

Write your name here	
Surname	Other names
Centre Number	Candidate Number
Edexcel GCE	
Government and Politics	
Advanced Subsidiary	
Unit 2: Governing the UK	
Friday 28 May 2010 – 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.

Section B starts on page 14.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The British Constitution

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

A Possible Codified Constitution for the UK

Jack Straw, the Justice Secretary, has used a visit to Washington to hint that Britain could finally get a codified constitution spelling out citizens' rights and codifying this country's political system. He is already working on a new Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, clearly defining people's relationship to the state, as part of a wide-ranging package of constitutional reform. But he has, for the first time, also said that the Bill could be a step towards a fully codified constitution to 'bring us in line with the most progressive democracies around the world'.

Britain's constitution has developed in a haphazard fashion, building on common law, conventions, case law, historical documents, Acts of Parliament and European legislation. It is not set out clearly in any one document. Nor is there a single statement of citizens' rights and freedoms. As Jack Straw put it yesterday: 'Most people might struggle to put their finger on where their rights are'.

Supporters argue that producing such a document could tackle disillusionment with politics, at the same time as setting new, clear limits on the power of the executive. Opponents of a codified constitution argue, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,' insisting that the existing arrangements, however piecemeal their development has been, have worked well in practice. There are, moreover, formidable practical problems to be overcome before such a document could be drawn up.

Source: adapted from an article by Nigel Morris in *The Independent*, 14 February 2008

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** sources of the UK constitution. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain the arguments in favour of a codified constitution for the UK. (10)
- (c) Make out a case against the adoption of a codified constitution for the UK. (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 The Prime Minister and the Cabinet

Study the following two passages and answer the questions that follow.

Source 1 A Cabinet Meeting

The Prime Minister's Spokesman began by giving a brief summary of Cabinet of the previous day to the assembled press. Cabinet had met for an hour and 40 minutes that morning. There had been the usual update from Geoff Hoon (Leader of the House of Commons) on parliamentary business, there had been a brief discussion on the Draft Legislative Programme being published tomorrow and there was an update from the Foreign Secretary on the situation in Burma. Most of the Cabinet was spent discussing the economy in a discussion led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, where he emphasised the global nature of the economic situation we were facing at the moment – not only the global credit crunch, but also rising oil and food prices.

Source: Prime Minister's Office press briefing, 14 May 2008

Source 2 Gordon Brown's First Cabinet

Gordon Brown unveiled an almost completely new Cabinet today as he attempted to make good on his pledge for a 'politics of change' after the Blair years, including Britain's first ever female Home Secretary and its youngest Foreign Secretary for 30 years. As part of a huge overhaul, the Prime Minister appointed Jacqui Smith, formerly the Chief Whip, as Home Secretary, and David Miliband as Foreign Secretary. As head of the Home Office, Ms Smith will be in charge of the battle against terrorism, national security and policing. Standing outside the Foreign Office, Mr Miliband – who was himself widely tipped as Mr Brown's rival for the Labour leadership, before ruling himself out – said: 'I'm tremendously honoured'.

Source: adapted from '*Brown shuffles the pack for new Cabinet*' in Times Online, 28 June 2007

- 2 (a) With reference to Source 1, describe **two** types of issues discussed by the Cabinet. (5)
- (b) With reference to Source 2, and your own knowledge, what factors does the Prime Minister take into account when appointing cabinet ministers? (10)
- (c) To what extent is the Cabinet an important body? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)



N 3 5 8 6 6 A 0 3 2 4

(b)

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(b) continued

[Redacted content]

(10)



(c)

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SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 To what extent does Parliament control executive power?

(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)

OR

4 How effectively does the judiciary protect civil liberties in the UK?

(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)



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Handwriting practice area with 20 horizontal dotted lines.



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(Total for Question = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS

