



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2013

# Government and Politics

# GOVP2

## Unit 2 Governing Modern Britain

Wednesday 23 January 2013 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 GOVP2.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions on each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions [0 2] and [0 3], [0 5] and [0 6], [0 8] and [0 9], [1 1] and [1 2] should be answered in continuous prose.

For these questions you will be marked on your ability to:

- use good English
- organise information clearly
- 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 topic.

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Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions on each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

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**Topic 1 The British Constitution**

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 1**, **0 2** and **0 3** which follow.

The extract is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- 0 1** Explain the term *rule of law* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the extent to which Parliament may be said to have ‘undermined the independence of the judiciary’. (10 marks)
- 0 3** ‘The British constitution is becoming increasingly codified.’ Discuss. (25 marks)

## Topic 2 Parliament

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 4**, **0 5** and **0 6** which follow.

### Parliament as a representative body

There are problems with how Parliament is seen as a representative body, because there are different interpretations of representation. As an elected body, it legitimises executive power, but serves also to link citizens with the political process. It acts as a safety valve and allows MPs in Parliament to articulate the interests of different groups in society to government. Parliament fulfils the task of both general and specific representation. The *representation of constituents' grievances* is a traditional role of MPs.

The significance of Parliament to the public is reflected in the extent to which it remains a magnet for the expression of opinion and dissent. Millions of letters flow into Parliament each year. Organisations arrange mass lobbies of MPs. Protesters stand with banners and megaphones outside Parliament. These huge demonstrations show that, for many citizens, Parliament remains relevant.

Source: adapted from P NORTON, *Parliament in British Politics*, 2005, Palgrave Macmillan, reproduced with permission of Palgrave Macmillan

- 0 4** Explain the phrase *representation of constituents' grievances* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** ways in which MPs in Parliament 'articulate the interests of different groups in society to government'. (10 marks)
- 0 6** 'The House of Lords can often be more effective than the House of Commons in the scrutiny of the executive.' Discuss. (25 marks)

**Turn over for the next question**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic 3 The Core Executive**

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 7**, **0 8** and **0 9** which follow.

The extract is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- 0 7** Explain the term *neutral civil service* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** arguments for a permanent civil service. (10 marks)
- 0 9** Evaluate the factors that can give the prime minister power over other cabinet members. (25 marks)

**Topic 4 Multi-level Governance**

Read the extract below and answer questions 

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 and 

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 which follow.

**Networks of governing institutions**

Britain has a multi-level system of governance. This means more than the simple observation that there are indeed multiple levels at which governing institutions operate; it means that these levels interact in numerous, often complex ways. On occasions the relationships are hierarchical: *central government* commands, or at least seeks to command, through means such as grants and directives. More commonly, networks of governing institutions are joined in more subtle ways: they are obliged to co-operate with each other, to bargain with each other, and often to try to manipulate each other.

The government of a community cannot therefore be viewed in isolation. Local governments are embedded in webs of relationships: with other local governments; with national institutions; with regional bodies. Even the most basic outline of the local government system soon reveals this layered, multi-level character.

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

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 Explain the term *central government* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** ways in which central government 'seeks to command' local government. (10 marks)
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 'Allegations of a "democratic deficit" within the European Union are more justifiable in the case of some of its institutions than in others.' Discuss. (25 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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