



Topic Assessment System

Component 2A: UK Government

Tests – Set A

D Glover

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Teacher's Introduction

This pack is part of the comprehensive Topic Assessment System for Edexcel A Level Politics Component 2A: UK Government.

Tests: Set A

A one-hour short-answer test worth 40 marks for each topic.

The tests consist of 4-mark explanation questions, primarily focused on AO2 skills. For each 4-mark question there are four possible answers, double the number required by the question.

For further assessment we recommend the Set B tests which mirror the Set A tests provided here (for instance, by asking for disadvantages where the equivalent question in Test A asked for advantages).

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

Structure

The Tests are divided into the following topics:

- Constitution
- Parliament
- Prime Minister and Executive
- Judiciary
- Power and Sovereignty

Section 4 of the specification – *Relations between the branches* – is split between topics 4 and 5. The other topics incorporate in entirety their respective sections in the specification. In 'Prime Minister and Executive', in terms of the case studies of a prime minister's control of events and policy, questions are asked about Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher (as pre-1997 PMs) and Tony Blair and David Cameron (as post-1997 PMs). Other prime ministers are referred to in the answers where relevant.

Also available:

The Complete Topic Assessment System	
Quizzes: Set A For each topic, a 30-mark multiple-choice quiz with answers and explanations.	Quizzes: Set B A second quiz per topic, covering the same content, allowing students to retry after completing the first test.
Tests: Set A One-hour set of short-answer questions per topic. Each question is a bite-size challenge towards an essay. ✓	Tests: Set B A second one-hour test per topic, with questions cleverly mirrored from Test A.
Essays: Set A 10 essay questions with model answers for students to analyse and compare with their own.	Essays: Set B 10 more essay questions on similar topics, with indicative content for easy self- or peer-marking.

These tests could be used one after the other, but are designed to be more effective if they are spaced out throughout the one-year course (e.g. Test A used to consolidate knowledge and provide a standard assessment during delivery, and Test B used to identify weaknesses in knowledge and analysis skills prior to revision sessions).

D Glover, January 2023

Constitution – Test

1. Explain **two** arguments supporting the claim that the UK has seen massive change since 1997.

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2. Explain **two** arguments against further House of Lords reform.

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3. Explain **two** arguments against further devolution.

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4. Explain **two** ways in which the Human Rights Act undermines the UK cons

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5. Explain **two** arguments in favour of an English parliament.

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6. Explain **two** reasons why the UK constitution should be entrenched and c

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7. Explain **two** arguments against regional assemblies in England.

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8. Explain **two** arguments for Scottish independence.

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9. Explain **two** benefits of a British Bill of Rights.

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10. Explain **two** reasons for opposition to electoral reform in general election

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Parliament – Test A

1. Explain **two** ways in which the House of Lords is too powerful.

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2. Explain **two** reasons why Parliament could be considered a unicameral system.

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3. Explain **two** ways in which smaller parties have an impact in Parliament.

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4. Explain **two** ways in which the House of Commons is too powerful.

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5. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament can be considered representative.

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6. Explain **two** exclusive powers of the House of Commons.

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7. Explain **two** reasons why the whip system is beneficial to Parliament.

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8. Explain **two** advantages granted to the Official Opposition.

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9. Explain **two** benefits of parliamentary committees.

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10. Explain **two** possible reforms to the House of Commons.

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Prime Minister and Executive

1. Explain **two** powers of royal prerogative that are still used.

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2. Explain **two** roles performed by the executive.

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3. Explain **two** ways in which the executive is restrained.

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4. Explain **two** examples of 'predominant' Prime Ministers.

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5. Explain **two** examples of resignations due to individual responsibility.

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6. Explain **two** factors affecting the selection of Cabinet ministers.

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7. Explain **two** arguments supporting the notion that Cabinet is submissive to the Prime Minister.

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8. Explain **two** examples of a weak Cabinet.

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9. Explain **two** examples of Harold Wilson strengthening the office of Prime Minister.

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10. Explain **two** examples of Tony Blair strengthening the office of Prime Minister

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Judiciary – Test A

1. Explain **two** features of common law.

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2. Explain **two** factors in the appointment of Supreme Court justices.

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3. Explain **two** functions performed by the Supreme Court.

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4. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court is independent.

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5. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court is neutral.

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6. Explain **two** means by which the Supreme Court can influence other branches of government.

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7. Explain **two** reasons for judicial review.

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8. Explain **two** human rights.

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9. Explain **two** examples of Supreme Court cases won by the government.

