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Surname

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

Sample assessment material for first teaching
September 2017

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper Reference

8PL0/02

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 sources of the British Constitution.

OR

- (b) Describe the main stages that a legislative bill may go through in the House of Commons.

(Total for Question 1 = 10 marks)

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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 the Lords Appointment Commission website and informs people about the selection criteria used for those wishing to apply to be non-party political life peers.

Source 1

Selection Criteria

The Commission will assess nominations against the criteria set out below. It is committed to independent and fair assessment of nominations. Its recommendations will be made on individual merit and not on any other basis.

The Criteria

The Commission will be seeking to recommend nominees:

- with the ability to make an effective and significant contribution to the work of the House of Lords, not only in their areas of particular interest and special expertise, but the wide range of other issues coming before the House;
- with a record of significant achievement within their chosen way of life that demonstrates a range of experience, skills and competencies;
- who are willing to commit the time necessary to make an effective contribution to the work of the House of Lords. The Commission recognises that many active members continue with their professional and other working interests and this can help maintain expertise and experience;
- who are able to demonstrate outstanding personal qualities, in particular, integrity and independence;
- who are and intend to remain independent of any political party.

(Source: taken from www.lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/selection-criteria
– used under Open Parliament Licence v3.0.)

Using the source, explain the advantages of how members are selected for the House of Lords.

*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.*

(10)

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(Total for Question 2 = 10 marks)

- 3 Source 2 is an adapted extract from an academic paper written in 2014 that examines both sides of the sovereignty debate, with this extract focusing on the ways in which sovereignty has not been lost.

Source 2

Pro Europeans believe that membership of the EU has in fact extended the nation's sovereignty. They see sovereignty as a resource rather than a static concept. As Geoffrey Howe puts it, "Sovereignty is not virginity, which you either have or you don't". The UK has transferred control over areas, including Agriculture and Fisheries, but by pooling sovereignty with other EU members this has enhanced the ability to achieve its policy goals, for example on environmental matters.

There is also a continuing requirement of unanimity in key areas, opt-outs and the fact that the loss of sovereignty has not applied to matters of essential national concern like defence or criminal law.

(Source 2: adapted from 'A Critical Assessment of the Impact of EU Membership on British Sovereignty', © Anna Roininen, University of Leicester)

Source 3 is an adapted extract from a Daily Mail article written in August 2010, a Conservative supporting Eurosceptic tabloid newspaper, which later supported 'Brexit' during the EU referendum.

Source 3

The EU budget commissioner is lobbying hard for the EU to be able to levy its own taxes on things like energy, airline flights and financial transactions. What lurks behind this proposal is the fulfilment of the supreme ambition which Brussels has never so far managed to bring off.

For over 50 years 'the European project' has created a mighty government stretching across Europe and giving the EU almost all the attributes of a superstate: its own vast law-making powers, parliament, currency and courts.

It is on the way to having its own foreign policy, armed forces, legal system and integrated police force, and therefore to removing the sovereignty of the UK Parliament.

(Source 3: adapted from: www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-1302039/EU-tax-ultimate-surrender-Britains-sovereignty.html)

Using the sources, assess whether membership of the European Union (EU) has limited parliamentary sovereignty.

In your response you must compare both sources by analysing and evaluating them. You will not gain credit for use of knowledge and understanding alone. Any knowledge and understanding used in your response must support your analysis and evaluation of both sources in order to 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) 'The Supreme Court is neutral and independent of the UK government'

How far do you agree with this view of the Supreme Court?

In your answer you must:

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

OR

(b) 'Prime Ministers are able to successfully control the political agenda'

How far do you agree with this view of Prime Ministerial power?

In your answer you must:

- consider **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 the study from Component 1: UK politics.

(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS