

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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Time 1 hour 45 minutes

**Paper
reference**

8PL0/02

Politics

**Advanced Subsidiary
PAPER 2: UK Government**

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.
- Good luck with your examination.

Turn over ►

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Pearson

SECTION A

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

EITHER

1 (a) Describe the main powers devolved to Scotland. (10)

OR

(b) Describe the main features of statute law. (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 is adapted from a 2018 Daily Telegraph article on Lord Hain using parliamentary privilege to reveal that Sir Philip Green was the businessman at the heart of Britain's #MeToo scandal, which concerns harassment at work.

A non-disclosure agreement, in this case, refers to a legal agreement that authorises payment to an employee who is then legally bound not to discuss the allegation of sexist or racist behaviour, as part of a confidentiality clause in the agreement.

Source 1

MPs and peers can say what they like in Parliament without fear of threats from those they criticise because parliamentary privilege provides legal immunity from prosecution for words spoken during proceedings in Parliament.

Topshop owner, Sir Philip Green, who had used non-disclosure agreements and court injunctions to hide accusations of unlawful sexual and racist behaviour at work, was named in Parliament by Lord Hain. He said he felt a 'duty' to reveal Green's identity using parliamentary privilege. There have been calls for a crackdown on the use of non-disclosure agreements by 'serial offenders'.

Lord Hain added 'What concerned me about this case was the wealth, and power that comes with it, and abuse... There's no point in being in Westminster if you never deploy the precious rights of parliamentary privilege.'

Sir Vince Cable, Liberal Democrat leader at the time, said: 'I think Parliament is proving its worth... this shows democracy at work'. Green had denied any 'unlawful sexual or racist behaviour' and argued that Hain was abusing parliamentary privilege. *The Telegraph* had been investigating allegations of bullying, intimidation and sexual harassment made against Green but was prevented from publishing the story following a court judgement by a senior judge until Lord Hain spoke out.

(Source: adapted from <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/25/sir-philip-green-named-parliament-businessman-centre-britains/>)

Using the source, explain the significance of parliamentary privilege for the work of Parliament.

(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)



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- 3 Source 2 and Source 3 examine the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. They consider where the balance of power between these two parts of UK government is located.

Source 2

The Cabinet remains the prime forum for major decisions. In moments of crisis the cabinet is 'insurance for troubled times'. All PMs (Prime Ministers) operate through a Cabinet system; it is the training ground for senior ministers who may eventually go on to be PM if they have a good record in their departments. If senior ministers fail in their role the PM may decide to fire them. Importantly the Cabinet is where all important decisions are made; it confers legitimacy on the actions of the wider government. The Cabinet is a central link between the public and also Parliament. In essence it is indispensable in our system of governing.

Source 3

Cabinet government is at the apex of decision making. But sometimes the PM decides and the Cabinet simply rubber-stamps that decision. Decisions are frequently taken in bilateral meetings – sometimes termed 'sofa government' – or in a discussion between the PM and an inner group of Cabinet colleagues. More often PMs appoint a Cabinet committee that will decide whatever the PM desires. When a Cabinet minister is struggling in post, the PM may protect them or fire them. In the final analysis, Cabinet matters because it ensures the dominance of the PM. Hence in reality the Cabinet is no longer essential to our system of governing.

Using the sources, assess whether the Cabinet is the most important decision making body in UK government.

*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) 'Parliament is now better able to hold the executive accountable than previously.'

How far do you agree that since 2010 Parliament has been better able to hold the executive to account?

In your answer you must:

- *refer to at least two different parliaments*
- *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 UK's membership of the European Union has had a considerable impact on the UK political system.'

How far do you agree that the UK's membership of the European Union has had a considerable impact on the UK political system?

In your answer you must:

- *refer to two parts of the UK political system affected by membership of the EU*
- *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)

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(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

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

