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Centre Number	Candidate Number
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<b>Edexcel GCE</b>	
<b>Government and Politics</b>	
<b>Advanced Subsidiary</b>	
<b>Unit Test 2: Governing the UK</b>	
Tuesday 19 January 2010 – Afternoon <b>Time: 1 hour 20 minutes</b>	Paper Reference <b>6GP02/01</b>
<b>You do not need any other materials.</b>	Total Marks
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### 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 Judiciary**

**Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

The judiciary is considered to be independent of the other two branches of government. Judges' salaries are paid from the Consolidated Fund; this means that they do not have to be voted upon each year by Parliament. The House of Commons generally forbids MPs from making any reference to matters before the criminal and civil courts. By convention, a similar restriction is observed by ministers and civil servants.

For their part, judges by convention do not engage in politically partisan activity, thus upholding their neutrality. Indeed, they have generally avoided commenting on matters of public policy. However, the dividing line between judges and politicians was never quite as sharp as these features would suggest. The most obvious example used to be found in the figure of the Lord Chancellor. Prior to the passage of the 2005 Constitutional Reform Act, he was head of the judiciary, the presiding officer of the House of Lords and a member of the Cabinet. The 2005 Act, which also proposed the establishment of a new Supreme Court by 2009, changed this situation, providing for the transfer of his judicial role to the Lord Chief Justice.

Adapted from: 'The Judiciary', by Philip Norton in *Politics UK*, Bill Jones et al., 6th edition, Pearson Education, 2007.

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, describe the measures that exist to maintain the independence and neutrality of the judiciary. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain how the judiciary has been reformed since 2005. (10)
- (c) To what extent are UK judges both independent and neutral? (25)

**(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)**



## 2 Parliament

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

### White Paper on reform of the House of Lords

This White Paper sets out the government's proposals for a reformed second chamber of the UK Parliament.

The proposals are based on the House of Commons votes for an 80% or 100% elected second chamber and follow cross-party talks on how this could be achieved.

The White Paper makes proposals for reform in a number of areas:

- **Role and composition**  
The House of Lords plays a valuable role in holding the government to account and revising legislation. The reforms would strengthen those roles and make the second chamber more accountable. The House of Commons would continue to be the primary chamber in the UK legislature.
- **Membership of the chamber**  
The proposed reforms would create a second chamber with directly elected members, which would be smaller than the House of Commons. The remaining rights of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the second chamber would be removed.
- **Powers of the new chamber**  
The government proposes no changes to the powers of a reformed second chamber.
- **The possible role of appointed members to ensure independence**  
If it is decided that there should be a 20% appointed element, the government proposes that its key purpose would be to provide a significant independent element in the second chamber. A statutory appointments commission would seek nominations and applications for membership.

The government is also proposing changes to the arrangements for eligibility, remuneration and accountability.

Source: White Paper, *An Elected Second Chamber*, July 14, 2008.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, what changes to the second chamber are proposed? (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain the arguments for a fully or partly elected second chamber. (10)
- (c) Make out a case *against* an elected second chamber. (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)



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(c)

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(c) continued

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M 3 6 3 9 3 A 0 1 1 2 4

(c) continued

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(25)

**(Total for Question = 40 marks)**



**SECTION B**

**Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.**

**EITHER**

**3** 'The advantages of a codified constitution now outweigh its disadvantages'. Discuss.

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**(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)**

**OR**

**4** To what extent does the prime minister dominate the political system in the UK?

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**(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)**



Indicate your second question choice on this page.

Put a cross in the box  indicating the second question that you have chosen.  
If you change your mind, put a line through the box   
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: **Question 3**

**Question 4**

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**(Total for Question = 40 marks)**

**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS**

