

Answer two questions, one from Section A and one from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between the questions.

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The UK Constitution

Study the following source and answer the questions that follow.

The UK constitution, based on principles such as parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law, is derived from a number of sources, stretching back over hundreds of years. However, they have not been brought together in one official written document. What the UK has instead is an accumulation of various statutes, conventions, judicial decisions and treaties, including those with the EU, which collectively can be referred to as the UK Constitution.

Parliamentary sovereignty is, arguably, the key principle of the UK constitution. It developed as a result of the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688, when Parliament succeeded in establishing its dominance over the monarchy. The principle of parliamentary sovereignty has several key features. In the first place, Parliament is sovereign because statute law outranks all other forms of law, such as common law and case law. Second, there is no legislature that can challenge the authority of Parliament.

There has been considerable debate as to whether, and to what extent, parliamentary sovereignty remains. Some argue that Parliament remains legally sovereign. Nevertheless, concern has been expressed about Parliament's declining sovereignty. This has, allegedly, occurred primarily as a result of EU membership. It has been argued that sovereignty within the UK is now best understood as 'parliamentary sovereignty within the context of EU membership'. But this decline has also been brought about through the introduction of devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Indeed, some commentators have claimed that the devolution arrangements in the UK have developed into a form of 'quasi-federalism'.

- (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** of the sources which make up the UK constitution. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain the features of parliamentary sovereignty. (10)
- (c) To what extent does Parliament remain sovereign? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The British Constitution

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

A Possible Codified Constitution for the UK

Jack Straw, the Justice Secretary, has used a visit to Washington to hint that Britain could finally get a codified constitution spelling out citizens' rights and codifying this country's political system. He is already working on a new Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, clearly defining people's relationship to the state, as part of a wide-ranging package of constitutional reform. But he has, for the first time, also said that the Bill could be a step towards a fully codified constitution to 'bring us in line with the most progressive democracies around the world'.

Britain's constitution has developed in a haphazard fashion, building on common law, conventions, case law, historical documents, Acts of Parliament and European legislation. It is not set out clearly in any one document. Nor is there a single statement of citizens' rights and freedoms. As Jack Straw put it yesterday: 'Most people might struggle to put their finger on where their rights are'.

Supporters argue that producing such a document could tackle disillusionment with politics, at the same time as setting new, clear limits on the power of the executive. Opponents of a codified constitution argue, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,' insisting that the existing arrangements, however piecemeal their development has been, have worked well in practice. There are, moreover, formidable practical problems to be overcome before such a document could be drawn up.

Source: adapted from an article by Nigel Morris in *The Independent*, 14 February 2008

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** sources of the UK constitution. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain the arguments in favour of a codified constitution for the UK. (10)
- (c) Make out a case against the adoption of a codified constitution for the UK. (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 Constitutional Reform

Study the following source and answer the questions that follow.

The way in which the United Kingdom's constitutional arrangements may be changed is more flexible than in virtually any other western democracy, almost all of which have codified constitutions. This occurs because, in the uncodified UK constitution, constitutional arrangements can be altered by means such as introducing an Act of Parliament and recognising a new convention or revising an existing one. The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, emphasised that 'We have a flexibility and a pragmatism to our arrangements, which many constitutional experts around the world recognise is a strength'. We, the committee, recognise these strengths. However, current ideas place too great an emphasis on the need for flexibility. Some constraints should be placed on this flexibility.

Apart from the limited power of the House of Lords under the Parliament Acts to delay or reject legislation, there is no formal system of checks and balances by which the nature of the uncodified UK constitution can be safeguarded and protected. Thus there is little to prevent a government which has majority control of the House of Commons from getting its way. This lack of constraint in turn means that the process of constitutional change lies essentially within the gift of the government of the day.

Since 2010, the UK has been through a period of significant constitutional change, including the passing of the Scotland Act 1998, the Wales Act 1998, the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998, the House of Lords Act 1999 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Proposals for further significant change have been on the agenda since then, in particular following the May 2010 general election.

