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Pearson
Edexcel GCE

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Government and Politics

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 2: Governing the UK

Monday 2 June 2014 – 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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PEARSON

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 Constitutional Reform

Study the following source and answer the questions that follow.

The way in which the United Kingdom's constitutional arrangements may be changed is more flexible than in virtually any other western democracy, almost all of which have codified constitutions. This occurs because, in the uncodified UK constitution, constitutional arrangements can be altered by means such as introducing an Act of Parliament and recognising a new convention or revising an existing one. The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, emphasised that 'We have a flexibility and a pragmatism to our arrangements, which many constitutional experts around the world recognise is a strength'. We, the committee, recognise these strengths. However, current ideas place too great an emphasis on the need for flexibility. Some constraints should be placed on this flexibility.

Apart from the limited power of the House of Lords under the Parliament Acts to delay or reject legislation, there is no formal system of checks and balances by which the nature of the uncodified UK constitution can be safeguarded and protected. Thus there is little to prevent a government which has majority control of the House of Commons from getting its way. This lack of constraint in turn means that the process of constitutional change lies essentially within the gift of the government of the day.

Since 2010, the UK has been through a period of significant constitutional change, including the passing of the Scotland Act 1998, the Wales Act 1998, the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998, the House of Lords Act 1999 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Proposals for further significant change have been on the agenda since then, in particular following the May 2010 general election.

Source: adapted from the Report of the House of Lords Constitutional Select Committee, 6 July, 2011

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, outline why the UK constitution is easy to change. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain how an uncodified constitution differs from a codified constitution. (10)
- (c) Assess the significance of the constitutional reforms introduced since 1997. (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Study the following sources and answer the questions that follow.

Source 1

There are three reasons for government reshuffles: (a) because a minister or ministers leave office for whatever reason and the subsequent movements to fill the vacancies become a reshuffle; (b) because the Prime Minister is dissatisfied with the performance of particular ministers; and (c) to provide a progression route for talented backbenchers. Whether reshuffles have an effect on policy making and delivery depends on the reasons for the reshuffle and the personnel involved.

Source: extract of evidence of former Cabinet Minister, Alan Johnson to the House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee. 18 September, 2012.

Source 2

David Cameron summoned cabinet ministers on Monday night who are to be sacked or demoted in his first major government reshuffle which will see a comprehensive clear-out of ministers who have failed to deliver and the promotion of a new generation of ministers. There were signs on Monday that Andrew Lansley, the Health Secretary, and Caroline Spelman, Environment Secretary, will be among the victims. Lansley left the prime minister in despair when he struggled to explain the need for his plans to devolve most of the NHS's £100bn budget to new GP-led commissioning groups. Spelman has failed to recover from the fiasco of failed plans to sell off parts of the national forest.

Downing Street confirmed that Andrew Mitchell, the International Development Secretary, will replace Patrick McLoughlin as the government's chief whip. The appointment of Mitchell shows the influence of George Osborne, his close supporter. One government source said: 'The prime minister sees the second half of this parliament as the delivery phase. We want to have people who have a proven record in delivering in their departments.'

Source : adapted from Guardian article, 4 September, 2012

- 2 (a) With reference to the sources, what is a government reshuffle? (5)
- (b) With reference to the sources and your own knowledge, explain the factors a prime minister considers when appointing or dismissing ministers. (10)
- (c) To what extent do prime ministers control the decisions made by their government? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 To what extent is there conflict in the UK between judges and government ministers?

(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)

OR

4 'Parliament carries out none of its functions adequately.' Discuss.

(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section B = 40 marks)



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