



# Topic Assessment System

## Component 2A: UK Government

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# Teacher's Introduction

This pack contains 420 questions split between five topics, each with a paired assessment which mirrors the first, for Edexcel A Level Politics Component 2: UK Government (9PLO/02); Section A; UK Government (including changes up to Issue 3 of the Edexcel specification). Each test has been designed to reflect the specification fully, including opportunities to assess AO1, AO2 and AO3.

## Remember!

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

This resource comes in six parts: for each topic two sets of Quizzes, Tests and Essays are available. These resources are designed together to be a comprehensive Topic Assessment System, but each part is useful in its own right.

## Quizzes

Two multiple-choice quizzes per topic, primarily testing AO1 knowledge:

- Quiz A: A 30-mark multiple-choice quiz with answers and explanations where appropriate, allowing students to see where they went wrong.
- Quiz B: A second 30-mark multiple-choice quiz, covering the same content, allowing students to try again after completing the first test. Answers are provided.

## Tests

For each topic there are two short-answer tests worth 40 marks each, designed to take around 1 hour.

The tests combine 4-mark explanation questions with exam-style 12-mark analysis questions, primarily focused on AO2 skills. For each 4-mark question there are four possible answers, double the number required by the question. Each 12-mark question includes a possible answer which is indicative rather than exhaustive.

Set B mirrors Set A, by, for instance, asking for disadvantages where the equivalent question in Test A asked for advantages. The key principle is that trying and then reviewing answers for Set A should help students do better on Set B.

## Essays

In addition, the pack contains two sets of 10 essay questions worth 30 marks each. These are in exam style and designed to cover the most likely types of questions to come up based on a review of past exams and sample materials, and the author's knowledge of the specification and exam focus. As with the real exam, many of the questions cover content from multiple specification topics.

- Question A includes a full model answer of a realistic exam length for students to compare with their own.
- Question B includes indicative content towards a possible answer.
- In addition there is a generic levelled mark scheme (also presented as a checklist for self-marking).

*See overleaf for ideas on how to use Set A and Set B for each type of assessment.*

## Structure

The Quizzes and 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.

*D Glover, January 2023*

## ***Ideas for using Set A with Set B***

### *Quizzes*

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- Set Quiz A immediately after teaching the topic, then use Quiz B later to check knowledge retention.
- Set Quiz A as an in-class assessment, discussing the answers afterwards and focusing on those most students got wrong. Then set Quiz B as a follow-up homework exercise – the questions are different enough that students won't have learnt the answers by rote, but they should have a better understanding from the discussion and correction of answers in class, and score more highly on the second quiz.
- Students revise as homework using Quiz A before doing Quiz B in class under test conditions.
- Students work through Quiz B with teacher input to consolidate on areas of weakness identified from completing Quiz A under test conditions in class.

### *Tests*

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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).

### *Essays*

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In each case, Essay A will be on a topic which has overlap with Essay B, so while the same essay would not constitute an answer to both questions, answering (or having seen an answer to) Essay A will give pointers and even whole arguments that work for Essay B. Obviously, as is the nature of political discourse, students can and should be encouraged to make different arguments – as long as these have a factual or logical basis – and draw different conclusions – as long as they are justified by their arguments.

- Create an essay plan for Essay A, then compare this to the model answer; did yours miss any key points? Then adapt yours to Essay B and write that for homework.
- Reverse-engineer an essay plan from model Essay A, then adapt that plan for Essay B and complete the essay for homework.



**Quizzes**

- Quizzes (Set A)**.....
- Constitution .....
- Parliament .....
- Prime Minister and Executive .....
- Judiciary .....
- Power and Sovereignty .....
  
- Answers (Set A)** .....
- Constitution .....
- Parliament.....
- Prime Minister and Executive .....
- Judiciary .....
- Power and Sovereignty.....



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# Constitution – Quiz

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- Which of the following describes the Magna Carta of 1215?  
 a) The formation of Great Britain from the kingdoms of England and Wales  
 b) Legislation limiting the powers of the House of Lords relative to the House of Commons  
 c) The first legal basis on which powers of the monarch were restricted  
 d) Permitted freedom of parliamentary speech and free elections
- Which of the following describes the Bill of Rights of 1689?  
 a) The formation of Great Britain from the kingdoms of England and Wales  
 b) Legislation limiting the powers of the House of Lords relative to the House of Commons  
 c) The first legal basis on which powers of the monarch were restricted  
 d) Permitted freedom of parliamentary speech and free elections
- Which of the following describes the Acts of Union of 1707?  
 a) The formation of Great Britain from the kingdoms of England and Wales  
 b) Legislation limiting the powers of the House of Lords relative to the House of Commons  
 c) The first legal basis on which powers of the monarch were restricted  
 d) Permitted freedom of parliamentary speech and free elections
- Which of the following describes the Parliament Act of 1911?  
 a) The formation of Great Britain from the kingdoms of England and Wales  
 b) Legislation limiting the powers of the House of Lords relative to the House of Commons  
 c) The first legal basis on which powers of the monarch were restricted  
 d) Permitted freedom of parliamentary speech and free elections
- What does 'statute' refer to?  
 a) Legal precedent arising from judicial rulings  
 b) Primary legislation passed by Parliament  
 c) Texts of the constitution  
 d) Political conventions
- Which of the following describes 'common law'?  
 a) Legal precedent arising from judicial rulings  
 b) Primary legislation passed by Parliament  
 c) Texts of the constitution  
 d) Political conventions
- Which of the following describes 'conventions'?  
 a) Legal precedent arising from judicial rulings  
 b) Primary legislation passed by Parliament  
 c) Texts of the constitution  
 d) Political conventions
- Which of the following describes 'authoritative works'?  
 a) Legal precedent arising from judicial rulings  
 b) Primary legislation passed by Parliament  
 c) Texts of the constitution  
 d) Political conventions
- Alongside these, what is the next source of the UK constitution?  
 a) Royal prerogative  
 b) Statutory instruments  
 c) Treaties  
 d) Lords
- Which of the following describes the term 'unentrenched'?  
 a) Rules and procedures are followed informally based on custom and practice  
 b) Legislation being passed requires the support of only a single level of government  
 c) Rules and procedures can be changed by legislation with a simple majority  
 d) There is one level of political authority which has supremacy over all others