Source: adapted from the Report of the House of Lords Constitutional Select Committee, 6 July, 2011

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, outline why the UK constitution is easy to change. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain how an uncodified constitution differs from a codified constitution. (10)
- (c) Assess the significance of the constitutional reforms introduced since 1997. (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The UK Constitution

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Constitutions organise, distribute and regulate government power. They set out the structure of government, the major government institutions, and the principles governing their relations with each other and with citizens. The UK is unusual in that it has an uncodified constitution. Unlike the great majority of countries there is no single legal document which sets out in one place the fundamental laws outlining how the state works. Its constitutional rules are also not entrenched, as there is no higher category of constitutional law in the UK.

The UK constitution is derived from a number of sources. For example, the most important source of the constitution is statute law, law passed by Parliament. By contrast, conventions are unwritten practices which have developed over time and regulate the business of governing.

An uncodified constitution has two implications. First, it can make it difficult to know what the content of the constitution actually is. Second, it is easier to make changes to an uncodified constitution than it is to a codified constitution. The flexibility of the UK constitution is evident from the large number of constitutional reforms since 1997, including the removal of the majority of hereditary peers from the House of Lords, the introduction of codified rights of individuals for the first time in the Human Rights Act 1998, and the devolution of power to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Source: adapted from UK Constitution Unit (www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit)

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, outline **two** features of the UK constitution. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain the sources of the UK constitution. (10)
- (c) Assess the strengths of the UK constitution. (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 The Constitution

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

We need wholesale constitutional reform, not piecemeal and compromised change. I want our democratic structures to be transparent and fair and I want them to be the basis of our pluralism – this is one of the ways we rebuild trust with the electorate. For example, I support AV for the Commons and a directly elected House of Lords using PR.

We also need to look at how the rights and responsibilities of citizens are properly recognised and codified and how government is held to account. The 1998 Human Rights Act brought about progress, but the case for a codified constitution remains a strong one, both for the benefits it would bring and, crucially, for the process of debate, discussion and democratic engagement through which it would be brought about. A codified constitution would be good for increasing citizen power and good for checking executive power.

On this Labour was too cautious in government. Our 1997 White Paper said ‘we ought to think about whether we should have a written [codified] constitution’. Again in 2006 Gordon Brown called for a codified constitution. But words were never turned into action and we never created a pathway to a codified constitution.

I want Labour to be the party of radical democratic and constitutional reform. This is how we begin to reshape the way we do politics so that it is more open, more plural and more real for citizens.

Source: adapted from David Miliband’s blog, September 2010

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, outline **two** constitutional reforms proposed by David Miliband. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain the arguments in favour of introducing a codified constitution. (10)
- (c) To what extent have the coalition government’s proposals to reform the UK constitution been controversial? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



2 Judges and Civil Liberties

Study the following source and answer the questions that follow.

Civil liberties are composed of a range of rights and freedoms which have been granted to individuals. In the UK, they include the right to freedom of expression, often seen as the right to free speech. Alongside this is the right to a free press, not censored or restricted by the state. The right to protest and to challenge openly both government and other actors within the state is also a key civil liberty. Freedom of association encompasses the right to form groups. Freedom of religion covers the right of individuals to choose and practise their religious beliefs.

Safeguarding civil liberties is a significant aspect of a liberal democracy. These rights can be limited by law in order to protect the interests of others, but only when the limitation is proportionate and necessary. In recent years, governments have been accused of acting in an authoritarian manner by passing legislation which restricts civil liberties. Limitations on the right to a jury trial have been introduced and public order legislation has restricted the right to protest. More controversial has been anti-terrorism legislation, which has had a major impact on civil liberties. Governments have argued that these restrictions are vital to maintain a free and open society in the face of serious threats from groups which would undermine our basic way of life. Protesters claim that governments have created a framework of laws that damage civil liberties and give governments far too much power over individuals.

The task of protecting civil liberties in the UK largely falls to judges. In being willing to strike down actions by ministers and other public bodies which infringe civil liberties, judges have increasingly come into conflict with the executive.

- (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** civil liberties in the UK. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain how and why governments have restricted civil liberties in recent years. (10)
- (c) How effectively do judges protect civil liberties in the UK? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 40 MARKS



Answer TWO questions, one from Section A and one from Section B.

All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The Judiciary

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The judiciary is considered to be independent of the other two branches of government. Judges' salaries are paid from the Consolidated Fund; this means that they do not have to be voted upon each year by Parliament. The House of Commons generally forbids MPs from making any reference to matters before the criminal and civil courts. By convention, a similar restriction is observed by ministers and civil servants.

For their part, judges by convention do not engage in politically partisan activity, thus upholding their neutrality. Indeed, they have generally avoided commenting on matters of public policy. However, the dividing line between judges and politicians was never quite as sharp as these features would suggest. The most obvious example used to be found in the figure of the Lord Chancellor. Prior to the passage of the 2005 Constitutional Reform Act, he was head of the judiciary, the presiding officer of the House of Lords and a member of the Cabinet. The 2005 Act, which also proposed the establishment of a new Supreme Court by 2009, changed this situation, providing for the transfer of his judicial role to the Lord Chief Justice.

Adapted from: 'The Judiciary', by Philip Norton in *Politics UK*, Bill Jones et al., 6th edition, Pearson Education, 2007.

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, describe the measures that exist to maintain the independence and neutrality of the judiciary. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain how the judiciary has been reformed since 2005. (10)
- (c) To what extent are UK judges both independent and neutral? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 The role of the judiciary

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Judges are becoming too politicised in their decision-making, encouraged by a European Court of Human Rights which is progressively shrinking national sovereignty, according to Jonathan Sumption, the newest appointment to the UK's Supreme Court. He implied that judicial reviews are in danger of trespassing on 'the proper function of government'. In a speech to fellow lawyers, Sumption said 'one of the most significant constitutional changes' since the Second World War 'has been the rise in the political significance of the judiciary, as a result of the increasingly vigorous exercise of its powers of judicial review'.

Judges are not politically biased, he stressed, but some cases involved them in 'dealing with matters (namely the merits of policy decisions) which in a democracy are the proper function of Parliament and of ministers answerable to Parliament and the electorate'.

The introduction of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law, through the 1998 Human Rights Act, has, Sumption argued, shifted the boundaries between political and legal decision-making in such controversial areas as immigration, sentencing policy, security and policing, privacy and freedom of expression.

Source: adapted from The Guardian, November, 2011

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, outline why the increasing exercise of judicial review is controversial. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain the main effects of the Human Rights Act. (10)
- (c) Should judges, rather than politicians, be responsible for protecting civil liberties? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



2 The Judiciary

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Constitutional Reform Act of 2005 guaranteed the rule of law. The rule of law is the foundation stone of any healthy democracy, in that it establishes that all conduct and behaviour throughout society should conform to a framework of law. Its principles include equality before the law and punishment only for breaches of law.

The Constitutional Reform Act drew a better division between the roles of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice, as well as between the Lord Chancellor and the House of Lords, which now has its own Lord Speaker. The Lord Chancellor is bound by oath to preserve the principle of judicial independence.

The Act also created the UK's Supreme Court. Its opening in October 2009, together with the other reforms, marked the end of a long process towards establishing the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. The process by which judicial appointments are made is also more independent and distanced from government. Indeed, there is now no meaningful role for the government in the appointment of judges, except for the most senior. Even in the case of senior judges, the government's influence is extremely limited.

Source: adapted from a memorandum by Jack Straw to the Justice Select Committee, March, 2010.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, what is the rule of law? (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain how the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed. (10)
- (c) To what extent can judges check the power of the executive and the legislature? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

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SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The Judiciary

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The government was slapped down in a judicial review by the Supreme Court when it ruled that a Treasury freeze on the bank accounts of suspected terrorists was illegal. A panel of seven judges allowed a challenge by five men (all suspected terrorists) who had had all their assets frozen under orders made when Gordon Brown was Chancellor of the Exchequer. The terrorists' assets were frozen in 2006 as a result of an executive order. This had been issued in response to UN Security Council resolutions calling for steps to be taken to hit the financing of international terrorism. But the orders were not voted on in Parliament.

Today the Supreme Court ruled that the Treasury had exceeded its powers, meaning that the orders were unlawful. The justices declared that if the Government considered 'far-reaching measures' were necessary to combat terrorism, 'it must first obtain approval for them from Parliament'. The government has responded by saying it will 'fast-track legislation' through the Commons to make sure it can continue to freeze terrorists' assets.

