

A-level POLITICS

Paper 1 Government and politics of the UK

Tuesday 23 May 2023

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 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 **7152/1**.
- Answer **all** questions from Section **A** and Section **B**.
- Answer **one** question from Section **C**.
- 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 answer 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 77.

Section A – Short Questions

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3.

- 0 1** Explain and analyse three ways in which the results of elections have an impact on the types of government formed in the UK. **[9 marks]**
- 0 2** Explain and analyse three ways in which rights are protected in the UK. **[9 marks]**
- 0 3** Explain and analyse three methods used by UK pressure groups to achieve their aims. **[9 marks]**

Section B – Extract Question

Read the extracts below and answer question 4 that follows.

The roles and influence of parliamentary select committees

Extract 1

Select committees often show a more positive side of Parliament

At a time when politics can feel fractious and tense, select committees show a more positive side of Parliament. Select committees are where MPs sit around a table, engaged on a joint enterprise and are at their best when party politics is largely left to one side. Departmental committees mirror each government department, and other committees consider wider issues across government.

Select committees hold the government and others to account, propose policy solutions to difficult issues, and listen to a range of voices to inform debate. Powerful industry leaders have at times been called to account. Select committees can have a major impact on government policy.

There is also the Liaison Committee, which is perhaps best known for its regular evidence sessions between the prime minister and select committee chairs.

Extract taken from an article in *PoliticsHome*, January 2019, written by Sarah Wollaston, Chair of the Liaison Committee. Sarah Wollaston is a GP and was an MP between 2010–19. *PoliticsHome* is an online news source in Parliament.

Extract 2

Prime Minister accused of avoiding scrutiny after postponing select committee appearance

Boris Johnson has pulled out of a scheduled appearance before the Commons Liaison Committee, saying he has to “focus on delivering Brexit”.

Dr Wollaston, Chair of the Liaison Committee, accused the PM of refusing to face detailed scrutiny from select committee chairs. It was the third time the prime minister had cancelled. She also raised the issue in the Commons, where she was joined by other committee chairs, including Labour MP Yvette Cooper, in accusing him of avoiding accountability.

Conservative MP Sir Patrick McLoughlin, a member of the Liaison Committee, defended the prime minister, saying he “is held to account in this chamber by all members of Parliament”. Another Conservative MP, Steve Baker, said it was a “profound injustice” that some MPs were able to keep their “high office” in the select committee system despite abandoning their party.

Extract taken from an article on the *BBC News* website, October 2019.

0	4
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Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above extracts regarding the roles and influence of parliamentary select committees.

[25 marks]

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C – Essay Question

Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

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

Either

0	5
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'Cabinet ministers still matter as heads of department, but the whole cabinet is no longer at the centre of important government decision making.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

or

0	6
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'The UK is experiencing a crisis in political participation.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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