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11. Which of the following describes the term 'uncodified'?
- a) Rules and procedures are followed informally based on custom
  - b) Legislation being passed requires the support of only a single level of government
  - c) Rules and procedures can be changed by legislation with a simple majority
  - d) There is one level of political authority which has supremacy over all others
12. Which of the following describes the term 'unitary'?
- a) Rules and procedures are followed informally based on custom
  - b) Legislation being passed requires the support of only a single level of government
  - c) Rules and procedures can be changed by legislation with a simple majority
  - d) There is one level of political authority which has supremacy over all others
13. Which of the following key constitutional reforms was conducted by the Labour government?
- a) Withdrawal from the European Union
  - b) Created the Supreme Court
  - c) Legislated for fixed five-year parliamentary terms
  - d) Removal of most hereditary peers from the House of Lords
14. Which of the following key constitutional reforms was conducted by the Conservative government?
- a) Withdrawal from the European Union
  - b) Established the Supreme Court
  - c) Legislated for fixed five-year parliamentary terms
  - d) Removal of most hereditary peers from the House of Lords
15. Which of the following key constitutional reforms was conducted by the Labour government?
- a) Withdrawal from the European Union
  - b) Established the Supreme Court
  - c) Legislated for fixed five-year parliamentary terms
  - d) Removal of most hereditary peers from the House of Lords
16. Which of the following key constitutional reforms was conducted by the Conservative government?
- a) Withdrawal from the European Union
  - b) Established the Supreme Court
  - c) Legislated for fixed five-year parliamentary terms
  - d) Removal of most hereditary peers from the House of Lords
17. What was the significance of the Human Rights Act?
- a) Demonstrated commitment to human rights for the first time
  - b) Created an entrenched, codified list of civil liberties
  - c) Changed treaty commitments into statute law
  - d) Constituted a new authoritative work
18. What is meant by primary legislation?
- a) European law that has precedent over statute law
  - b) Statutory instruments supporting the implementation of laws
  - c) Acts of Parliament passed by majority vote
  - d) Laws that are passed by local authorities
19. What is the term for the type of devolution in which certain powers are reserved to the central government?
- a) Concurrent powers
  - b) Reserved powers
  - c) Conferred powers
  - d) Implied powers
20. What is the term for the type of devolution in which certain powers are reserved to the central government?
- a) Concurrent powers
  - b) Reserved powers
  - c) Conferred powers
  - d) Implied powers

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21. Which of the following is not a devolved government institution?
- a) Scottish Parliament  c) London Assembly
- b) Northern Ireland Assembly  d) Senedd Cymru
22. Which of the following powers does the Senedd/Welsh Parliament not possess?
- a) Some income tax  c) Education
- b) Police and justice  d) Health
23. Which of the following powers does the Scottish Parliament not possess?
- a) All income tax  c) Education
- b) Police and justice  d) Employment
24. Which of the following powers does the Northern Ireland Assembly not possess?
- a) All income tax  c) Education
- b) Police and justice  d) Employment
25. What is unique to the UK about the Northern Ireland Assembly?
- a) Control over policing and justice
- b) Mandatory power sharing
- c) Does not have powers relating to foreign affairs
- d) Separate legal system
26. What is a 'metro mayor'?
- a) A directly elected executive leader with jurisdiction over a single local authority
- b) A ceremonial executive leader with jurisdiction over multiple local authorities
- c) A directly elected executive leader with jurisdiction over multiple local authorities
- d) A ceremonial executive leader with jurisdiction over a single local authority
27. What system of English devolution was rejected by voters?
- a) Regional assemblies  c) English regional parliaments
- b) Federalism  d) English regional assemblies
28. Which of the following has become true since the UK left the European Union?
- a) The European Court of Human Rights no longer has authority over the UK
- b) The UK is no longer subject to any European regulations
- c) European law can no longer take precedent over statute law
- d) The UK is no longer a member of the Council of Europe
29. Which of the following describes a 'constitutional monarchy'?
- a) The monarchy is ceremonial and has no legal or political connection to the state
- b) The monarchy's powers are limited by law
- c) The monarchy can exercise power as it sees fit
- d) The monarchy chooses to confer powers to the executive
30. Which of the following describes 'parliamentary sovereignty'?
- a) A principle that ensures there is no higher political or legal authority
- b) A principle that Parliament should decide on matters of state
- c) A legal mechanism which ensures that Parliament is more powerful than the executive
- d) A rule that Members of Parliament have supreme authority

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## Parliament – Quiz A

- Which of the following MPs are members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet?  
 a) Whips  
 b) Frontbenchers  
 c) Teller  
 d) Backbenchers
- Which of the following MPs are responsible for ensuring their party votes?  
 a) Whips  
 b) Frontbenchers  
 c) Teller  
 d) Backbenchers
- Which of the following MPs are responsible for counting the votes?  
 a) Whips  
 b) Frontbenchers  
 c) Teller  
 d) Backbenchers
- Which of the following MPs may vote against their own party?  
 a) Whips  
 b) Frontbenchers  
 c) Teller  
 d) Backbenchers
- Which of the following peers sit in the Lords without party alignment?  
 a) Lords Spiritual  
 b) Life peers  
 c) Crossbenchers  
 d) Hereditary peers
- Which of the following peers are appointed by the executive?  
 a) Lords Spiritual  
 b) Life peers  
 c) Crossbenchers  
 d) Hereditary peers
- Which of the following peers sit in the Lords as a function of their job?  
 a) Lords Spiritual  
 b) Life peers  
 c) Crossbenchers  
 d) Hereditary peers
- Which of the following peers sit in the Lords as a result of their background?  
 a) Lords Spiritual  
 b) Life peers  
 c) Crossbenchers  
 d) Hereditary peers
- Which of the following describes the role of a Secretary of State?  
 a) An MP who represents the government within a specified department  
 b) An MP who chairs proceedings in the House of Commons  
 c) An MP with the exclusive power to call a vote of no confidence  
 d) An MP who acts as the head of a government department
- Which of the following describes the role of the Leader of the Opposition?  
 a) An MP who represents the government within a specified department  
 b) An MP who chairs proceedings in the House of Commons  
 c) An MP with the exclusive power to call a vote of no confidence  
 d) An MP who acts as the head of a government department
- Which of the following describes the role of a junior minister?  
 a) An MP who represents the government within a specified department  
 b) An MP who chairs proceedings in the House of Commons  
 c) An MP with the exclusive power to call a vote of no confidence  
 d) An MP who acts as the head of a government department