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said: 'It is simply not acceptable for Labour to behave as if we are a police state and go around arbitrarily arresting people or confiscating their property without due process under the rule of law. The Government's desperation to avoid consulting Parliament is creating bad laws, legal defeats and hefty bills for the taxpayer. It has to stop.'

Source: adapted from Sky News online, January 27, 2010.

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, why was the government criticised over the decision to freeze the assets of the suspected terrorists? (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain judicial review and its importance. (10)
- (c) To what extent is there conflict between the judiciary and the executive in the UK? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Study the following sources and answer the questions that follow.

Source 1

There are three reasons for government reshuffles: (a) because a minister or ministers leave office for whatever reason and the subsequent movements to fill the vacancies become a reshuffle; (b) because the Prime Minister is dissatisfied with the performance of particular ministers; and (c) to provide a progression route for talented backbenchers. Whether reshuffles have an effect on policy making and delivery depends on the reasons for the reshuffle and the personnel involved.

Source: extract of evidence of former Cabinet Minister, Alan Johnson to the House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee. 18 September, 2012.

Source 2

David Cameron summoned cabinet ministers on Monday night who are to be sacked or demoted in his first major government reshuffle which will see a comprehensive clear-out of ministers who have failed to deliver and the promotion of a new generation of ministers. There were signs on Monday that Andrew Lansley, the Health Secretary, and Caroline Spelman, Environment Secretary, will be among the victims. Lansley left the prime minister in despair when he struggled to explain the need for his plans to devolve most of the NHS's £100bn budget to new GP-led commissioning groups. Spelman has failed to recover from the fiasco of failed plans to sell off parts of the national forest.

Downing Street confirmed that Andrew Mitchell, the International Development Secretary, will replace Patrick McLoughlin as the government's chief whip. The appointment of Mitchell shows the influence of George Osborne, his close supporter. One government source said: 'The prime minister sees the second half of this parliament as the delivery phase. We want to have people who have a proven record in delivering in their departments.'

Source : adapted from Guardian article, 4 September, 2012

- 2 (a) With reference to the sources, what is a government reshuffle? (5)
- (b) With reference to the sources and your own knowledge, explain the factors a prime minister considers when appointing or dismissing ministers. (10)
- (c) To what extent do prime ministers control the decisions made by their government? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



2 Prime Ministerial Power

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

It is often asserted that 'the British prime minister is as powerful as he or she wants to be'. Margaret Thatcher wanted to be dominant and ensured this by removing her political opponents in the cabinet and replacing them with people she could rely on. Tony Blair similarly strengthened his position by including his closest allies in the cabinet. Prime ministers who want to be dominant will take their prerogative powers and stretch them to the limits. This can also be seen in the area of foreign affairs. Both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown spent much time attempting to take a leading role in world affairs, including conducting wars and negotiating international treaties.

This picture may nevertheless be misleading. There are powerful forces which can be ranged against them. The prime minister's cabinet colleagues can turn against him or her, as occurred with Thatcher in 1990. In the case of Blair, his position was undermined by growing criticism within the party, particularly after the 2003 invasion of Iraq. The media, too, can become hostile. Brown received unfavourable press coverage and he was presented as a weak and indecisive leader. A prime minister's strength also depends on many factors beyond his or her direct control. These include the size of the parliamentary majority and the course of world events.

April, 2010.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, describe **two** limitations on prime ministerial power. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain the prime minister's prerogative powers. (10)
- (c) To what extent can the Prime Minister control the Cabinet? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



2 The Prime Minister and the Cabinet

Study the following two passages and answer the questions that follow.

Source 1 A Cabinet Meeting

The Prime Minister's Spokesman began by giving a brief summary of Cabinet of the previous day to the assembled press. Cabinet had met for an hour and 40 minutes that morning. There had been the usual update from Geoff Hoon (Leader of the House of Commons) on parliamentary business, there had been a brief discussion on the Draft Legislative Programme being published tomorrow and there was an update from the Foreign Secretary on the situation in Burma. Most of the Cabinet was spent discussing the economy in a discussion led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, where he emphasised the global nature of the economic situation we were facing at the moment – not only the global credit crunch, but also rising oil and food prices.

