



Topic Assessment System

Component 2A: UK Government

Tests – Set B

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 B

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.

Set B tests are designed to mirror their Set A equivalents (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 opposing the claim that the UK has seen massive change since 1997.

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

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

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4. Explain **two** ways in which the Human Rights Act supports the UK constitution

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5. Explain **two** arguments against an English parliament.

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6. Explain **two** reasons why the UK constitution should not be entrenched and

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

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

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

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10. Explain **two** reasons for electoral reform in general elections.

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Parliament – Test B

1. Explain **two** ways in which the House of Lords is not powerful.

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

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3. Explain **two** ways in which smaller parties have little influence in Parliament.

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4. Explain **two** ways in which the House of Commons is not powerful.

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

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6. Explain **two** features of the House of Lords.

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

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8. Explain **two** restrictions placed on the Official Opposition.

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

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

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Prime Minister and Executive

1. Explain **two** limitations on the powers of royal prerogative.

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2. Explain **two** roles performed by the Prime Minister.

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3. Explain **two** ways in which Prime Ministers have become more presidential.

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4. Explain **two** examples of 'pre-eminent' Prime Ministers.

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

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6. Explain **two** factors affecting the Prime Minister's relationship with Cabinet.

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7. Explain **two** arguments supporting the notion that Cabinet is integral to the executive.

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8. Explain **two** examples of Cabinet exerting influence over the Prime Minister.

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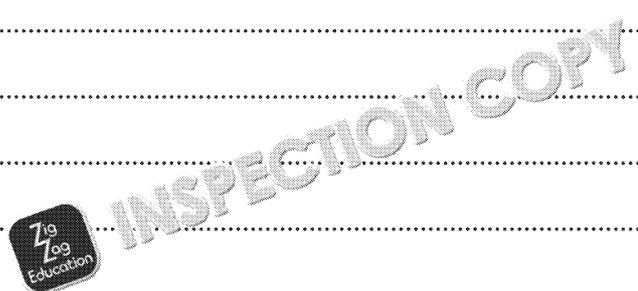
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9. Explain **two** examples of Margaret Thatcher strengthening the office of Prime Minister.

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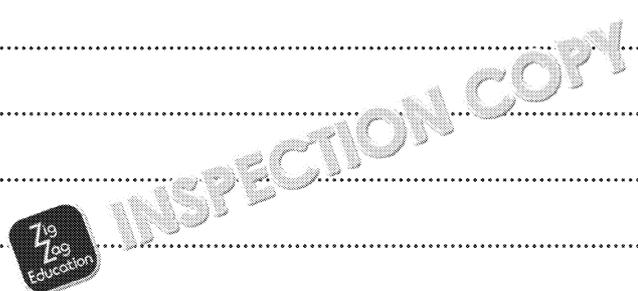
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10. Explain **two** examples of David Cameron strengthening the office of Prime

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Judiciary – Test B

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

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2. Explain **two** ways in which Supreme Court justices can be considered unre

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3. Explain **two** limitations placed on the Supreme Court.

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4. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court can be considered insufficient

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5. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court can be considered insufficient

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6. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court cannot influence government

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7. Explain **two** examples of judicial review in Supreme Court cases.

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8. Explain **two** examples of human rights Supreme Court cases.

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

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10. Explain **two** ways in which judicial jurisdiction has not changed since the

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Power and Sovereignty –

1. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament is ineffective at holding the executive to account.

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2. Explain **two** ways in which the executive is submissive to Parliament.

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3. Explain **two** ways in which the executive has sought to strengthen its power in recent years.

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

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5. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament cannot be considered sovereign.

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6. Explain **two** arguments opposing the view that the UK has embraced populism.

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7. Explain **two** reasons why devolution does not undermine sovereignty.

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8. Explain **two** reasons why the Human Rights Act does not undermine sovereignty.

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

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10. Explain **two** reasons why treaty commitments do not undermine sovereignty

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Constitution – Test

1. Explain **two** arguments opposing the claim that the UK has seen massive change since 1997.
2. Explain **two** arguments for further House of Lords reform.
3. Explain **two** arguments for further devolution.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the Human Rights Act supports the UK constitution.
5. Explain **two** arguments against an English parliament.
6. Explain **two** reasons why the UK constitution should not be entrenched and amended by referendum.
7. Explain **two** arguments for regional assemblies in England.
8. Explain **two** arguments against Scottish independence.
9. Explain **two** disadvantages of a British Bill of Rights.
10. Explain **two** reasons for electoral reform in general elections.

Parliament – Test

1. Explain **two** ways in which the House of Lords is not powerful.
2. Explain **two** reasons why Parliament could be considered a bicameral system.
3. Explain **two** ways in which smaller parties have little influence in Parliament.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the House of Commons is not powerful.
5. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament can be considered unrepresentative.
6. Explain **two** features of the House of Lords.
7. Explain **two** reasons why the whip system is dominant in Parliament.
8. Explain **two** restrictions placed on the Official Opposition.
9. Explain **two** weaknesses of parliamentary committees.
10. Explain **two** possible reforms to the House of Lords.

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Prime Minister and Executive

1. Explain **two** limitations on the powers of royal prerogative.
2. Explain **two** roles performed by the Prime Minister.
3. Explain **two** ways in which Prime Minister have become more presidential.
4. Explain **two** examples of 'pre-empt' Prime Ministers.
5. Explain **two** types of resignations due to collective responsibility.
6. Explain **two** factors affecting the Prime Minister's relationship with Cabinet.
7. Explain **two** arguments supporting the notion that Cabinet is integral to the executive.
8. Explain **two** examples of Cabinet exerting influence over the Prime Minister.
9. Explain **two** examples of Margaret Thatcher strengthening the office of Prime Minister.
10. Explain **two** examples of David Cameron strengthening the office of Prime Minister.

Judiciary – Test B

1. Explain **two** features of statute law.
2. Explain **two** ways in which Supreme Court justices can be considered unelected.
3. Explain **two** limitations placed on the Supreme Court.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court can be considered insufficiently independent.
5. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court can be considered insufficiently impartial.
6. Explain **two** ways in which the Supreme Court cannot influence government.
7. Explain **two** examples of judicial review in Supreme Court cases.
8. Explain **two** examples of human rights in Supreme Court cases.
9. Explain **two** examples of Supreme Court cases lost by the government.
10. Explain **two** ways in which judicial jurisdiction has not changed since the 19th century.

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Power and Sovereignty –

1. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament is ineffective at holding the executive to account.
2. Explain **two** ways in which the executive is submissive to Parliament.
3. Explain **two** ways in which the executive has sought to strengthen its power in recent years.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the judiciary is an ineffective check on the executive.
5. Explain **two** ways in which Parliament cannot be considered sovereign.
6. Explain **two** arguments opposing the view that the UK has embraced populism.
7. Explain **two** reasons why devolution does not undermine sovereignty.
8. Explain **two** reasons why the Human Rights Act does not undermine sovereignty.
9. Explain **two** reasons why the European Union can be considered unsuccessful.
10. Explain **two** reasons why treaty commitments do not undermine sovereignty.



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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.