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12. Which of the following describes the role of the Speaker?
- a) An MP who represents the government within a specified department
- b) An MP who chairs proceedings in the House of Commons
- c) An MP with the exclusive power to call a vote of no confidence
- d) An MP who acts as the head of a government department
13. Which of the following describes a 'government bill'?
- a) A bill that is proposed by a backbencher
- b) A bill that is passed as secondary legislation
- c) A bill that is proposed by a government minister
- d) A bill that is passed as primary legislation
14. Which of the following describes a 'private member's bill'?
- a) A bill that is proposed by a backbencher
- b) A bill that is passed as secondary legislation
- c) A bill that is proposed by a government minister
- d) A bill that is passed as primary legislation
15. In the passage of a bill through the Commons, which of the following describes a 'second reading'?
- a) A debate limited to the contents of a bill, followed by a formal vote
- b) A debate in which MPs suggest amendments to a bill
- c) A debate on the general principles of a bill, followed by a formal vote
- d) A detailed examination of a bill and its amendments
16. In the passage of a bill through the Commons, which of the following describes a 'committee stage'?
- a) A debate limited to the contents of a bill, followed by a formal vote
- b) A debate in which MPs suggest amendments to a bill
- c) A debate on the general principles of a bill, followed by a formal vote
- d) A detailed examination of a bill and its amendments
17. In the passage of a bill through the Commons, which of the following describes a 'third reading'?
- a) A debate limited to the contents of a bill, followed by a formal vote
- b) A debate in which MPs suggest amendments to a bill
- c) A debate on the general principles of a bill, followed by a formal vote
- d) A detailed examination of a bill and its amendments
18. In the passage of a bill through the Commons, which of the following describes a 'reporting stage'?
- a) A debate limited to the contents of a bill, followed by a formal vote
- b) A debate in which MPs suggest amendments to a bill
- c) A debate on the general principles of a bill, followed by a formal vote
- d) A detailed examination of a bill and its amendments
19. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons?
- a) 250
- b) 400
- c) 650
- d) 900
20. What is the term for the authoritative work that is used to determine meanings of words?
- a) Hansard
- b) Erskine May
- c) Maguire
- d) The Constitution
21. Which of the following describes the 'Salisbury Convention'?
- a) The ability of parliamentarians to say whatever they please without restriction
- b) The notion that the Lords should not oppose bills which have been approved by the Commons
- c) An informal arrangement between a minority government and the opposition
- d) The final stage in the process of a bill becoming law
22. Which of the following describes 'parliamentary privilege'?
- a) The ability of parliamentarians to say whatever they please without restriction
- b) The notion that the Lords should not oppose bills which have been approved by the Commons
- c) An informal arrangement between a minority government and the opposition
- d) The final stage in the process of a bill becoming law

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23. Which of the following describes 'royal assent'?
- a) The ability of parliamentarians to say whatever they please with
  - b) The notion that the Lords should not oppose bills which have been passed by the Commons
  - c) An informal arrangement between a minority government and the opposition
  - d) The final stage in the process of a bill becoming law
24. Which of the following describes 'confidence and supply'?
- a) The ability of parliamentarians to say whatever they please with
  - b) The notion that the Lords should not oppose bills which have been passed by the Commons
  - c) An informal arrangement between a minority government and the opposition
  - d) The final stage in the process of a bill becoming law
25. Which of the following is the definition of a select committee?
- a) A parliamentary committee that scrutinises parliamentary bills
  - b) A parliamentary committee on which both MPs and peers sit
  - c) A parliamentary committee that scrutinises the work and behaviour of government ministers
  - d) A parliamentary committee comprised of all MPs from a nation
26. Which of the following is the definition of a public bill committee?
- a) A parliamentary committee that scrutinises legislation
  - b) A parliamentary committee on which both MPs and peers sit
  - c) A parliamentary committee that scrutinises the work and behaviour of government ministers
  - d) A parliamentary committee comprised of all MPs from a nation
27. Which of the following describes the Parliament Act 1911?
- a) Removed the majority of hereditary peers from the Lords
  - b) Formalised the supremacy of the Commons over the Lords in law
  - c) Formalised the length of time between general elections in law
  - d) Removed the ability of the Lords to delay the passage of 'money bills'
28. Which of the following describes the Parliament Act 1949?
- a) Removed the majority of hereditary peers from the Lords
  - b) Formalised the supremacy of the Commons over the Lords in law
  - c) Formalised the length of time between general elections in law
  - d) Removed the ability of the Lords to delay the passage of 'money bills'
29. Which of the following describes the House of Lords Act 1999?
- a) Removed the majority of hereditary peers from the Lords
  - b) Formalised the supremacy of the Commons over the Lords in law
  - c) Formalised the length of time between general elections in law
  - d) Removed the ability of the Lords to delay the passage of 'money bills'
30. Which of the following describes the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011?
- a) Removed the majority of hereditary peers from the Lords
  - b) Formalised the supremacy of the Commons over the Lords in law
  - c) Formalised the length of time between general elections in law
  - d) Removed the ability of the Lords to delay the passage of 'money bills'

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## Prime Minister and Executive

- Which of the following describes the executive power of patronage?
  - a) Proposing and passing into law parliamentary bills
  - b) Enacting statutory instruments without the need for legislative approval
  - c) Formal powers adopted by the head of government, often to confer honours
  - d) Making appointments and handing out honours, such as peerages
- Which of the following describes the executive power of primary legislation?
  - a) Proposing and passing into law parliamentary bills
  - b) Enacting statutory instruments without the need for legislative approval
  - c) Formal powers adopted by the head of government, often to confer honours
  - d) Making appointments and handing out honours, such as peerages
- Which of the following describes the executive power of secondary legislation?
  - a) Proposing and passing into law parliamentary bills
  - b) Enacting statutory instruments without the need for legislative approval
  - c) Formal powers adopted by the head of government, often to confer honours
  - d) Making appointments and handing out honours, such as peerages
- Which of the following describes the executive power of royal prerogative?
  - a) Proposing and passing into law parliamentary bills
  - b) Enacting statutory instruments without the need for legislative approval
  - c) Formal powers adopted by the head of government, often to confer honours
  - d) Making appointments and handing out honours, such as peerages
- What is meant by the term 'collective responsibility'?
  - a) The Prime Minister is ultimately responsible for any government mistakes
  - b) Ministers are not responsible for government mistakes
  - c) A minister should take responsibility for their own department
  - d) All members of Cabinet should take responsibility for government mistakes
- Which of the following describes the Cabinet Office?
  - a) Government department responsible for executive administration
  - b) Office staffed with senior special advisors and civil servants
  - c) Government department responsible for setting the Budget
  - d) Office staffed exclusively with senior policymakers
- Which of the following describes the Treasury?
  - a) Government department responsible for executive administration
  - b) Office staffed with senior special advisors and civil servants
  - c) Government department responsible for setting the Budget
  - d) Office staffed exclusively with senior policymakers
- Which of the following describes the Prime Minister's Office?
  - a) Government department responsible for executive administration
  - b) Office staffed with senior special advisors and civil servants
  - c) Government department responsible for setting the Budget
  - d) Office staffed exclusively with senior policymakers
- Which of the following describes the role of senior ministers?
  - a) Communication, policy and strategy experts hired by political parties
  - b) MPs working in the government who do not attend Cabinet
  - c) Politically neutral bureaucrats who implement government policy
  - d) Heads of government departments and/or Cabinet attendees

