

Write your name here	
Surname	Other names
Centre Number	Candidate Number
Edexcel GCE	
Government and Politics	
Advanced Subsidiary	
Unit Test 2: Governing the UK	
Wednesday 3 June 2009 – Morning Time: 1 hour 20 minutes	Paper Reference 6GP02/01
You do not need any other materials.	Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **two** questions, **one** from section A and **one** from section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- You will be assessed on your ability to organise and present information, ideas, descriptions and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account your use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

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Answer TWO questions, one from Section A and one from Section B.

All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The role of Parliament

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Citizens need an effective Parliament. They need a body that can call the government to account, that can ensure that government answers for its actions and the actions of civil servants. They need a body that can scrutinise and, if necessary, change the legislative proposals brought forward by government. They need a body that can ensure that their voice is heard by government when they have a grievance, be it about the impact of a policy or the absence of a policy. They need the security of knowing that, if there is a problem, there is a body to which they can turn for help, a body that can force public officials to listen.

Government needs an effective Parliament. It needs it because its authority derives from Parliament. The more government distances itself from Parliament, the more it undermines popular consent for the system of government. It needs Parliament to give its approval to measures and, prior to doing so, to scrutinise those measures.

Adapted from *Report of the Commission to Strengthen Parliament.*

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** functions of Parliament. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain why government needs an effective Parliament. (10)
- (c) Analyse the main factors that limit the effectiveness of Parliament. (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Prime Ministerial Power

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

For centuries Prime Ministers have exercised authority in the name of the monarchy without the people or their elected representatives being consulted. So now I propose that in key areas important to our national life, the Prime Minister and executive should surrender or limit their powers. The exclusive exercise of these powers by the Government should have no place in a modern democracy.

These include:

- the power of the executive to declare war
- the power to request the dissolution of Parliament
- the power over recall of Parliament
- the power of the executive to ratify international treaties
- the power to make key public appointments without effective scrutiny
- the power to restrict parliamentary oversight of the intelligence services
- the power to choose bishops
- the power to appoint judges

I now propose to surrender or limit these powers to make for a more open twenty-first century British democracy.

Adapted from Gordon Brown, speech in Parliament, July 3rd 2007.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, outline the reasons Gordon Brown gave for proposing that prime ministerial powers be surrendered or limited. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain the ways in which Prime Ministers are able to control Parliament. (10)
- (c) To what extent has prime ministerial power grown in recent years? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)



(b)

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(b) continued

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((b) continued)

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(10)

8



N 3 4 4 9 2 A 0 8 2 4

((c) continued)

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(c) continued

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SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 How effectively can the judiciary control executive and legislative power in the UK?

(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)

OR

4 'Constitutional reform since 1997 has not gone far enough.' Discuss.

(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)



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(Total for Question = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS

