

General Certificate of Education
January 2005
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 3 Features of a Representative Democracy

GOV3

Tuesday 11 January 2005 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen. Pencil should only be used for drawing.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV3.
- 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

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- 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

- 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 **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.

Text adapted from SIMON BULMER "Britain and European Integration"
in B. JONES et al, *Politics UK* (Pearson Education) 2000. Not reproduced
here due to copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *legislation* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Compare and contrast the roles of the European Commission and the Council of Ministers in the policy-making process. (22 marks)

OR

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

Representative Assemblies

The Houses of Parliament at Westminster provide a visual symbol at the heart of British government, the very centre of political power. Indeed, the *sovereignty of Parliament* has long been regarded as the key principle of the British constitution. Yet some argue that despite its considerable age and prestige, Parliament has lost power and is dominated by the Executive which largely controls the legislative process. Moreover, the Westminster Parliament is no longer the only representative assembly elected by British citizens but is now just one among a number of representative bodies which exist at local, national and European levels.

Source: adapted from B. COXALL et al, Contemporary British Politics (Palgrave) 2003

- (a) Explain the term *sovereignty of Parliament* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) How accurate is the view that the Westminster Parliament is controlled by the Executive? (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 Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and the Redress of Grievances

The *redress of grievances* is an important feature of representative democracy. In the UK, for example, it has been one of the traditional roles of MPs and local councillors to seek redress on behalf of their constituents. In addition, special machinery sometimes exists either to enable elected representatives to pursue redress more effectively or to provide citizens with additional avenues for complaint. For example, since 1967 there has been a Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) who is independent of government. However, the position carries limited powers and has been described as “ineffective and toothless”.

- (a) Explain the term *redress of grievances* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “Ineffective and toothless.” Discuss this view of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman). (22 marks)

OR

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

The Prime Minister, Civil Servants and Ministers

At the centre of government there are powerful political actors, although their relationship in theory is not always the same as their relationship in practice. With ministers and civil servants, for example, the constitutional position is that *politically neutral* civil servants give advice but ministers decide policy. Similarly, the constitutional position is that the Cabinet decides policy. In reality neither of these positions actually applies. Civil servants largely determine policy and the Prime Minister, although under personal and political constraints, largely controls the Cabinet.

- (a) Explain the term *politically neutral* in the context of the civil service. (8 marks)
- (b) How accurate is the claim that “the Prime Minister, although under personal and political constraints, largely controls the Cabinet”? (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS