

A-level POLITICS

Paper 1 Government and politics of the UK

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 media can have an influence upon the outcome of elections.

[9 marks]**0 2**

Explain and analyse three ways in which the Official Opposition can challenge the government in the House of Commons.

[9 marks]**0 3**

Explain and analyse three ways in which UK political parties select their leaders.

[9 marks]

Section B – Extract Question

Read the extracts below and answer question 4 that follows.

Does the UK need a codified constitution?

Extract 1

The UK is one of only a few democracies in the world which lacks a codified constitution

The UK is unusual in not having the constitution codified in a single document. This arrangement is no longer adequate for three reasons: its lack of clarity; its failure to properly protect fundamental rights; and the inadequacy of the current devolution settlement.

This lack of clarity has exacerbated recent political crises in the UK. The legal status of referendums has never been properly set out. Do referendums easily sit with the principle of parliamentary sovereignty?

Although Britain does have a Human Rights Act, that legislation does not enjoy the same status as a list of fundamental rights in a codified constitution.

The current devolution settlement cries out for a written constitution that properly sets out the position of the devolved administrations.

Extract taken from an article posted by the *Constitution Unit*, January 2020. The *Constitution Unit* is based in the Department of Political Science at University College London and is an independent research body on constitutional change. The author, Sionaidh Douglas-Scott, is Professor of Law at Queen Mary University of London.

Extract 2

Britain has no need of a codified constitution

A good constitution balances and shares power. The Brexit process brought all three branches of the state into play. Under our constitutional arrangements, Brexit cannot be delivered by one branch alone.

Brexit is a question mainly for Westminster, not because the UK is overly centralised, but because our relations with the EU are reserved to Westminster.

Brexit has revealed unresolved tensions, but the British constitution continues to adapt to the changing needs of the nation.

Rights are protected in multiple ways. Firstly through legislation determined by Parliament and secondly, by the common law.

Codified constitutions dramatically increase the role of the courts, passing power from the elected to the unelected. This is a profound challenge to democracy.

Extract taken from *Prospect* magazine, a monthly current affairs publication specialising in politics and economics, published in April 2019. The author, Adam Tomkins, is a former Conservative Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) and Professor of Public Law at the University of Glasgow.

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Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above extracts regarding the need for a codified constitution in the UK.

[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

'The UK judiciary has had an increasingly significant impact upon the working of the executive and Parliament since 1997.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

or

0 6

'Representative democracy is in crisis in the UK.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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