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10. Which of the following describes the role of special advisors?
- a) Communication, policy and strategy experts hired by political parties
  - b) MPs working in the government who do not attend Cabinet
  - c) Politically neutral bureaucrats who implement government policies
  - d) Heads of government departments and/or Cabinet attendees
11. Which of the following describes the role of junior ministers?
- a) Communication, policy and strategy experts hired by political parties
  - b) MPs working in the government who do not attend Cabinet
  - c) Politically neutral bureaucrats who implement government policies
  - d) Heads of government departments and/or Cabinet attendees
12. Which of the following describes the role of civil servants?
- a) Communication, policy and strategy experts hired by political parties
  - b) MPs working in the government who do not attend Cabinet
  - c) Politically neutral bureaucrats who implement government policies
  - d) Heads of government departments and/or Cabinet attendees
13. Which of the following describes a 'pre-eminent' Prime Minister?
- a) A Prime Minister who is highly memorable
  - b) A Prime Minister who governs as 'first among equals'
  - c) A Prime Minister who asserts their authority over the government
  - d) A Prime Minister who is well established within politics
14. What is meant by the term 'presidentialisation'?
- a) The increasing profile and authority of the Prime Minister
  - b) An increasing reliance on informal decision-making
  - c) An increasing politicisation of civil servants
  - d) The increasing profile and authority of special advisors
15. Which of the following describes Harold Wilson's control of Parliament?
- a) Always had a comfortable majority in Parliament
  - b) Secured historic majority which eroded as term went on
  - c) Frequently had to negotiate narrow parliamentary majorities
  - d) Had to govern in coalition with junior partners
16. Which of the following describes Harold Wilson's relationship with his Cabinet?
- a) Preferred discussions with special advisors over Cabinet
  - b) Used Cabinet to skilfully maintain the unity of the government
  - c) Made decisions more frequently in a 'quad' of key ministers
  - d) Disliked having to deal with Cabinet
17. Which of the following describes Harold Wilson's relationship with his party?
- a) Distant from his party, which he sought to rebrand
  - b) Carefully managed the divisions within his party
  - c) Transformed his party's philosophy and approach
  - d) Modernised his party's stance on social issues
18. Which of the following key events is regarded as undermining Harold Wilson's government?
- a) The Suez Crisis
  - b) The Iraq War
  - c) The 1974 election
  - d) Devolution
19. Which of the following describes Margaret Thatcher's control of Parliament?
- a) Always had a comfortable majority in Parliament
  - b) Secured historic majority which eroded as term went on
  - c) Frequently had to negotiate narrow parliamentary majorities
  - d) Had to govern in coalition with junior partners

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20. Which of the following describes Margaret Thatcher's relationship with her Cabinet?
- a) Preferred discussions with special advisors over Cabinet
  - b) Used Cabinet to skilfully maintain the unity of the government
  - c) Made decisions more frequently in a 'quad' of key ministers
  - d) Disliked having to deal with Cabinet
21. Which of the following describes Margaret Thatcher's relationship with her party?
- a) Distant from her party, which she sought to rebrand
  - b) Carefully managed the divisions within her party
  - c) Transformed her party's philosophy and approach
  - d) Modernised her party's stance on social issues
22. Which of the following key events is regarded as undermining Margaret Thatcher's government?
- a) Brexit
  - b) The Iraq War
  - c) The 1992 election
  - d) Devolution
23. Which of the following describes Tony Blair's control of Parliament?
- a) Always had a comfortable majority in Parliament
  - b) Secured historic majority which eroded as term went on
  - c) Frequently had to negotiate narrow parliamentary majorities
  - d) Had to govern in coalition with junior partners
24. Which of the following describes Tony Blair's relationship with his Cabinet?
- a) Preferred discussions with special advisors over Cabinet
  - b) Used Cabinet to skilfully maintain the unity of the government
  - c) Made decisions more frequently in a 'quad' of key ministers
  - d) Disliked having to deal with Cabinet
25. Which of the following describes Tony Blair's relationship with his party?
- a) Distant from his party, which he sought to rebrand
  - b) Carefully managed the divisions within his party
  - c) Transformed his party's philosophy and approach
  - d) Modernised his party's stance on social issues
26. Which of the following key events is regarded as undermining Tony Blair's government?
- a) Brexit
  - b) The Iraq War
  - c) The 1992 election
  - d) Devolution
27. Which of the following describes David Cameron's control of Parliament?
- a) Always had a comfortable majority in Parliament
  - b) Secured historic majority which eroded as term went on
  - c) Frequently had to negotiate narrow parliamentary majorities
  - d) Had to govern in coalition with junior partners
28. Which of the following describes David Cameron's relationship with his Cabinet?
- a) Preferred discussions with special advisors over Cabinet
  - b) Used Cabinet to skilfully maintain the unity of the government
  - c) Made decisions more frequently in a 'quad' of key ministers
  - d) Disliked having to deal with Cabinet
29. Which of the following describes David Cameron's relationship with his party?
- a) Distant from his party, which he sought to rebrand
  - b) Carefully managed the divisions within his party
  - c) Transformed his party's philosophy and approach
  - d) Modernised his party's stance on social issues
30. Which of the following key events is regarded as undermining David Cameron's government?
- a) Brexit
  - b) The Iraq War
  - c) The 1992 election
  - d) Devolution

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## Judiciary – Quiz A

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- Which of the following describes common law?
  - a) Law based upon Acts of Parliament
  - b) A system of law designed to resolve disputes
  - c) Law based upon legal precedent established by court rulings
  - d) A system of law designed to punish offenders
- Which of the following describes statute law?
  - a) Law based upon Acts of Parliament
  - b) A system of law designed to resolve disputes
  - c) Law based upon legal precedent established by court rulings
  - d) A system of law designed to punish offenders
- Which of the following describes criminal law?
  - a) Law based upon Acts of Parliament
  - b) A system of law designed to resolve disputes
  - c) Law based upon legal precedent established by court rulings
  - d) A system of law designed to punish offenders
- Which of the following describes civil law?
  - a) Law based upon Acts of Parliament
  - b) A system of law designed to resolve disputes
  - c) Law based upon legal precedent established by court rulings
  - d) A system of law designed to punish offenders
- Which of the following describes the role of the Attorney General?
  - a) The primary legal advisor to the government
  - b) The most senior Supreme Court justice
  - c) The secondary legal advisor to the government
  - d) Head of the Ministry of Justice
- Which of the following describes the role of the Solicitor General?
  - a) The primary legal advisor to the government
  - b) The most senior Supreme Court justice
  - c) The secondary legal advisor to the government
  - d) Head of the Ministry of Justice
- Which of the following describes the role of the Justice Secretary?
  - a) The primary legal advisor to the government
  - b) The most senior Supreme Court justice
  - c) The secondary legal advisor to the government
  - d) Head of the Ministry of Justice
- Which of the following describes the role of the President of the Supreme Court?
  - a) The primary legal advisor to the government
  - b) The most senior Supreme Court justice
  - c) The secondary legal advisor to the government
  - d) Head of the Ministry of Justice
- What is the role of the Ministry of Justice?
  - a) To administer and provide oversight for the judicial system
  - b) To advise the government on legal matters
  - c) To deliver court rulings on constitutional matters
  - d) To resolve international legal disputes in the government's favour

