

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname

Other names

**Pearson Edexcel
Level 3 GCE**

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Tuesday 19 May 2020

Afternoon (Time: 1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper Reference **8PL0/02**

Politics

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 2: UK Government

You do not need any other materials (including calculators which are not permitted).

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.*

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 main functions of the House of Lords. (10)

OR

(b) Describe the main features of a codified constitution. (10)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS



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SECTION B

Answer BOTH Question 2 AND Question 3.

- 2 Source 1 concerns the reasons for ministerial resignations. It is adapted from an article in *The Guardian* by Heather Stewart, Pippa Crerar and Dan Sabbagh, in 2018, on the resignation of cabinet ministers from Theresa May's Cabinet.

Source 1

A number of ministers resigned or were sacked from Theresa May's Cabinet in 2017 and 2018 as a result of the conventions of collective and individual ministerial responsibility.

Amber Rudd resigned as Home Secretary because she misled Parliament over the department's policy towards the 'Windrush' generation who had been denied citizenship, despite having lived almost the whole of their lives in the UK. However, Chris Grayling remained in post despite the chaotic introduction of new railway timetables and other problems associated with the Transport department.

Damien Green was sacked as First Secretary of State after lying about pornographic images on his Commons computer. Michael Fallon decided to resign as Defence Secretary over allegations concerning his personal conduct towards a young female journalist.

The process of negotiating an exit from the EU produced a number of high profile resignations of senior ministers who disagreed with the Cabinet's policy over Brexit. This included two Secretaries of State for Brexit, David Davis and Dominic Raab, the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Esther McVey.

(Source 1 adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/jul/09/boris-johnson-resigns-as-foreign-secretary-brexit>)

Using the source, explain the difference between the conventions of individual ministerial responsibility and collective cabinet responsibility.

(10)

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

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3 Source 2 and Source 3 examine the work and effectiveness of the House of Commons.

Source 2

Parliament has too little influence on the government, compared to countries such as the USA, limiting its effectiveness to hold the government to account, especially when there's a strong majority government. Parliament needs more control of its agenda and it must become harder for the government, or individual MPs, to block the passage of Private Members Bills (PMB).

Even with the improvements made by the Backbench Business Committee, the government still gets its way. In reality, Parliament resists change and wastes time. MPs spend around 250 hours a year voting in division lobbies. Electronic voting would create time for more productive activities, perhaps even allowing the Commons to meet in different parts of the country, helping MPs to reconnect to people outside their own constituencies and the 'Westminster bubble'.

(Source 2 adapted from: *Honourable Friends?* by Caroline Lucas
© Portobello Books Ltd – September 2015)

Source 3

Parliament has only limited influence over majority governments. This is a good thing, giving the UK effective government, unlike the USA which sometimes experiences 'gridlock'. Between 2015–2017, 15 Private Members Bills (PMBs) were passed. Historically, major changes resulted from PMBs, including the abolition of the death penalty and the introduction of abortion legislation. The system works well and only requires minor improvements, such as making it more difficult to block the passage of PMBs.

We should not change the way MPs vote, as the division lobbies also provide MPs with opportunities to network and discuss topical issues. MPs would dislike moving the Commons around the UK, as well as opposing the security and transport costs. Each MP already represents a geographical constituency, connecting local people to national politics.

(Source 3 adapted from: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmproced/188/188we02.htm>)

Using the sources, assess whether the House of Commons operates effectively.

*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.*

(10)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS



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SECTION C

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

EITHER

- 4 (a) 'The power of a Prime Minister comes mainly from his or her dominance over Parliament, rather than controlling the Executive.'

How far do you agree that it is a Prime Minister's dominance over Parliament that largely determines his or her power?

In your answer you must:

- refer to one pre-1997 Prime Minister **and** one post-1997 Prime Minister
- 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 Supreme Court exercises more influence and control over the Executive than over Parliament.'

How far do you agree that the Supreme Court exercises more influence and control over the Executive than it does over Parliament?

In your answer you must:

- refer to **both** the Executive **and** Parliament
- 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.

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(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS

