



Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback
Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCE Advanced Subsidiary
Level

In Politics (8PL0-02)

Paper 2 UK Government

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Summer 2025

Publications Code 8PLO_02_2506_ER

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Introduction

Overall candidates and centres should be commended for their hard work and commitment to the study of UK Government. There was a good standard of responses across the different question styles and specification areas covered in this summer's exam paper. It was very pleasing to see candidates engaging well with the sources and the questions, and a strong use of contemporary political examples to help bring their answers to life.

A key area that is still worth reflecting on is timing; it is vital that candidates plan their timing so they can give the necessary time to each question to meet the demands of the whole paper. A second key area that is worth consideration is structure; it is vital that candidates have a clear structure to their essay questions so that they can really explore the big debates in UK Government effectively.

There are, as with any examination, however, several areas to reflect upon and lessons to be learned, which will enable future cohorts to address the examination effectively.

Question 1(a)

Most candidates were able to describe at least one feature of the Royal Prerogative. The main approach adopted was to get straight into describing the features, which was exactly right as there is no need for an introduction or conclusion in these responses.

Better answers had breadth and depth; candidates were able to exemplify the features, including the power of hire and fire of ministers, the power to issue honours, the power to conduct foreign policy and to go into conflict. Stronger answers were able to deploy key terminology from the specification in their writing and use modern examples, including understanding that Prerogative powers are powers which have belonged to the monarch since the Middle Ages, but in modern times are exercised largely by government ministers.

Weaker answers tended to focus more on the role of the Monarch or lacked a clear understanding of the features of the Royal Prerogative. A lack of exemplification, or the selection of examples lead to scoring lower in the mark scheme.

Examiner Comment

This is a Level 3 response; it is very effective by getting straight into the answer and highlights key features of the Royal Prerogative and provides clear examples.

The Royal Prerogative powers are powers that only the prime minister enjoys, bestowed by the monarch. It includes the power of patronage (appointing cabinet; colloquially known as the power to 'hire and fire' - Johnson exercised this power by packing his cabinet full of loyalists, whereas ^{Cameron} ~~Blair~~ had his constrained by the coalition, forced to give 5 out of 22 cabinet positions to Liberal Democrats as opposed to members of his own and party), the power to declare war (Blair chose not to use this power ~~the~~ regarding Iraq, waiting for parliamentary approval instead - demonstrating the difference between legal and political power. Whilst in theory he could have ^{declared war} ~~independently~~ ^{he} deliberately sought parliamentary approval as it looked better from a political perspective. He seemed to establish a convention, as Cameron similarly disregarded his prerogative powers in 2013 regarding war with Syria, also waiting for parliamentary approval, which he did not receive). The power to prorogue parliament is another feature of the Royal Prerogative (meaning to suspend Parliament), however the limitations of this were established in the case of Miller II. Johnson prorogued parliament in 2019, which the Supreme Court ultimately ruled to be unlawful due to the circumstances around it (including the Leveson peerage

scandal. An Ipsos poll ~~was~~ shortly after the ruling was made found that 70% of the public were happy with the decision - potentially suggesting a need for further clarification over the use of prerogative powers. The power of the prime minister to call general elections is also a feature of the Royal Prerogative, however this ~~was~~ wasn't the case ~~&~~ for a brief period under the Fixed Term Parliaments Act, made under Cameron - before this was changed and the power again returned to the PM under the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act (2022). The power to sign treaties is another feature, and the Labour decision in 2007 to exercise this power with the Lisbon Treaty caused outrage among the opposition - who suggested the matter should have been put to a referendum instead. The power to give out peerages (appoint people to the House of Lords) is another feature.

Question 1(b)

This question focussed on the role and composition of the Supreme Court. The main approach adopted was to get straight into the role and composition of the Supreme Court, which was exactly right as there is no need for an introduction or conclusion in these responses.

Many candidates were able to detail some of the roles of the Supreme Court as an appeals court, including:

- It is the final court of appeal for all United Kingdom civil cases, and criminal cases from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- It hears appeals on arguable points of law of public importance.
- It concentrates on cases of the greatest public and constitutional importance.

Stronger answers could explain the role of the Court by looking at specific cases such as the two Miller/Cherry cases, the Rwanda case, the Begum case and the

recent Equalities Act case. Stronger answers then looked at the composition of the Court, describing the number of justices, how they were selected, who they are and the levels of representation.

Weaker answers tended to do either composition or role, but not both or failed to really engage with the key terms in the question, role and composition.

Examiner Comment:

This is a Level 3 response. This answer does cover both the role of the Court (judicial review/ultra vires) and its composition (the JAC and lack of social representation) with the use of effective political vocabulary. The use of the HRA, Equalities Act, link to the rule of law as well as the Ashers case and the prorogation case all help develop the nature of the comprehensive and accurate knowledge effectively linked to the question.

The Supreme Court is the highest court of appeal, tackling criminal and civil cases. This means that this court is responsible for ~~com~~ performing judicial review ensuring that legislation such as the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010 are upheld. ~~as~~ This ^{improves} ~~gives freedom~~ society through maintaining the rule of law so no one is ~~created~~ ^{is} above the law. For instance, in ^{the} 2018, Ashers Bakers case, the bakery was originally ruled as guilty at a lower court for ~~not~~ ^{refusing} giving service to a client who went against their Christian beliefs. However, once the Supreme Court picked up the case, they ~~not~~ overruled this prior judgement protecting the Bakery's owners' rights.

The Supreme Court is the result of ~~the~~ Blair's Constitutional Reform Act 2005. This was to separate the judiciary from the Houses of Parliament - specifically the House of Lords where the Law Lords and Chancellor of Exchequer

held legal and political power. Therefore, this act separated them from the Parliament physically along with having the Judicial Appointments Committee be responsible for selecting the Court Justices. However, due to the Supreme Court lacks social representation, consisting primarily of white, male, university-educated members.

Finally, the Supreme Court has the ability to declare ultra vires. This is taken when the Supreme Court calls out the government for abusing their powers, trying to take advantage of their sovereignty and royal prerogative powers. This is effective as the Supreme Court acts as another body which can scrutinise the government without fear of losing their jobs. For example, in 2022, the ^{Supreme} Court declared Boris Johnson's ~~prognosis~~ prorogation of parliament ultra vires as it was out of his power to delay legislation like

Question 2

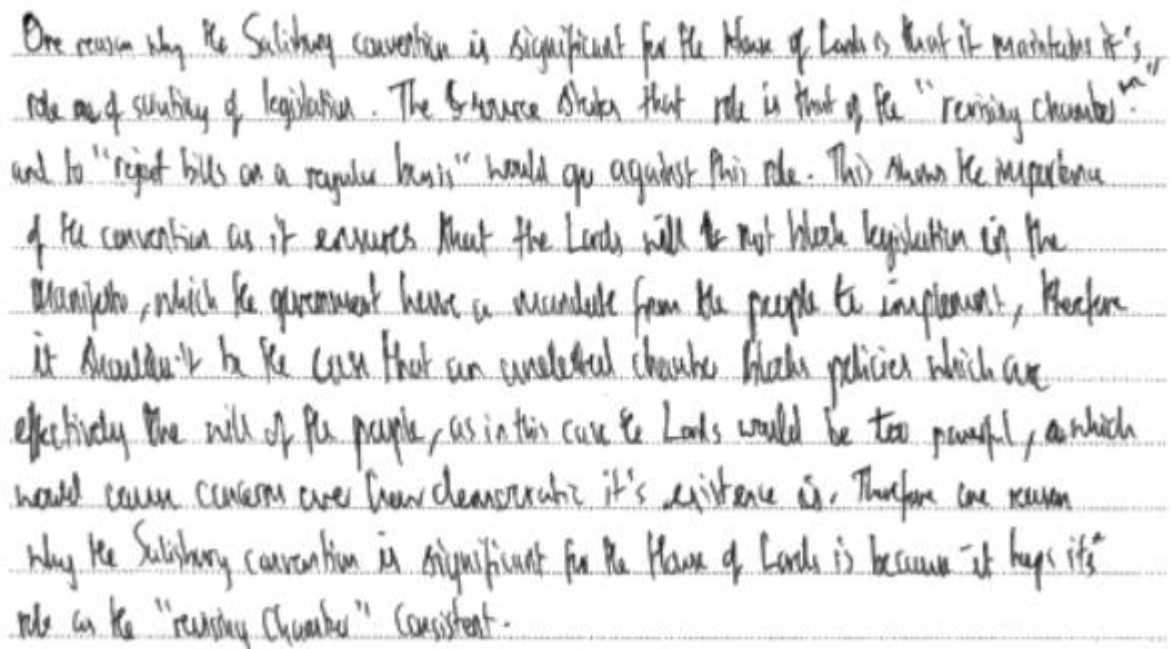
This question is a compulsory question and focussed on source skills, with marks awarded for A01 and A02. The subject area was the significance of the Salisbury Convention for the House of Lords. As an explain question, there was no need here to use an introduction or a conclusion.