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10. Explain **two** ways in which judicial jurisdiction has changed since the UK le

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Power and Sovereignty –

1. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament is effective at holding the executive

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2. Explain **two** ways in which the executive is dominant over Parliament.

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3. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament has strengthened its power over the recent years.

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4. Explain **two** ways in which the judiciary is an effective check on the executive.

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5. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament can be considered sovereign.

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6. Explain **two** arguments in favour of the view that the UK has embraced political liberalism.

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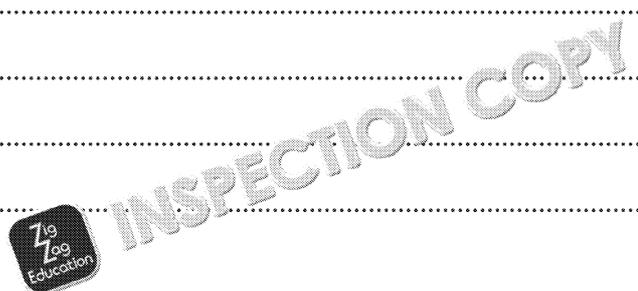
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7. Explain **two** reasons why devolution can be considered to undermine sovereignty

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8. Explain **two** reasons why the Human Rights Act can be considered to undermine sovereignty

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9. Explain **two** reasons why the European Union can be considered successful

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10. Explain **two** examples of the UK breaching its own treaty commitments.

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Constitution – Test

1. Explain **two** arguments supporting the claim that the UK has seen massive change since 1997.
2. Explain **two** arguments against further House of Lords reform.
3. Explain **two** arguments against further devolution.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the Human Rights Act undermines the UK constitution.
5. Explain **two** arguments in favour of an English parliament.
6. Explain **two** reasons why the UK constitution should be entrenched and codified.
7. Explain **two** arguments against regional assemblies in England.
8. Explain **two** arguments for Scottish independence.
9. Explain **two** benefits of a British Bill of Rights.
10. Explain **two** reasons for opposition to electoral reform in general elections.

Parliament – Test A

1. Explain **two** ways in which the House of Lords is too powerful.
2. Explain **two** reasons why Parliament could be considered a unicameral system.
3. Explain **two** ways in which smaller parties have an impact in Parliament.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the House of Commons is too powerful.
5. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament can be considered representative.
6. Explain **two** exclusive powers of the House of Commons.
7. Explain **two** reasons why the whip system is beneficial to Parliament.
8. Explain **two** advantages granted to the Opposition.
9. Explain **two** benefits of parliamentary committees.
10. Explain **two** possible reforms to the House of Commons.

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Prime Minister and Executive

1. Explain **two** powers of royal prerogative that are still used.
2. Explain **two** roles performed by the executive.
3. Explain **two** ways in which the executive is reformed.
4. Explain **two** examples of 'pre-Corbyn' Prime Ministers.
5. Explain **two** types of resignations due to individual responsibility.
6. Explain **two** factors affecting the selection of Cabinet ministers.
7. Explain **two** arguments supporting the notion that Cabinet is submissive to the PM.
8. Explain **two** examples of a weak Cabinet.
9. Explain **two** examples of Harold Wilson strengthening the office of Prime Minister.
10. Explain **two** examples of Tony Blair strengthening the office of Prime Minister.

Judiciary – Test A

1. Explain **two** functions of common law.
2. Explain **two** factors in the appointment of Supreme Court justices.
3. Explain **two** functions performed by the Supreme Court.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court is independent.
5. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court is neutral.
6. Explain **two** means by which the Supreme Court can influence other branches of government.
7. Explain **two** reasons for judicial review.
8. Explain **two** human rights.
9. Explain **two** examples of Supreme Court cases won by the government.
10. Explain **two** ways in which judicial jurisdiction has changed since the UK left the EU.

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Power and Sovereignty –

1. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament is effective at holding the executive to account.
2. Explain **two** ways in which the executive is dominant over Parliament.
3. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament has strengthened its power over the executive in the recent years.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the judiciary is an effective check on the executive.
5. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament can be considered sovereign.
6. Explain **two** arguments in favour of the view that the UK has embraced parliamentary sovereignty.
7. Explain **two** reasons why devolution can be considered to undermine sovereignty.
8. Explain **two** reasons why the Human Rights Act can be considered to undermine sovereignty.
9. Explain **two** reasons why the European Union can be considered successful in upholding sovereignty.
10. Explain **two** examples of the UK breaching its own treaty commitments.



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Preview of Answers Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of answers ends here to stop students looking up answers to their assessments. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.