

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 6 The Politics of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

GOV6

Friday 22 June 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV6.
- Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

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

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Each question carries 40 marks.

- 1 Read the extract below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

The Nature of Nationalism

From the 1960s, in both Scotland and Wales, nationalist parties subjected the Westminster system to serious challenge. The most obvious reason for the nationalist challenge was the persistent failure of Westminster governments to successfully manage the British economy and the way Wales and Scotland bore much of the brunt of economic decline. However, Wales and Scotland also share a common long-term experience: the weakening of the Westminster system of centralised rule. In the closing years of the twentieth century they also shared the short-term experience of being ruled by a Conservative government with very little representation outside England.

However, there are big differences in the nature of nationalism in the two countries. The most important of these differences lies in different conceptions of national identity. There is also a difference in cultural emphasis. For example, Scotland has a separate and distinct education system stretching from elementary schools to universities. Wider patterns of popular culture mirror these differences. For instance, while both countries have their own mass media, Scottish newspapers are more distinctive and better established than are those in Wales. In professional football the most powerful Scottish teams play in their own league, while the most powerful Welsh ones – Cardiff and Swansea – play in the English-dominated football leagues.

In political terms these differences are not insignificant. For example, they were reflected in the pre-devolution governing arrangements, while the pattern of similarity and contrast has also persisted after 1997 within the *institutions of devolved government* themselves.

Source: adapted from M MORAN, *Politics and Governance in the UK*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005

- (a) Explain the term *institutions of devolved government* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, explain the significance of Scotland and Wales, pre-devolution, being ruled by a Conservative Government with very little representation outside of England. (12 marks)
- (c) ‘Scottish and Welsh nationalism share more similarities than differences.’ Discuss. (20 marks)

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

- 2 To what extent, and why, was the 1998 Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement built on the principles of 'power sharing'? *(40 marks)*
- 3 'Devolution has inevitably led to the creation of multi-party systems in Scotland and Wales.' Discuss. *(40 marks)*
- 4 'Devolution policies since 1997 have had important political implications for England.' Discuss. *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page