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10. How many justices sit on the Supreme Court?
- a) 8  c) 12  
 b) 10  d) 14
11. Which of the following describes the principle of judicial independence?
- a) Judicial rulings should consider a wider societal context  
 b) Judicial rulings should not be influenced by other branches of government  
 c) Judicial rulings should be limited in scope as much as possible  
 d) Judicial rulings should not be influenced by political bias or party
12. Which of the following describes the principle of judicial neutrality?
- a) Judicial rulings should consider a wider societal context  
 b) Judicial rulings should not be influenced by other branches of government  
 c) Judicial rulings should be limited in scope as much as possible  
 d) Judicial rulings should not be influenced by political bias or party
13. Which of the following describes judicial activism?
- a) Judicial rulings should consider a wider societal context  
 b) Judicial rulings should not be influenced by other branches of government  
 c) Judicial rulings should be limited in scope as much as possible  
 d) Judicial rulings should not be influenced by political bias or party
14. Which of the following describes judicial restraint?
- a) Judicial rulings should consider a wider societal context  
 b) Judicial rulings should not be influenced by other branches of government  
 c) Judicial rulings should be limited in scope as much as possible  
 d) Judicial rulings should not be influenced by political bias or party
15. Which of the following describes judicial review?
- a) A determination that a law contradicts the European Convention  
 b) A ruling that the courts possess the authority to make a judgment  
 c) The examination of executive or legislative decisions by the courts  
 d) The determination that a power has acted beyond its legal authority
16. Which of the following describes the term 'ultra vires'?
- a) A determination that a law contradicts the European Convention  
 b) A ruling that the courts possess the authority to make a judgment  
 c) The examination of executive or legislative decisions by the courts  
 d) The determination that a power has acted beyond its legal authority
17. Which of the following describes the term 'incompatibility'?
- a) A determination that a law contradicts the European Convention  
 b) A ruling that the courts possess the authority to make a judgment  
 c) The examination of executive or legislative decisions by the courts  
 d) The determination that a power has acted beyond its legal authority
18. Which of the following describes the term 'justiciable'?
- a) A determination that a law contradicts the European Convention  
 b) A ruling that the courts possess the authority to make a judgment  
 c) The examination of executive or legislative decisions by the courts  
 d) The determination that a power has acted beyond its legal authority
19. Which of the following describes the term 'deference'?
- a) The court with ultimate authority whose verdicts cannot be appealed  
 b) The view that politicians should not comment on ongoing cases  
 c) A judgment that a different authority should resolve the matter  
 d) The view that a certain verdict could jeopardise public safety

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20. Which of the following describes contempt of court?
- a) The court with ultimate authority whose verdicts cannot be appealed
  - b) The view that politicians should not comment on ongoing cases
  - c) A judgment that a different authority should resolve the matter
  - d) The view that a certain verdict could jeopardise public safety
21. Which of the following describes national security?
- a) The court with ultimate authority whose verdicts cannot be appealed
  - b) The view that politicians should not comment on ongoing cases
  - c) A judgment that a different authority should resolve the matter
  - d) The view that a certain verdict could jeopardise public safety
22. Which of the following describes judicial supremacy?
- a) The court with ultimate authority whose verdicts cannot be appealed
  - b) The view that politicians should not comment on ongoing cases
  - c) A judgment that a different authority should resolve the matter
  - d) The view that a certain verdict could jeopardise public safety
23. Which was the basis of the *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)* Supreme Court judgment?
- a) That a former ISIS member should be allowed to return to the UK
  - b) That the law against assisted suicide is contradictory to human rights
  - c) That an extended prorogation of Parliament was unlawful
  - d) That a ban on abortions is contradictory to human rights
24. What was the basis of the judgment in *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*?
- a) National security
  - b) Deference
  - c) Incompatibility
  - d) Ultra vires
25. What was the basis of the *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission v Secretary of State for Health (2005)* judgment?
- a) That a former ISIS member should be allowed to return to the UK
  - b) That the law against assisted suicide is contradictory to human rights
  - c) That an extended prorogation of Parliament was unlawful
  - d) That a ban on abortions is contradictory to human rights
26. What was the basis of the judgment in *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission v Secretary of State for Health (2005)*?
- a) National security
  - b) Deference
  - c) Incompatibility
  - d) Ultra vires
27. What was the basis of the *Miller v The Prime Minister (2019)* Supreme Court judgment?
- a) That a former ISIS member should be allowed to return to the UK
  - b) That the law against assisted suicide is contradictory to human rights
  - c) That an extended prorogation of Parliament was unlawful
  - d) That a ban on abortions is contradictory to human rights
28. What was the basis of the judgment in *Miller v The Prime Minister (2019)*?
- a) National security
  - b) Deference
  - c) Incompatibility
  - d) Ultra vires
29. Which was the basis of the *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)* Supreme Court judgment?
- a) That a former ISIS member should be allowed to return to the UK
  - b) That the law against assisted suicide is contradictory to human rights
  - c) That an extended prorogation of Parliament was unlawful
  - d) That a ban on abortions is contradictory to human rights
30. What was the basis of the judgment in *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*?
- a) National security
  - b) Deference
  - c) Incompatibility
  - d) Ultra vires

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## Power and Sovereignty –

- Which of the following describes political sovereignty?
  - a) Sovereignty resides among elected representatives
  - b) Sovereignty resides among the population
  - c) Sovereignty resides among the most superior state institution
  - d) There is no higher authority than Parliament
- Which of the following describes legal sovereignty?
  - a) Sovereignty resides among elected representatives
  - b) Sovereignty resides among the population
  - c) Sovereignty resides among the most superior state institution
  - d) There is no higher authority than Parliament
- Which of the following describes popular sovereignty?
  - a) Sovereignty resides among elected representatives
  - b) Sovereignty resides among the population
  - c) Sovereignty resides among the most superior state institution
  - d) There is no higher authority than Parliament
- Which of the following describes parliamentary sovereignty?
  - a) Sovereignty resides among elected representatives
  - b) Sovereignty resides among the population
  - c) Sovereignty resides among the most superior state institution
  - d) There is no higher authority than Parliament
- Why might treaties be regarded as undermining sovereignty?
  - a) Enable the courts to challenge the government
  - b) Generate a mandate with greater legitimacy
  - c) Can create conflicting political mandates
  - d) Regarded as legally superior
- Why might devolution be regarded as undermining sovereignty?
  - a) Enables the courts to challenge the government
  - b) Generates a mandate with greater legitimacy
  - c) Can create conflicting political mandates
  - d) Regarded as legally superior
- Why might referenda be regarded as undermining sovereignty?
  - a) Enable the courts to challenge the government
  - b) Generate a mandate with greater legitimacy
  - c) Can create conflicting political mandates
  - d) Regarded as legally superior
- Why might the Human Rights Act be regarded as undermining sovereignty?
  - a) Enables the courts to challenge the government
  - b) Generates a mandate with greater legitimacy
  - c) Can create conflicting political mandates
  - d) Regarded as legally superior
- Which of the following describes the Sewel Convention?
  - a) The right for the executive to pass secondary legislation
  - b) The ability to use executive powers without any parliamentary consent
  - c) The expectation that consent should be sought from devolved governments
  - d) The inability to use an Act of Parliament to extend a parliament

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10. What restriction is placed on Parliament by the Parliament Act 1911?
- a) The right for the executive to pass secondary legislation
- b) The ability to use executive powers without any parliamentary consent
- c) The expectation that consent should be sought from devolved governments
- d) The inability to use an Act of Parliament to extend a parliament
11. Which area of policy does UK membership of NATO restrict?
- a) Environmental policy
- b) Trade policy
- c) Defence
- d) Human rights
12. Which area of policy does UK membership of the Council of Europe restrict?
- a) Environmental policy
- b) Trade policy
- c) Defence
- d) Human rights
13. Which area of policy does UK membership of the WTO restrict?
- a) Environmental policy
- b) Trade policy
- c) Defence
- d) Human rights
14. Which area of policy does UK membership of the United Nations restrict?
- a) Environmental policy
- b) Trade policy
- c) Defence
- d) Human rights
15. How does patronage contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament
- c) A judicial check on the executive
- d) A parliamentary check on the executive
16. How do select committees contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament
- c) A judicial check on the executive
- d) A parliamentary check on the executive
17. How does the principle of 'ultra vires' contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament
- c) A judicial check on the executive
- d) A parliamentary check on the executive
18. How does judicial independence contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament
- c) A judicial check on the executive
- d) A parliamentary check on the executive
19. How do whips contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament
- c) A judicial check on the executive
- d) A parliamentary check on the executive
20. How does democratic legitimacy contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament
- c) A judicial check on the executive
- d) A parliamentary check on the executive
21. How does the principle of legal sovereignty contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament
- c) A judicial check on the executive
- d) A parliamentary check on the executive
22. How does Prime Minister's Questions contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament
- c) A judicial check on the executive
- d) A parliamentary check on the executive

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23. How does the royal prerogative contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive       c) A judicial check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament       d) A parliamentary check on the executive
24. How does a declaration of incompatibility contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive       c) A judicial check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament       d) A parliamentary check on the executive
25. How does a motion of no confidence contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive       c) A judicial check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament       d) A parliamentary check on the executive
26. How does elective dictatorship contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive       c) A judicial check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament       d) A parliamentary check on the executive
27. How does the European Convention on Human Rights contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive       c) A judicial check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament       d) A parliamentary check on the executive
28. How does judicial restraint contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive       c) A judicial check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament       d) A parliamentary check on the executive
29. How does primary legislation contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive       c) A judicial check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament       d) A parliamentary check on the executive
30. How do backbenchers contribute to the UK's system of checks and balances?
- a) A parliamentary check on the executive       c) A judicial check on the executive
- b) An executive check on Parliament       d) A parliamentary check on the executive



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## Answers (Set A)

### Constitution

Question	Answer	Explanation
1	C	In this regard it is the earliest known constitutional document.
2	D	
3	A	
4	B	The Parliament Act 1911 made the House of Commons the <i>de facto</i> supreme body.
5	B	
6	A	
7	D	
8	C	
9	C	
10	C	Legally, there is no element of the UK constitution which cannot be amended.
11	A	
12	D	The UK is a unitary state, with all other political institutions dependent on the central government.
13	D	In 1999, all but 92 of 750 hereditary peers were removed from the House of Lords.
14	B	The Supreme Court created a separation of powers, as previously the House of Lords.
15	C	The Fixed-term Parliaments Act aimed to reduce the power of election, though this still happened in 2017 and 2019.
16	A	The decision to leave the European Union by referendum in 2016 led to a reassessment of constitutional arrangements.
17	C	The UK was already a signatory of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Human Rights Act meant such cases could be tried in the UK.
18	C	
19	B	Reserved powers are those which Parliament specifies that it retains, such as foreign affairs.
20	C	Conferred powers are those which Parliament grants to devolved administrations, such as health and education.
21	C	
22	B	
23	D	
24	A	
25	B	
26	C	Metro mayors are given powers of planning for 'city-regions' with outlying towns.
27	A	A 2004 local government referendum on the introduction of a regional assembly was rejected by 78% of voters.
28	C	The UK remains a member of the Council of Europe (D), which has a permanent secretary (A) remains in place.
29	B	(A) is incorrect as the monarch still conveys influence over government meetings and Privy Council involvement.
30	A	

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## **Preview of Answers Ends Here**

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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.



Tests

- Tests – Write-on (Set A) .....
- Constitution .....
- Parliament .....
- Prime Minister and Executive .....
- Judiciary .....
- Power and Sovereignty .....

Tests – Non-write-on (Set A) .....

- Answers (Set A) .....
- Constitution .....
- Parliament.....
- Prime Minister and Executive .....
- Judiciary .....
- Power and Sovereignty .....



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## Constitution – Test

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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 constitution.

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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 codified.

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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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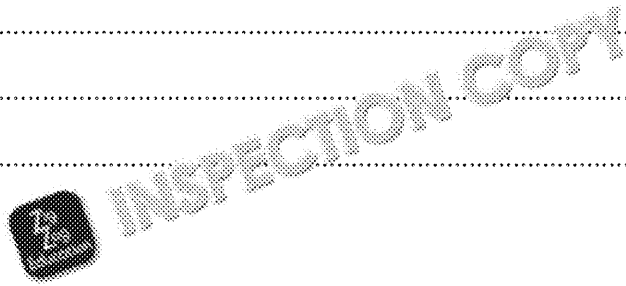
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# Prime Minister and Executive

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

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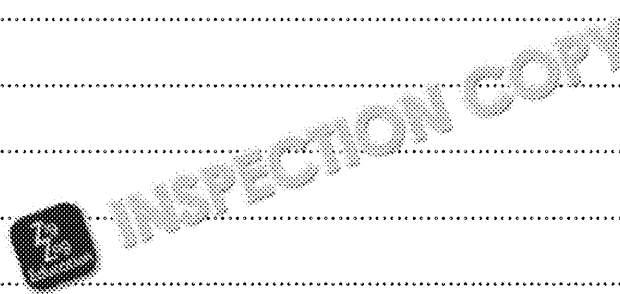
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2. Explain **two** roles performed by the executive.

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

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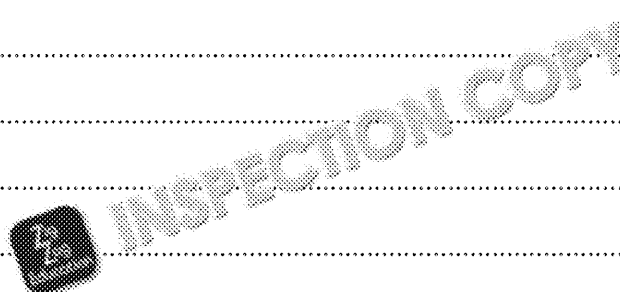
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4. Explain **two** examples of 'predominant' Prime Ministers.

