico website (a non-partisan politics and news organisation) of Jeremy Corbyn's closing speech at the 2017 Labour Party Conference.

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Extract 4

The extract below written in January 2018 is adapted from the opinion pages of the Observer (a centre-left newspaper) in an article written by journalist Andrew Rawnsley.

Momentum may be tempted to pursue a purge of Labour MPs, but that would be both difficult and risky

Absolute control of the Labour Party still eludes Jeremy Corbyn and his allies. Most Labour councillors are not Corbynites. The party's most prominent mayors – Andy Burnham in Manchester and Sadiq Khan in London – are not Corbynites. The majority of Labour MPs are not Corbynite. Most Labour MPs are some variety of social democrat. They do not cite Marxist theorists with approval. Many Labour MPs think the party could have done better at last year's election under a leader who aroused less distrust among centrist, working-class and older voters. They worry that there will be a cap on the party's support so long as he or anyone of his ideological flavour is in charge. Quite a lot of Labour MPs think it is entirely possible that their party will win the next election – and then preside over such an economic disaster that it will ruin Labour's reputation with the electorate for a generation.

0	8
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Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments presented in the above extracts concerning the extent of change to the ideology of the Labour Party under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn.

[12 marks]

Answer **either** question 9 **or** question 10.

In your answer you should draw on material from across the whole range of your course of study in politics.

Either

0 9

'There is a participation crisis in British politics.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

Or

1 0

'Pressure groups undermine rather than enhance representative democracy.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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