Stronger answers used the source to answer the question by developing their analysis of why the Salisbury Convention is significant for the House of Lords. This was often done by using a short quote from the source, then explaining how the Salisbury convention was significant. Stronger answers remained clearly focussed on the question throughout.

Weaker answers tended to quote or paraphrase the source rather than build on it by explaining the significance or tended to explain the Salisbury Convention without focussing on significance. It is important for candidates to really focus on the words of the question.

Examiner Comment

This is a Level 3 response that remains clearly focussed on the question, as it keeps coming back to "significance". It clearly uses the source as a springboard to develop its explanation of how and why the Salisbury Convention can be seen as significant for the House of Lords.



One reason why the Salisbury convention is significant for the House of Lords is that it maintains its role as a scrutiny of legislation. The source states that role is that of the "revising chamber" and to "report bills on a regular basis" would go against this role. This shows the importance of the convention as it ensures that the Lords will not block legislation of the manifesto, which the government have a mandate from the people to implement, therefore it shouldn't be the case that an unelected chamber blocks policies which are effectively the will of the people, as in this case the Lords would be too powerful, which would cause concern over how democratic its existence is. Therefore one reason why the Salisbury convention is significant for the House of Lords is because it keeps its role as the "revising chamber" consistent.

Another reason why the Salisbury Convention is significant is that it reaffirms the superiority of the House of Commons over the Lords. The source states that the Lords "respect the superiority of the Commons". However, if the Salisbury Convention ~~was not~~ didn't exist it's possible that the Lords would feel they're able to not respect this superiority, and instead block legislation which is contained in the manifesto. There could still be disagreements such as the fact that the Lords can't change or delay and cause for "Money bills" however the Salisbury Convention is certainly key for ensuring the ~~key~~ superiority of the House of Commons remains. Therefore another reason why the Salisbury Convention is significant is that it reaffirms the superiority of the House of Commons over the Lords.

Another reason why the Salisbury Convention is significant is that it creates doubt over the role of the Lords in a hung parliament. It could be argued that in cases such as 2010 or 2017 with hung parliaments and coalitions that the House of Lords may have the right to block legislation in the manifesto. Then for example, in a coalition government if a policy is in one party's manifesto but not the other it ~~can~~ becomes unclear as to which party the Lords should prioritise, with the ~~same~~ saying "in these circumstances... ~~the~~ has the right to ignore the Salisbury Convention". It could be argued that this is a negative ~~negative~~ impact as it means that its implementation as a convention should be done on a case by case basis. Therefore a reason why the Salisbury Convention is significant is that it creates doubt over the power of the Lords in minority and coalition governments.

Question 3

Question 3 is another compulsory question that focusses on source skills and in this case, assessing whether the uneven nature of devolution is a major problem. In many ways, the structure of responses to this answer is all important. The structure must focus on similarities and differences between the sources to answer the question. In answering the question, candidates need to build the debate from the sources to reach justified conclusions about the success or otherwise of devolution. An overall conclusion to this answer is very valuable, although an introduction is not necessary.

Stronger answers clearly focussed on locating differences and similarities between the sources, whilst the best answers used these to develop an argument to reach mini conclusions and an overall conclusion. A good contextual understanding of the reasons for and impact of uneven devolution was very important.

Weaker answers tended to repeat the source through quoting it or paraphrasing it without really developing any analysis. There were some answers that just wanted to answer the question and ignore the source or ignore the element of similarities and differences, and this really limits the ability to score well under the mark scheme. Again, the words of the question were important here and the best answers picked up both on the word "uneven" and the words "major problem".

Examiner Comment

This is a Level 3 response with an effective structure; there is clear comparative analysis of the sources that is used to build judgements about whether the uneven nature of devolution is a major problem.

Both ~~4~~ sources agree that parties are committed to the process of development and have supported its development thus far. Source ² states 'no major political party wishes to reverse the process' and Source 3 'all major political parties are committed to devolution'. This is reflected in the progressing development of devolution, with Scotland reaching devo max following the unsuccessful result of the 2014 ~~Indep~~ Scottish Independence Referendum. All recent governments have now ~~ex~~ endorsed the allocation of devolved powers such as education and drunk driving legislation in Scotland. However, Source 2 states that 'devolution has been a success', whereas Source 3 argues 'success is far from the truth'. It can be questioned whether devolved powers has been a success due to the persistent conflict of governing bodies and fight for independence. This can be seen in the case of the SNP which continued to advocate for independence after reaching devo max in 2014. Equally, the suspension

of conflicting parties in Northern Irish Assembly question whether Westminster retention is best.

Despite this, both sources agree that devolution has presented inconsistencies and unequal value.

This is seen in Source 2 in 'uneven and varied across all areas' and Source 3 in 'riddled with faults and inconsistencies'. This argument is supported by the use of the Barnett Formula and varying devolved powers. This indicates the application of both funding and legislative abilities based on the requirements of the devolved body (as seen in Northern Ireland for topics such as firearm regulation). However, the sources disagree on the overall impact of unity. Source 2 states 'it allows unity' whereas Source 3 claims that its faults 'will destroy the unity of the UK'. Unity can be questioned again to the relative failure of assemblies externally to Westminster. However, Westminster has retained full control since the 1707 Act of Union showing that devolution is an improvement in national relationships.

Overall it can be argued that in the progress of devo-max to nations and the recognition of ~~later~~ external assemblies and the

reduction of independence conflicts since 2013, that devolution

is a gradual process proving its success progressively.

(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS

Question 4 (a)

This question was marginally the more popular of the two optional essay questions. Most candidates were able to refer to both a pre-1997 and a post 1997 Prime Minister, although there remained a tendency to talk more about Blair and Thatcher rather than more recent Prime Ministers. Generally, candidates were able to include effective synoptic links back in particular to elections and parties in context from Component 1 (synoptic being part of A01).

Timing was all important here; candidates needed to ensure that they gave themselves adequate time to really do justice to the longer essay format.

Structure was also crucial here. The most effective structure started with a short but clear introduction that detailed the nature of the debate and then laid out the main direction of the argument to be pursued. Next paragraphs were built using an effective pairing of argument – for and against the idea that the Prime Minister’s power depends largely on the Cabinet with clear analysis (AO2) – to build mini conclusions (AO3) throughout the answer. These mini conclusions offered stepping stone judgements that took the answer to the conclusion (AO3). The most effective conclusions were the ones that the reader could write for themselves in their own mind from reading the main body of the essay and found it matched the actual conclusion on paper.

This question was answered with a range of different approaches and structures. Some adopted for an approach where they went by Prime Minister, although sometimes this had the effect of seeing the repetition of points and less analysis, whilst others used different themes such as whether the PM’s power relies on cabinet or relies on party and/or Parliament or the size of the majority or public image/media perception. The more contemporary examples were an effective way to select and deploy information precisely (AO1) to help build analysis (AO2).

Weaker answers tended to talk about other factors than cabinet, whilst not really focussing in on the stated factor of “cabinet” in the question. Secondly, a main area for differentiation was whether candidates really focussed in on whether the Prime Minister’s power depends largely on the Cabinet or ended up almost narrating the time in power of three different Prime Ministers. Exemplification was also key – knowledge of relevant and contemporary cases made a big difference to being able to access the full range of the mark scheme. The very best answers could compare more recent PMs back to more historical PMs to draw out effective analysis. There was still a tendency to write all the arguments for then all the arguments against more like a list than a real debate, sometimes making it harder to really develop analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3).

Examiner Comment

This is a Level 5 answer. Right from the introduction, it is clear what is being argued; it explores cabinet and alternative factors to cabinet and keeps coming back to the question. There is some excellent political vocabulary and some every effectively selected evidence, including some very contemporary examples, to underpin the analysis and evaluation. There are plenty of synoptic links back to Paper One.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☐ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

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

The role of the Prime Minister is to lead their party, their cabinet and their country to deliver policy from the manifesto. The cabinet, comprised of the PM and their ministers, is responsible for proposing legislation and managing their corresponding departments. It is clear that, in the UK, the Prime Minister's (PM) power depends largely on their cabinet, as the cabinet makes policy decisions, determines party unity, and can even overthrow a PM through resignations. ~~At the end of the day~~

~~Some~~ Some may argue that the power of the PM depends, to a larger extent than the cabinet, on the type of government they preside over. If by a PM leads a strong, majority government then they are able to pass legislation with ease, as the UK is referred to as an 'elective dictatorship'. For example, their Government has used their 41-seat majority government to pass several unpopular pieces of legislation. This includes legislation to maintain the two-child benefit cap, in which 7 Labour MPs voted against the government. Despite this rebellion, Government

used his minority to pass the legislation with ease, proving his power originates from his minority. Conversely, a weak government such as Theresa May's 2017-2019 (CON+DUP) ~~was~~ supply and confidence government, means the PM possesses little power. May was, due to her lack of a majority, ~~regarded~~ ^{regarded} many times in parliament, regardless of her cabinet, proving that the PM's power lies in their minority. However, the PM, even with a strong majority, still relies on their cabinet to enact policy. The UK is a ~~core~~ ^{core}-executive, meaning the PM's role is simply to oversee and manage their ministers. There are many departments, covering many policy areas from the environment to foreign policy. ~~Therefore, the PM's ability and power to carry out their policy agenda is largely dependent upon the cabinet. This is a stronger argument, as it would simply be impossible for a PM to manage all departments on their own, so they must, inevitably, rely on cabinet, even if the extent to which this is the case varies with the size of their minority. If the ministers heading these departments have powers of their own, including passing secondary legislation which will reflect back onto the PM.~~

Secondly, some may agree the power of the PM is dependent upon their popularity, as this will determine the ability of the PM to act politically. ~~The PM is popular~~ ~~which is the~~ ~~factor~~ ~~that~~ ~~determines~~ ~~the~~ ~~power~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~PM~~. A PM can use many methods to elevate themselves above the cabinet. For example, Thatcher used her uncompromising personality and willingness to her advantage, saying in a speech "this lady is not for turning". ~~Then~~ ~~through~~ ~~building~~ ~~a~~ ~~strong~~ ~~personality~~, Thatcher could separate herself from the cabinet, using ~~to~~ ~~her~~ ~~power~~ ~~to~~ ~~separate~~ ~~herself~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~cabinet~~ ~~and~~ ~~make~~ ~~decisions~~ ~~independently~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~cabinet~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~public~~ ~~to~~ ~~rule~~. ~~Similarly~~ ~~Johnson's~~ ~~development~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~strong~~ ~~public~~ ~~image~~ ~~and~~ ~~popularity~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~media~~ ~~allowed~~ ~~him~~ ~~to~~ ~~take~~ ~~the~~ ~~lead~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~cabinet~~ ~~and~~ ~~take~~ ~~responsibility~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~government~~ ~~and~~ ~~its~~ ~~actions~~ ~~in~~ ~~front~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~public~~. However, as ~~the~~ ~~popularity~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~PM~~ ~~can~~ ~~be~~ ~~measured~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~cabinet~~ ~~in~~ ~~determining~~ ~~power~~, popularity and responsibility in the public eye is extremely volatile, meaning ~~or~~ ~~the~~ ~~PM's~~ ~~can~~ ~~be~~ ~~lost~~ ~~when~~ ~~unpopular~~. For example, when Thatcher attempted to push through her Poll Tax in 1990, she was met with great resistance from the public, hugely damaging her reputation. This meant that, when key members of the cabinet including her deputy PM Geoffrey Howe resigned, Thatcher was left

work and resigned himself. Similarly, the resignation of Burke, David and Baderoch on the same day admit Johnson's partygate scandal forced the PM to resign. This shows that, even if one popular, the power of a PM is still heavily dependent upon the condition that they are supported by cabinet. Overall, this is a stronger argument as several successful PMs have been forced to resign ^{directly} following a cabinet resignation, such as Thatcher and Johnson.

Finally, some may argue that the power of a PM depends on the unity of their party, as a divided party can heavily weaken their ability to effectively lead. Every Conservative PM since Major has been hampered by the issue of Brexit, causing great ideological divide between advocates of remaining in the EU versus the ~~remain~~ leave advocates. For example, ~~PM~~ Theresa May was a very weak PM due to her divided party over Brexit. This led to many defeats in the House of Commons over Brexit deals, and eventually led to her resignation. This shows that the power of PM is more dependent on unity than it is cabinet, as ~~on~~ a divided party led to the demise of

May's government. However, this may be argued as it is through their selection of cabinet and power of patronage that a PM can determine if ~~the party~~ their party is unified. ~~But~~ Unlike May, Boris Johnson selected a cabinet with little ideological balance, ensuring that ministers were on board with plans to leave the EU. Johnson even ~~resisted~~ persuaded cabinet members into resigning if they ~~could~~ could not support him, such as Philip Hammond's resignation, said by many to be a jump before he was asked. By maintaining a united cabinet, Johnson was able to maintain a united party, ensuring his government could effectively deliver on his promise to "Get Brexit Done." [†] It is therefore clear that ~~the power of a PM~~ while the power of a PM has spent on a unified party, this unity is dependent on their selection of cabinet, hence proving a PM's power has depend on cabinet.

[†] Conversely, May's attempt to ~~select~~ create a balanced cabinet by including ^{her} Brexit opponents such as Boris Johnson meant that her power was undermined by cabinet battles and a lack of unity. Overall, it is clear that this is a struggle

opposed or without a unified cabinet, ^{under} the party is unlikely to be unified, ~~from~~ weakening the PM's power.

In conclusion, it is abundantly clear that, while there are several key factors influencing the power of a Prime Minister such as party unity, the size of their majority and their popularity, the cabinet remains the primary influence as it underpins all other factors.

A unified party is derived from a unified cabinet, a strong majority still relies on cabinet ministers to run departments which report back into the PM, and ~~as~~ ^{the} popularity of a PM remains ~~stable~~ vulnerable to resignations ~~and~~ from cabinet ministers.

The UK, by nature, is a prime ministerial system in which the PM is ^{quite} among equals in cabinet, ^{running} cabinet, in the very essence of ^{UK} government, is ~~the~~ the primary influence of the PM's power.

Question 4(b)

This answer was the marginally less popular of the two questions and candidates adopted a wide range of different approaches to the answer. Nearly all candidates were able to refer to both parliament and other possible locations of sovereignty. It was important for candidates to note and follow this instruction and the use of a wide range of evidence really helped to develop more analytical answers.

Generally, candidates were able to include effective synoptic links back in particular to Component 1 (the synoptic element being part of A01).

Timing was all important here; candidates needed to ensure that they gave themselves adequate time to really do justice to the longer essay format.

Structure was also crucial here. The most effective structure started with a short but clear introduction that detailed the nature of the debate and defined the term sovereignty. Next paragraphs were built using an effective pairing of argument – for and against the idea that parliament is no longer sovereign with clear analysis (AO2) – to build mini conclusions (AO3) throughout the answer. These mini conclusions offered stepping stone judgements that took the answer to the conclusion (AO3). The most effective conclusions were the ones that the reader could write for themselves in their own mind from reading the main body of the essay and found it matched the actual conclusion on paper.

Stronger answers used themes to create debate like sovereignty moving to the executive, moving to the devolved bodies, moving to the Supreme Court, moving to popular sovereignty in the form of referenda or the impact of leaving the EU on sovereignty.

There were some issues here with candidates losing focus on Parliament being no longer sovereign. In some cases, candidates talked about the House of Lords acting as a limit on Parliamentary sovereignty despite the Lords being part of Parliament and there was confusion around the role of the Courts with weaker answers focussing on the Courts ability to limit the power of the Executive rather than their impact on parliamentary sovereignty. Better answers understood that discussing declarations of incompatibility's impact on the sovereignty of Parliament and using the Miller/Cherry cases to show how parliament was still sovereign was a more fruitful route.

There was still a tendency to write all the arguments for then all the arguments against more like a list than a real debate, sometimes making it harder to really develop analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3).

Examiner's Comment

This is a Level 4 answer. There is a nice clear line of argument from the start, which is developed throughout leading to the conclusion. There is a good use of

political terminology. There is a focus on the question, and a clear understanding of sovereignty and the debate around it.

Parliament being sovereign refers to the fact that it's the highest decision making body in the UK, and that ultimate legislative power lies with it. Some might argue that devolution of powers to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland means parliament isn't truly sovereign as that membership to international bodies, such as the EU, takes away sovereignty. However in this essay I will argue that ultimately the final decision lies with parliament as they have the ultimate power to bring any piece of legislation into our constitution.

One argument some may use to point to is suggest parliament is no longer sovereign is devolution. In 1997, Tony Blair after a series of referendums sought to transfer some powers from Westminster to the devolved assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, granting them control over healthcare, education and some social policies in their countries. For example, the Scottish parliament issued a public smoking ban without any need to ask or go through Westminster, which may suggest that in the UK parliament is no longer sovereign as it should be able to make the final decision on all policy matters if it were truly the highest decision making body. However I would argue that devolution does not show a lack of sovereignty, as initially it was parliament who put it in place and it's parliament who can just as easily revoke it. We've seen that Westminster still has power over the devolved assemblies in the case of the Gender Recognition Bill 2023 in Scotland, which was blocked by Westminster. This demonstrates that although the devolved assemblies may have significant powers, however at any time their actions could be stopped by parliament. Therefore while some may argue devolution has taken sovereignty away from parliament I believe that it's ability to block any

legislation they wish to pass as if needed remove them entirely shows that parliament is still very much sovereign.

One reason why I would argue parliament is still sovereign is that it can introduce any new piece of legislation to remove the effect of another. This is due to the modified nature of our constitution whereby it's possible to be easily amended as an act of it is extended, therefore can be updated efficiently. For example, in 2010 Brown's Labour government wished to freeze the assets of suspected terrorists. The supreme court ruled that this was unlawful and that they're not allowed to do this. However shortly after they passed the Terrorist Assets Freezing Act 2010 which enabled them to, even though it was against the supreme court's ruling. This debate has implemented by parliament in what decisions and whether something is able to be done or made in accordance to, and the fact that it's parliament who have the power to amend the constitution as long as it's agreed by them in any way. They should I feel is irrefutable evidence that parliament remains the sovereign body in the UK. Another ~~reason that not being~~ If parliament wished to, they could remove any piece of legislation they desire, even being able to strip us of our rights by removing acts such as the Human Rights Act 1998. Although this is unlikely to happen as there are checks in place to ensure that ^{the government} parliament can't simply run rampant. Such as votes of no confidence within parliament, and this shows that sovereignty lies with parliament as they're able to remove the government if they feel that they haven't delivered on their promises outlined in their manifestos or that they'd lost faith in them to govern effectively, a power which no other institution in the UK possesses. Therefore one reason why I believe that parliament is sovereign is because the power to implement or remove any piece of legislation lies with them.

Some may argue that our ~~main~~ ^{main} ~~why~~ ^{reason} ~~parliament is a~~ ^{membership} in international organisations such as the EU takes sovereignty away from parliament, as the UK then has to consider the regulations of this body as well as our own laws. For example the Factortame case in 1990 could possibly highlight how sovereignty didn't lie with parliament as the supreme court ruled that the 1988 Merchant and Shipping Act wasn't in accordance with EU regulation, which led to parts of it being reworded so it did comply. Some may say that parliament, the supposedly sovereign ultimate body within the UK handing to the regulations of an international body such as the EU shows that sovereignty may not lie within the state, but the international groups which impose regulations upon all member states. However I would agree that while it may be true that membership to groups such as the EU removes some sovereignty from parliament, the fact that at any time parliament can remove the UK from these organisations shows that true sovereignty still lies with parliament. For example, after a referendum in 2016 it was concluded that the UK should, and have left the EU. While ^{some} ~~some~~ could say argue this suggests sovereignty lies with the people, as their consent was needed before a major constitutional reform, however I would argue that the people delegating their sovereignty to parliament through representatives still means parliament is sovereign. Therefore by removing us from the UK from the EU via Brexit it's highlighted that parliament has the power to remove us from any body which is seen to be harmful for the UK and our democracy. Therefore sovereignty still does lie with parliament as it can make any constitutional change, even removing memberships to international organisations if deemed necessary.

In conclusion, while it's true that sovereignty may be spread out among slightly amongst the devolved assemblies, and that international bodies may pull some sovereignty away from parliament to them, in the end the most important argument is objectively that parliament always has the power to supplement or remove anything it takes from

the constitution in order to grow. Therefore I ~~believe~~ ^{believe} it's completely undeniable, especially after we exit from the EU, that true sovereignty lies with parliament.

Paper Summary

The following key points should be taken away from this exam series:

- Candidates and centres should be congratulated for the readiness for this exam series.
- The importance of exam timing. Enough time needs to be factored in to handle the essay question.
- In Describe questions, the importance of focussing on the question and exemplifying the points made.
- On Explain questions, using the source as a springboard to answer the question.
- On Assess questions, comparing the sources, showing similarities and differences to build clear analysis and evaluation in answering the question. Conclusions must be reached.
- The need to plan essay answers so that responses have a clear structure that focusses on the demands of the question.
- The essay questions are on the big debates in politics, so answers should read like a debate where competing views are considered to reach judgements throughout that naturally build to a clear conclusion.
- The use of contemporary examples can really strengthen analysis in answers to the questions.
- The effective use of key terms from the specification helps lift the quality of responses. The ability to be able to define key terms is also crucial.
- The importance of introductions and conclusions in essay questions.
- Introductions should include definitions where needed, set up the debate and give a clear direction of travel.