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Other names

**Pearson Edexcel**  
**Level 3 GCE**

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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# Politics

**Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Paper 2: UK Government**

Monday 4 June 2018 – Afternoon  
**Time: 1 hour 45 minutes**

Paper Reference

**8PL0/02**

**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.
- There are **three** sections and you must answer **four** questions:
  - in Section A answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** 1(b)
  - in Section B answer **both** Question 2 **and** Question 3
  - in Section C answer **either** Question 4(a) **or** 4(b).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
  - *there may be more space than you need.*
- Calculators are not permitted.

## Information

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
  - *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

## 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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**SECTION A**

**Answer EITHER Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b).**

**EITHER**

**1** (a) Describe the role and composition of departmental select committees. (10)

**OR**

(b) Describe the principle of parliamentary sovereignty. (10)

**(Total for Question 1 = 10 marks)**

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Chosen question number: **Question 1(a)** ☒ **Question 1(b)** ☒

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS**



**SECTION B**

**Answer BOTH Question 2 AND Question 3.**

**2** Source 1 is adapted from 'What do you want from an opposition?' The Official Opposition is an important feature of parliament, in particular the House of Commons.

**Source 1**

The Official Opposition's role is to:

- Highlight inconsistencies or unfairness with proposed legislation. They also seek to make changes by forcing the government to explain itself more clearly and to justify its proposals. This can lead to amendments or even the withdrawal of original government proposals.
- Force votes in parliament on popular areas of their own policies in order to pressure the government to defend itself. This might be on Opposition days where they choose the topic of debate. In this way, they are able to challenge government actions they disagree with.
- Champion their own alternative vision for society and an alternative set of policies that they can present to the electorate in a manifesto at the next general election.
- Make sure that their leading members adopt a high profile in the media and present themselves as more credible than those in the present government. In this way, the opposition creates a government in waiting through an effective Shadow Cabinet of potential ministers.

(Source: adapted from: <http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2017/03/what-do-you-want-opposition>)

Using the source, explain how government is improved by the existence of the Official Opposition.

(10)

*In your response you must use knowledge and understanding to analyse points that are only in the source. You will **not** be rewarded for introducing any additional points that are not in the source.*

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**(Total for Question 2 = 10 marks)**



- 3 Source 2 is adapted from the consultation on the design of an English parliament, undertaken by the Constitution Unit of University College London.

### Source 2

When English people are asked, they support the idea of an English parliament as the other nations already have their own devolved bodies.

If an English parliament is elected under proportional representation, there could be greater representation of the Conservatives in the north of England and the Labour Party in the south, as well as greater representation of the smaller parties. This could lead to greater consensus and more cooperation between the parties.

A new English parliament could be established outside London and increase the importance of the regions, reducing the dominance of Westminster.

An English parliament would provide a clear constitutional solution to the 'West Lothian question' so that English-only issues would be decided by a parliament elected for England, excluding representation from other parts of the UK.

Source 3 is adapted from an article by Andrew Lansley MP, making the case against an English parliament.

### Source 3

There is no great demand for an English parliament because English people mostly identify with the Westminster Parliament. This is in stark contrast to the situation in Scotland before 1997.

Establishing an English parliament would probably require an overall constitutional settlement for the UK, creating a federal system, and there is no consensus around how to do this. An extra tier of politicians would need to be created with the additional expense of running the new parliament.

England is much more populous than the other devolved countries. The resulting federal system would be so unbalanced as to be unstable and could lead to the breakup of the UK. Another significant and unwanted consequence of establishing an English parliament would be to dramatically reduce the importance of the Westminster Parliament.

(Source 2: adapted from <https://constitution-unit.com/2016/11/24/what-might-an-english-parliament-look-like-the-constitution-unit-is-consulting-on-the-design-options/>)

(Source 3: adapted <https://www.conservativehome.com/platform/2014/09/andrew-lansley-mp-the-case-against-an-english-parliament.htmlh>)





Using the sources, assess whether or not an English parliament should be established.

(10)

*In your response you must compare and contrast **similarities** and **differences** and consider competing points by analysing and evaluating them; **only** knowledge which supports this analysis and evaluation will gain credit.*

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(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS**



## SECTION C

Answer EITHER Question 4(a) OR Question 4(b).

### EITHER

4 (a) 'Parliament is able to sufficiently limit the power of the prime minister.'

How far do you agree with this view of the effectiveness of Parliament?

*In your answer you must:*

- refer to the roles of **both** chambers
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding of study from Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

### OR

(b) 'The EU has succeeded in achieving its aims with regard to the 'four freedoms' and the single market.'

How far do you agree that the 'four freedoms' and the single market have brought positive benefits to the UK?

*In your answer you must:*

- refer to **both** the 'four freedoms' of the EU **and** the single market
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding of study from Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

**(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)**

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Chosen question number:      **Question 4(a)** ☒                  **Question 4(b)** ☒

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS**  
**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS**



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