Source: Prime Minister's Office press briefing, 14 May 2008

Source 2 Gordon Brown's First Cabinet

Gordon Brown unveiled an almost completely new Cabinet today as he attempted to make good on his pledge for a 'politics of change' after the Blair years, including Britain's first ever female Home Secretary and its youngest Foreign Secretary for 30 years. As part of a huge overhaul, the Prime Minister appointed Jacqui Smith, formerly the Chief Whip, as Home Secretary, and David Miliband as Foreign Secretary. As head of the Home Office, Ms Smith will be in charge of the battle against terrorism, national security and policing. Standing outside the Foreign Office, Mr Miliband – who was himself widely tipped as Mr Brown's rival for the Labour leadership, before ruling himself out – said: 'I'm tremendously honoured'.

Source: adapted from '*Brown shuffles the pack for new Cabinet*' in Times Online, 28 June 2007

- 2 (a) With reference to Source 1, describe **two** types of issues discussed by the Cabinet. (5)
- (b) With reference to Source 2, and your own knowledge, what factors does the Prime Minister take into account when appointing cabinet ministers? (10)
- (c) To what extent is the Cabinet an important body? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)



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Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 Prime Ministerial Power

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The decision to introduce fixed-term Parliaments was one of the key features of the coalition agreement between the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties in 2010. The policy was, in due course, enacted through the Fixed-Term Parliament Act, 2011. The introduction of fixed-term Parliaments had long been advocated by the Liberal Democrats. It is often claimed that the reform will reduce prime ministerial power, because it means that prime ministers are no longer able to use their prerogative power to dissolve Parliament and call a general election when events turn in their favour. But a fixed five-year Parliament also means that they can plan ahead to complete their programme by a known date in the future.

The issue of fixed-term Parliaments is part of a long-running debate about how powerful UK prime ministers are. In addition to chairing cabinet meetings and controlling the cabinet system, prime ministers have attracted increasing media focus and become the 'brand image' of their party at election time. Some commentators have gone as far as to claim that UK prime ministers have, effectively, become 'presidents'. Concern about the growing powers of the prime minister has led, amongst other things, to calls for a fully codified written constitution, which would outline the role and responsibilities of the prime minister and government. This would establish clear guidelines for the exercise of prime ministerial powers, rather than allowing the prime minister to determine his or her own role as he or she sees fit.

Source: Edexcel, 12 October 2011.

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, describe how the introduction of fixed-term Parliaments affects prime ministerial power. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain **three** reforms, other than fixed-term Parliaments, which could limit the powers of the prime minister. (10)
- (c) To what extent have UK prime ministers become more 'presidential'? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Prime Ministerial Power

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

For centuries Prime Ministers have exercised authority in the name of the monarchy without the people or their elected representatives being consulted. So now I propose that in key areas important to our national life, the Prime Minister and executive should surrender or limit their powers. The exclusive exercise of these powers by the Government should have no place in a modern democracy.

These include:

- the power of the executive to declare war
- the power to request the dissolution of Parliament
- the power over recall of Parliament
- the power of the executive to ratify international treaties
- the power to make key public appointments without effective scrutiny
- the power to restrict parliamentary oversight of the intelligence services
- the power to choose bishops
- the power to appoint judges

I now propose to surrender or limit these powers to make for a more open twenty-first century British democracy.

Adapted from Gordon Brown, speech in Parliament, July 3rd 2007.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, outline the reasons Gordon Brown gave for proposing that prime ministerial powers be surrendered or limited. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain the ways in which Prime Ministers are able to control Parliament. (10)
- (c) To what extent has prime ministerial power grown in recent years? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)



Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Extracts from the Coalition Agreement for Stability and Reform, 2010

There is no constitutional difference between a coalition government and a single party government, but working practices need to reflect the fact that the UK has not had a coalition in modern times.

The initial allocation [in May, 2010 after the general election] of cabinet, ministerial, whip and special adviser appointments between the two parties was agreed between the prime minister and the deputy prime minister.

Future allocation will continue to be based on the principle that the parliamentary party with fewer MPs will have a share of the cabinet, ministerial and whip appointments approximately in proportion to the size of the parliamentary parties. The prime minister, following consultation with the deputy prime minister, will make nominations for the appointment of ministers. The prime minister will nominate Conservative Party ministers and the deputy prime minister will nominate Liberal Democrat ministers.

The principle of collective responsibility, save where it is explicitly set aside, continues to apply to all government ministers. This requires that there is an appropriate degree of consultation and discussion among ministers, that the opinions expressed and advice offered within government remain private, and that the decisions made by the cabinet are binding on and supported by all ministers.

Source: Adapted from Cabinet Office, The Coalition Agreement for Stability and Reform, 2010

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, outline how coalition government has affected appointments to the Cabinet. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain why collective responsibility is an important aspect of UK government. (10)
- (c) How important is the Cabinet? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Parliament

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

House of Lords

Since the general election, David Cameron has created 117 new life peers, according to a report from the Constitution Unit at University College, London. This leaves the House packed to the rafters and prompts 'a major concern that if appointments continue, the House of Lords will simply cease to be able to function'. This will be because it is too large and cumbersome. The figures in April 2011 were that, compared to Labour's 243 peers, there were a total of 311 representing the coalition partners. But added together this only accounted for 554 of the total 792 peers. The rest were a mix of crossbenchers, Bishops and others.

But is the Prime Minister doing anything other than adjusting the political balance in the Lords to reflect the will of the people at the last election? Certainly, the House of Lords, with its 792 members, eclipses the size of the Commons. The coalition's Programme for Government of 2010 stated: 'Lords appointments will be made with the objective of creating a second chamber that is reflective of the share of the vote secured by the political parties at the last general election. The current system of appointing peers will therefore remain until the Government's reforms are in place.'

An angry Ed Miliband accused David Cameron back in November 2010 of filling the Lords with Conservative Party donors – and claimed the move was undemocratic. Downing Street was unapologetic, saying: 'The Government will be bringing forward a draft Bill proposing a wholly or mainly elected House of Lords.'

Source: Adapted from Cathy Newman article, Channel Four News online, 20 April 2011.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, outline **two** criticisms of David Cameron's appointments to the House of Lords. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain **three** considerations that are taken into account when appointing Life Peers. (10)
- (c) Assess the arguments in favour of a largely or wholly elected second chamber. (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 Parliament

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Select Committees

There is a House of Commons select committee for each government department, examining three aspects: spending, policies and administration. These departmental select committees have a minimum of 11 members, who decide upon a line of inquiry and then gather written and oral evidence. Findings are reported to the Commons, printed, and published on the Parliament website. The government then usually has 60 days to reply to the committee's recommendations.

Following the adoption by the House of Commons of recommendations from the Reform of the House of Commons Committee:

- Departmental select committee chairs are elected by their fellow MPs
- A backbench business committee has been established with the ability to schedule business in the Commons chamber and in Westminster Hall on days, or parts of days, set aside for non-government business.

Legislative committees

Both Houses of Parliament refer legislation to committees for detailed discussion and approval. These committees are part of the process of making laws. They scrutinise proposed laws and may consider amendments to improve the legislation. Amendments approved in legislative committees must be approved by the whole House.

Source: adapted from www.parliament.gov.uk, October, 2010.

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, why are legislative committees needed? (5)
- (b) With reference to the source and your own knowledge, explain the ways in which backbench MPs can call government to account. (10)
- (c) To what extent has the formation of a coalition altered the relationship between Parliament and government? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Parliamentary reform

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Extracts from the document: *'The Coalition: our programme for government'*.

We will establish five-year fixed term Parliaments. We will put a binding motion before the House of Commons stating that the next general election will be held on the first Thursday of May, 2015. Following this motion, we will legislate to make provision for fixed term Parliaments of five years.

We will bring forward a Referendum Bill on electoral reform, which includes provision for the introduction of the Alternative Vote in the event of a positive result in the referendum, as well as for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies.

We will bring forward early legislation to introduce a power of recall, allowing voters to force a by-election where an MP is found to have engaged in serious wrongdoing.

We will establish a committee to bring forward proposals for a wholly or mainly elected upper chamber on the basis of proportional representation.

We will bring forward proposals... for reform to the House of Commons... starting with the proposed committee for management of backbench business. A House Business Committee, to consider government business, will be established by the third year of the Parliament.

We will ensure that any petition that secures 100,000 signatures will be eligible for public debate in Parliament.

Source: *'The Coalition: our programme for government'*, Cabinet Office, May 2010

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- 2 (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** proposals that seek to strengthen parliamentary representation by increasing popular participation. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain how **three** of these proposals seek to make government more accountable to Parliament. (10)
- (c) To what extent will the coalition government's proposals bring about an effective reform of Parliament? (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)

(Total for Section A = 40 marks)



Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

Section B starts on page 14.

It is advised that you divide your time equally between both questions.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 House of Commons

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Extracts from three days proceedings of the House of Commons

January 12, 2010

- Questions to the Secretary of State for Health
- Third Reading of the *Personal Care at Home* Bill

January 13, 2010

- Questions to the Secretary of State for Scotland
- Questions to the Prime Minister
- Opposition Motion presented by the Leader of the Opposition: '*That this House notes with concern the increase in the number of young people not in employment, education or training...[continued]*'
- Report presented by the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs on global security in Afghanistan and Pakistan

January 14, 2010

- Public Bill Committee on the Financial Services Bill to consider proposed amendments to clause 26.

Source: www.parliament.gov.uk, January, 2010.

- 1 (a) With reference to the source, describe **two** functions of the House of Commons. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain how the House of Commons can control the power of government. (10)
- (c) To what extent is the House of Commons effective in carrying out its various functions? (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)



2 Parliament

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

White Paper on reform of the House of Lords

This White Paper sets out the government's proposals for a reformed second chamber of the UK Parliament.

The proposals are based on the House of Commons votes for an 80% or 100% elected second chamber and follow cross-party talks on how this could be achieved.

The White Paper makes proposals for reform in a number of areas:

- **Role and composition**
The House of Lords plays a valuable role in holding the government to account and revising legislation. The reforms would strengthen those roles and make the second chamber more accountable. The House of Commons would continue to be the primary chamber in the UK legislature.
- **Membership of the chamber**
The proposed reforms would create a second chamber with directly elected members, which would be smaller than the House of Commons. The remaining rights of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the second chamber would be removed.
- **Powers of the new chamber**
The government proposes no changes to the powers of a reformed second chamber.
- **The possible role of appointed members to ensure independence**
If it is decided that there should be a 20% appointed element, the government proposes that its key purpose would be to provide a significant independent element in the second chamber. A statutory appointments commission would seek nominations and applications for membership.

The government is also proposing changes to the arrangements for eligibility, remuneration and accountability.

Source: White Paper, *An Elected Second Chamber*, July 14, 2008.

- 2 (a) With reference to the source, what changes to the second chamber are proposed? (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain the arguments for a fully or partly elected second chamber. (10)
- (c) Make out a case *against* an elected second chamber. (25)

(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)



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Answer TWO questions, one from Section A and one from Section B.

All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 The role of Parliament

Study the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Citizens need an effective Parliament. They need a body that can call the government to account, that can ensure that government answers for its actions and the actions of civil servants. They need a body that can scrutinise and, if necessary, change the legislative proposals brought forward by government. They need a body that can ensure that their voice is heard by government when they have a grievance, be it about the impact of a policy or the absence of a policy. They need the security of knowing that, if there is a problem, there is a body to which they can turn for help, a body that can force public officials to listen.

Government needs an effective Parliament. It needs it because its authority derives from Parliament. The more government distances itself from Parliament, the more it undermines popular consent for the system of government. It needs Parliament to give its approval to measures and, prior to doing so, to scrutinise those measures.

Adapted from *Report of the Commission to Strengthen Parliament.*

- 1** (a) With reference to the source, describe **three** functions of Parliament. (5)
- (b) With reference to the source, and your own knowledge, explain why government needs an effective Parliament. (10)
- (c) Analyse the main factors that limit the effectiveness of Parliament. (25)

(Total for Question 1 = 40 marks)

