

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname

Other names

**Pearson
Edexcel GCE**

Centre Number

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Tuesday 21 May 2019

Afternoon (Time: 1 hour 20 minutes)

Paper Reference **6GP02/01**

Government and Politics

Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 2: Governing the UK

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.
- 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 16.
It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.**

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

EITHER

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

Judges and Civil Liberties

It is vitally important in a democracy that individual judges and the judiciary as a whole are impartial and independent of all external pressures and of each other. Consequently, those who appear before them and the wider public can have confidence that their cases will be decided fairly and in accordance with the law. When carrying out their judicial function, they must be free of any improper influence, bias, partiality or the appearance of such. This influence could come from any number of sources. It could arise from improper pressure by the executive or the legislature, by individual litigants, particular pressure groups, the media, self-interest or other judges, in particular more senior judges.

An independent and impartial judiciary is one of the cornerstones of a democracy. For example, judges are given immunity from prosecution for any acts they carry out in performance of their judicial function. They also benefit from immunity from being sued for defamation for the comments they make about parties or witnesses in the course of hearing cases. These principles have led some people to suggest that judges are somehow 'above the law'. However, judges are subject to the law in the same way as any other citizen. It is vital that each judge is able to decide cases solely on the evidence presented in court by the parties and in accordance with the law. Only relevant facts and law should form the basis of a judge's decision.

The responsibilities of judges in disputes between the citizen and the state have increased together with the growth in governmental functions over the last century. The responsibility of the judiciary to protect citizens against unlawful acts of government has thus increased, and with it the need for the judiciary to be independent of government, which guards against an over-powerful executive.

In the 24-hour media age in which we live, it stands to reason that judges hearing a case will often be under close scrutiny, with decisions open to intense debate. It is right that this is so. But it is important that decisions in the courts are made in accordance with the law and are not influenced by external factors.

(Source: adapted from <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/about-the-judiciary/the-judiciary-the-government-and-the-constitution/jud-acc-ind/independence>)

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(a) With reference to the source, give **three** reasons why the independence of the judiciary must be ensured.

(5)

(b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, what measures ensure judicial independence?

(10)

(c) To what extent has the role and influence of the judiciary changed in recent years in the UK?

(25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



P 5 9 7 3 3 A 0 3 2 8

OR

2 Study the following passage and answer the questions which follow.

Parliament

The nature of the powers of the House of Lords changed in 1911 to powers of delay for two years and then, in 1949, to delay for one year. But much more significant were the changes in the composition and the nature of the House in 1958. Before the 1958 Life Peerages Act took effect, the House was, apart from a few Law Lords and Bishops, entirely hereditary. There were no women. The average attendance was typically below 100. It was dying on its feet. It lacked influence, was ill-respected and didn't do a proper job as a House in a bicameral Parliament.

Since that time there has been a complete revolution, and not with everyone's agreement. In 1999, the expulsion of most of the hereditary peers helped to create the House as we know it today. One of the arguments in 1999 was that you would end up with an appointed House that had no credibility, and therefore no contribution to make to Parliament. In fact the opposite has happened.

We have developed a House of expertise and, in some ways, of independence. The independence comes because the House has around 20% of members who take no party-political whip - the Crossbenchers.

The House of Lords is different from the House of Commons. It is not totally confrontational. It has the Crossbenchers who vote on the issue, rather than on a whip. No one party has an overall majority giving it a measure of independence, and the whips - even with the party-political peers - are much less influential than in the House of Commons. So the line: 'Don't rock the boat - don't vote against this, you've got a bright future in front of you, but...' is not an argument that works for peers with our bright futures behind us. Equally there is security of tenure: 'life means life' in the House of Lords. So no actual punishment could arise for disobedience, which means that people tend to vote more according to their views and less rigidly on party lines.

So while some say 'reform has not happened - it's the great unfinished business since 1911', the facts on the ground show that there's actually been revolution.

(Source: adapted from Baroness Hayman former Lord Speaker of the House of Lords, February 2017 <http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/education-programmes/universities-programme/university-teaching-resources/reform-in-the-house-of-lords--ending-the-deadlock/>)

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(a) With reference to the source, how was the House of Lords reformed in the twentieth century?

(5)

(b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, what factors limit the influence of political parties in the House of Lords?

(10)

(c) Is the House of Lords more representative than the House of Commons?

(25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 40 MARKS



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(b)

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(b) continued)

You should start the answer to part (c) on page 11



(b) continued)

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(c)

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((c) continued)

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(c) continued)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 40 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 'Prime Ministers are only powerful if political circumstances allow them to be.' Discuss.

(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)

OR

4 To what extent has parliamentary sovereignty increased or decreased in recent years?

(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS

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Chosen question number: **Question 3** ☒ **Question 4** ☐

Question 4





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(Total for Question = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS





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