

General Certificate of Education
January 2004
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS **GOV6**
**Unit 6 The Politics of Northern Ireland, Scotland
and Wales**

Tuesday 27 January 2004 Afternoon Session

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

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

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 GOV6.
- Σ Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- Σ The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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 **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Each question carries 40 marks.

- 1 The following letter from a former Conservative Cabinet Minister appeared in *The Times* on 23 October 2002. Study the extract and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

The case for an English Parliament?

Politics in Scotland has already diverged from the rest of the UK in a number of policy fields – including higher education funding, social welfare and hunting – and will continue to diverge. Scotland is undoubtedly doing its own thing backed by an over-generous financial settlement from England.

But what of England? The Government has proposed setting up an expensive, misguided and largely unwanted form of regional government in England. It seems that the only certain taker is the North East. When I was Secretary of State for the Environment in Mrs Thatcher's government it became my job to abolish the large English metropolitan county councils in 1986. I found they had no friends. If regional assemblies are introduced in England the elections to them will be lucky to attract even the 25 per cent turnout now being achieved for elected mayors.

The constitutional treatment of England is shameful. Scottish MPs, still massively over-represented, can vote on matters that affect only English people in education, transport, health, planning and industrial development. The case for an English Parliament at Westminster grows stronger all the time. The voters of England need a Parliament at least equal to that of Scotland. It is a political need that cries out for a voice.

I believe that this is the only way we will in the years ahead hold together the United Kingdom.

Source: adapted from LORD BAKER OF DORKING, CH, letter to *The Times*, 23 October 2002

- (a) Using the extract, explain the statement *Politics in Scotland has already diverged from the rest of the UK*. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, explain why the right of Scottish MPs to vote on matters that affect only England is controversial. (12 marks)
- (c) "There is no political case for an English Parliament." Discuss. (20 marks)

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

- 2 “Everyone’s second-best solution.” Discuss this view of direct rule of Northern Ireland from Westminster. *(40 marks)*

- 3 To what extent, and why, does Wales have a weaker form of devolution than Scotland? *(40 marks)*

- 4 Discuss whether there are still any similarities at all between Welsh and Scottish nationalism. *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS