

General Certificate of Education
January 2004
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 3 Features of a Representative Democracy

GOV3

Friday 9 January 2004 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Σ Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen. Pencil should only be used for drawing.
- Σ Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV3.
- Σ Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.
In Section A answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
In Section B answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Information

- Σ The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Σ Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- Σ You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Advice

- Σ You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- Σ You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each question.

Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.

SECTION A

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

- 1 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Parliament

There is no general agreement as to how effectively Parliament fulfils its tasks and no agreement as to which tasks should take priority. Different degrees of emphasis are placed on the various roles of MPs such as *constituency work*, redress of grievances, representation, legislation and scrutiny. Of these, it is probably scrutiny of the Executive that is considered the most important. Yet, in the event of a governing party with a healthy working majority, in conjunction with strict party discipline, the Executive is clearly in a position to dominate Parliament.

Source: adapted from P. COCKER & A. JONES, *Contemporary British Politics and Government* (Liverpool Academic Press) 2002. Reproduced by kind permission of Liverpool Academic Press Ltd.

- (a) Explain the term *constituency work* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “Parliament is unable to challenge the Government effectively.” Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

- 2 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Elected Representatives

The right to elect representatives is a key feature of democracy: it ensures that decision-makers will use their power appropriately and will be fully accountable for their actions and decisions. One important aspect of a representative democracy can be illustrated by reference to the different levels of government. In the UK citizens can vote not only for their *MP* and *MEP*, but also for their local councillor and, in some cases, for their mayor. There are now also elected devolved assemblies, notably the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly. As a result, both local government and, in Scotland and Wales, devolved government are important elements of democracy. However, it is always worth remembering that all elected representatives are only in a position of power because their fellow citizens put them there.

Source: adapted from T. DESMOYERS-DAVIS, *Citizenship in Modern Britain*, 2nd ed. (Cavendish) 2003

- (a) Explain the differences between an *MP* and an *MEP* as used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss the view that elected local government and devolved government are important elements of democracy in Britain. (22 marks)

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

Turn over ►

SECTION B

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

- 3 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

The Civil Service and Ministers

In 1988 the Efficiency Unit headed by Sir Robin Ibbs published “Improving Management in Government: The Next Steps”. This report concluded that ministers were overloaded and that the civil service was too big and too diverse to be managed as a single service. It recommended the creation of Executive Agencies (which became known as Next Steps Agencies) to deliver government services. Ministers were to determine policy and monitor agencies’ performance. However this weakened the traditional chain of *individual ministerial responsibility*.

Source: adapted from J. GREENWOOD, “Tradition and Change in the Civil Service”, *Talking Politics* Spring 1999

- (a) Briefly explain the term *individual ministerial responsibility* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss the roles of Cabinet ministers in central government. (22 marks)

OR

- 4** Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Text extract from *Central Debates in British Politics*, Longman, 2002, p. 233
– not reproduced here, due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *government departments* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “The influence of the Prime Minister changes according to issues and circumstances.”
Discuss. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS