

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Edexcel GCE

Government and Politics

Advanced Subsidiary Unit 2: Governing the UK

Tuesday 7 June 2011 – 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.

Turn over ►

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

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The Judiciary

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The government was slapped down in a judicial review by the Supreme Court when it ruled that a Treasury freeze on the bank accounts of suspected terrorists was illegal. A panel of seven judges allowed a challenge by five men (all suspected terrorists) who had had all their assets frozen under orders made when Gordon Brown was Chancellor of the Exchequer. The terrorists' assets were frozen in 2006 as a result of an executive order. This had been issued in response to UN Security Council resolutions calling for steps to be taken to hit the financing of international terrorism. But the orders were not voted on in Parliament.

Today the Supreme Court ruled that the Treasury had exceeded its powers, meaning that the orders were unlawful. The justices declared that if the Government considered 'far-reaching measures' were necessary to combat terrorism, 'it must first obtain approval for them from Parliament'. The government has responded by saying it will 'fast-track legislation' through the Commons to make sure it can continue to freeze terrorists' assets.

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said: 'It is simply not acceptable for Labour to behave as if we are a police state and go around arbitrarily arresting people or confiscating their property without due process under the rule of law. The Government's desperation to avoid consulting Parliament is creating bad laws, legal defeats and hefty bills for the taxpayer. It has to stop.'

Source: adapted from Sky News online, January 27, 2010.

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, why was the government criticised over the decision to freeze the assets of the suspected terrorists? (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain judicial review and its importance. (10)
- (c) To what extent is there conflict between the judiciary and the executive in the UK? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Parliamentary reform

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Extracts from the document: 'The Coalition: our programme for government'

We will establish five-year fixed term Parliaments. We will put a binding motion before the House of Commons stating that the next general election will be held on the first Thursday of May, 2015. Following this motion, we will legislate to make provision for fixed term Parliaments of five years.

We will bring forward a Referendum Bill on electoral reform, which includes provision for the introduction of the Alternative Vote in the event of a positive result in the referendum, as well as for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies.

We will bring forward early legislation to introduce a power of recall, allowing voters to force a by-election where an MP is found to have engaged in serious wrongdoing.

We will establish a committee to bring forward proposals for a wholly or mainly elected upper chamber on the basis of proportional representation.

We will bring forward proposals... for reform to the House of Commons... starting with the proposed committee for management of backbench business. A House Business Committee, to consider government business, will be established by the third year of the Parliament.

We will ensure that any petition that secures 100,000 signatures will be eligible for public debate in Parliament.

Source: 'The Coalition: our programme for government', Cabinet Office, May 2010

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- 2 (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** proposals that seek to strengthen parliamentary representation by increasing popular participation. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain how **three** of these proposals seek to make government more accountable to Parliament. (10)
- (c) To what extent will the coalition government's proposals bring about an effective reform of Parliament? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



((a) continued)

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing answers.

(5)

You should start the answer to part (b) on page 6



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SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 To what extent has the location of sovereignty in the UK changed in recent years?

(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)

OR

4 Is the UK Prime Minister now effectively a president?

(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section B = 40 marks)



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(Total for Question = 40 marks)

(Total for Section B = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS