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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

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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

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

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# Judiciary – Test A

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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 is

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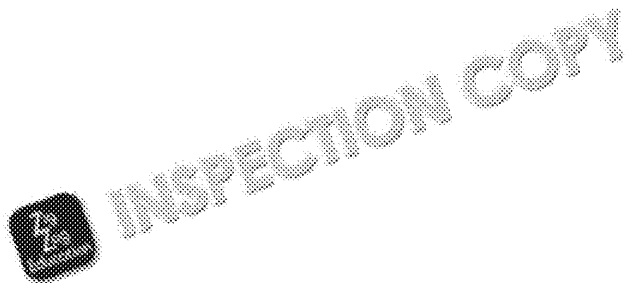
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## Power and Sovereignty –

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 executive in 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 p

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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** privileges granted to the Official 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 restrained.
4. Explain **two** examples of 'predominant' Prime Ministers.
5. Explain **two** examples of resignations due to individual responsibility.
6. Explain **two** factors affecting the collapse of Cabinet ministers.
7. Explain **two** arguments supporting the notion that Cabinet is submissive.
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** features 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 cases.
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 joined 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 undermining sovereignty.
10. Explain **two** examples of the UK breaching its own treaty commitments.

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## Constitution

1. Explain **two** arguments supporting the claim that the UK has seen massive constitutional reform.
  - The removal of all but 92 hereditary peers from the House of Lords is arguably since the Parliament Acts of 1911 and 1949, significantly reducing the number of titles rather than been appointed by elected representatives.
  - The devolution settlements in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are a sign of the unitary nature of UK governance, creating rival centres of power to Westminster.
  - The abolition of the law lords and creation of the Supreme Court is a significant change to the branches of UK government, which has strengthened the judiciary relative to the executive.
  - The UK decision to leave the European Union is the reversal of more than 40 years of integration, which has widespread constitutional implications for UK political institutions.
2. Explain **two** arguments in favour of further House of Lords reform.
  - The Lords has played an increasing role in responsible, detailed and measured legislation and arguably the institution is working more effectively than ever.
  - The reduction of hereditary peers conducted by New Labour, and rebalancing of Conservative bias, has fixed the major problems with the Lords.
  - Arguably the most problematic aspect of the Lords was the lack of separate representation by the Law Lords, who have now rightly been abolished – this has improved the quality of the Lords.
  - The Lords is able to scrutinise legislation in a less politicised way due to no party bias, a benefit which an elected legislature would struggle to match.
3. Explain **two** arguments against further devolution.
  - Devolution has undermined the unitary nature of the UK's constitutional arrangements and powers generate increased conflict between different administrations, undermining the stability of the UK.
  - Devolution has led to the rise of secessionist movements which threaten to reduce stable governance.
  - Since the passing of the most recent Scotland Act and Wales Act, the devolution has been proportionate to the needs and demands of those electorates.
  - Any further devolution would begin to constitute a federal system, in which the unitary nature of the UK and parliamentary sovereignty need to be reconsidered – a highly contentious issue.
4. Explain **two** ways in which the Human Rights Act undermines the UK constitution.
  - The Human Rights Act gives greater powers to the judiciary to recommend the annulment of primary legislation, undermining parliamentary sovereignty.
  - The HRA applies rights universally rather than based on citizenship, which undermines the principle that foreign threats equal rights to law-abiding citizens.
  - The HRA represents a codification of rights which undermines the UK constitutional principle that conventions are followed informally and thus can adapt over time.
  - The HRA is entrenched to a greater extent than other legislation as so much of it is contained in the Bill of Rights 1689, undermining the unentrenched nature of the UK constitution.
5. Explain **two** arguments in favour of an English parliament.
  - The devolved parliaments in Scotland and Wales have been stable, plural and effective, demonstrating the viability of a similar model in England.
  - The current system for all nations except England creates the problem of the 'Westminster veto' where an English-only matter is held up by a vote on English-only matters. An English parliament would resolve this.
  - The creation of a separate English parliament would make the UK Parliament more representative and give greater priority to other nations and the union in general.
  - An English parliament would ensure a consistent level of representation for England, strengthening democratic institutions.

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## **Preview of Answers Ends Here**

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**Essays**

Essays (Set A) .....

Level Grade Descriptors .....

Model Answers (Set A) .....



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## Essays (Set A)

1. Evaluate the view that New Labour's constitutional reforms were successful.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Constitutional Law to examine both sides of the argument.*
2. Using Source 1, overleaf, evaluate the view that devolution has undermined the power of the House of Commons.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer
3. Evaluate the view that backbench MPs have an influential role in Parliament.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Constitutional Law to examine both sides of the argument.*
4. Using source 2, overleaf, evaluate the view that the House of Lords should be abolished.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer
5. Evaluate the view that Cabinet restricts the power of the Prime Minister.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Constitutional Law to examine both sides of the argument.*
6. Using Source 3, overleaf, evaluate the view that the powers of royal prerogative have been eroded.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer
7. Evaluate the view that the UK Supreme Court is too powerful.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Constitutional Law to examine both sides of the argument.*
8. Using Source 4, overleaf, evaluate the view that the power of judicial review has been eroded.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer
9. Evaluate the view that sovereignty in the UK is contested.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Constitutional Law to examine both sides of the argument.*
10. Using Source 5, overleaf, evaluate the view that the UK now operates on a two-party system.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer

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### Source 1

Support for Scottish independence has surged, with some polls suggesting more than 10%. Several factors appear to be at play. The conclusive victory in the 2019 general election, after a full decade in government, has increased support for the SNP. The party hasn't voted Tory for almost 70 years. Instability under Boris Johnson has also boosted the case for independence. The perceived better management of the Brexit crisis compared to England is another factor. But most significant of all is the Scottish electorate voted to remain in the European Union, yet the UK has left it according to some – the hardest possible terms, with no input permitted from Scotland or civil society.

But the peril facing the union doesn't end in Scotland. In Northern Ireland, the prospect of reunification is at an all-time high as well. One of the present developments is first is the result of the 2019 general election, in which nationalist republican Sinn Féin won the most seats – a critical milestone towards a second general election the following year, which would see a referendum on reunification. Sinn Féin, with Sinn Féin surging in opinion polls on the basis of that result, calls for a referendum will no doubt grow. In the context of the prospect of Sinn Féin running governments in both the North and the Republic, the circumstance that initiated the Irish independence movement more than a century ago.

Perhaps most extraordinary of all, however, is the surging support for an independent Wales. A country which very nearly rejected devolution altogether in a referendum in 1979, for an independent Wales is now polling as high as 39% and enthusiasm is growing rapidly. Amid these developments, the English look particularly adrift. Since the 1970s, devolution has taken place in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. In the North East, a referendum on devolution was rejected conclusively. In many 'metro mayor' elections in city regions continue to struggle with the issue. It would seem, is just another issue on which the nations of the United Kingdom are pulling apart. Ultimately, in the coming years, it will be decisions taken by Parliament that will determine the surging secessionist movements.

### Source 2

The Conservative Party secured their largest parliamentary majority since 1987. The party also remains – by far – the largest grouping in the House of Lords, with 270 crossbenchers in a distant second place. Yet despite these advantages, the government has suffered a development since the 2019 election: the government keeps getting defeated. The number of defeats is higher than at any time since the 1970s. The Police and Crime Bill and the Nationality and Borders Bill have both suffered more than 100 amendments. The Elections Bill, Health and Care Bill and various other pieces of legislation have also been voted down.

Perhaps the primary reason for this state of affairs is the government's loss of the support of the non-affiliated crossbenchers. The Conservative Party has anything close to a majority in the House of Lords. The votes of non-partisan peers are often crucial, and previous governments have been willing to make concessions to crossbenchers than in the present. It may argue that with a healthy majority it needn't concede to an unrepresentative group.

Many crossbench peers have complained that the legislation being introduced is increasingly vague and poorly written. Labour argues that many proposals are so vague that it makes inflicting defeats much easier. Nevertheless, despite the high number of amendments occurring, the success of peers in getting MPs to agree to their amendments is limited.

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### Source 3

The royal prerogative is a series of executive powers in UK politics which are exercised by the Prime Minister. Such powers include the ability to declare war, make international arrangements, and make various appointments, such as in the armed forces. The powers get their name from their previous history in which they were used by monarchs. In this sense, they are something of a feudal relic and have since been passed to the government by Parliament, and therefore given a mandate for their use by the electorate.

Due to the UK's uncodified constitution, the royal prerogative is sometimes given much more power to a majority government without accompanying checks and balances. This is broad and thus open to an interpretation that is overly generous to the government. In the field of international relations, however – as many of the powers do – this should not be ruled by committee.

Although not discussed frequently in a public political debate, the royal prerogative has become a major political issue on occasion over the last decade. The royal prerogative to suspend Parliament, for example, is increasingly accepted as being subject to Parliamentary approval. This convention became particularly prominent when Parliament opposed the government's plans for military intervention in Syria. The royal prerogative power to prorogue Parliament also gave rise to the Boris Johnson controversy where the suspension of the legislature for five weeks was found to be unlawful by the Supreme Court.

### Source 4

The Conservative Party have long aimed to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998. In office their plans are looking closer to fruition. A new Bill of Rights was introduced in Parliament in June 2022 by the Justice Secretary Dominic Raab. The bill would allow the UK to remain a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights, but means that while the same rights will remain in place, the way they will be enforced will change.

The new Bill of Rights emphasises the ultimate judicial authority of the UK Parliament. It removes the requirement of the Supreme Court to consider European Court of Human Rights verdicts. Instead it legislates that the court should give as great a deference to the government as possible. In practice, this means that judicial review will lean more towards upholding government decisions, than it will towards deciding that legislation is incompatible with the Human Rights Act.

Currently, although UK courts can rule that legislation is incompatible with the Human Rights Act, they cannot strike down legislation. UK courts have only had 27 declarations of incompatibility since the Human Rights Act was passed in 1998.

The government claims that the new Bill of Rights will restore the parliamentary sovereignty which the UK's constitution is based on, and also curb judicial activism that has become a problem in the courts. But critics argue that the bill will make it harder to challenge government actions, and it therefore empowers the government at the expense of individuals.

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Source 5

Referenda dominated the political landscape of the 2010s in the UK – a new phenomenon. Prior to the election of the New Labour government in 1997, no referendum had ever taken place: one nationwide in 1975, and three in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland respectively, also all in the 1970s.

In the previous era, referenda were largely regarded by British politicians as a last resort. A key point of the UK constitution was that final decisions are made in Parliament, not by referendum or by-issue polls. Yet under New Labour, the idea of referenda became more prominent in determining support for devolved institutions. And it was Prime Minister Tony Blair who first embraced the referendum – twice gambling his political future on their results.

Cameron argued that his referendum would solve the long-standing political question of whether the UK should remain in the EU. It hasn't quite worked out that way. In the meantime, demands for second referenda on electoral reform argue the case for a new system. The 2011 referendum on the Alternative Vote for proportional representation was only rejected. Advocates of Scottish independence argue that the 2014 referendum was a failure. And opponents of Brexit contend that the 2016 referendum was a failure.

On all of these issues, the demand on Parliament is now that they let the issue be resolved by Parliament itself. It is a far cry from the not-so-long-ago when the word 'referendum' was a dirty word.

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# Level Grade Descriptors

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30-mark Extract Checklist (for source question)		
AO	Marks	Level description
AO1 Knowledge	9–10	Student portrays accuracy with a visible attention to detail knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics. Their knowledge is integrated consistently to support analysis and evaluation. Result is convincing general points throughout the answer.
	7–8	Student portrays detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are used effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Relevant general points are made.
	5–6	Student portrays accurate knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics. Knowledge is used efficiently and effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Mostly relevant general points are made.
	3–4	Student portrays some knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are sometimes used to support analysis and evaluation. Some relevant general points are made.
	1–2	Student portrays superficial knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, with little to no analysis and evaluation.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
AO2 Analysis	9–10	Student shows strong perception in formulating a reasoned analysis of the source material, making consistently convincing links to political theories and concepts.
	7–8	Student shows consistently good, reasoned analysis of the source material, making convincing links to political theories and concepts.
	5–6	Student shows mainly reasoned analysis of the source material, making good links to political theories and concepts.
	3–4	Student shows some signs of analysing the source material, making some links to political theories and concepts.
	1–2	Student shows little to no reasoned analysis of the source material, making few links to political theories and concepts.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
AO3 Evaluation	9–10	Student engages in building an entirely relevant evaluation on politics using source material, making strongly effective and reasoned judgements and arguments throughout. Conclusions are entirely reasoned and supported by the source material.
	7–8	Student builds an almost fully relevant evaluation on politics using source material, making strong judgements and arguments throughout. Mostly reasoned conclusions.
	5–6	Student builds a mostly reasoned evaluation on politics using source material, making good judgements and arguments throughout. Generally reasoned conclusions.
	3–4	Student engages in formulating some evaluative work on politics using source material, making some judgements and arguments. Some still partly descriptive in content leading to poorly reasoned conclusions.
	1–2	Student engages in little to no evaluative work on politics using source material, making few judgements and arguments. Many of these are descriptive in content leading to poorly reasoned arguments.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
Balanced		If an answer is not balanced then it cannot receive above a level 2 (AO2 or AO3).
Source		Analysis and evaluation that is not connected to the material in the source cannot receive above a level 2 (AO2 or AO3).
Analysis		

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30-mark Essay Checklist		
AO	Marks	Level description
AO1 Knowledge	9–10	Student portrays accuracy with a visible attention to detail knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are used effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Relevant general points are made throughout the answer.
	7–8	Student portrays detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are used effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Relevant general points are made throughout the answer.
	5–6	Student portrays accurate knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics. Knowledge is used efficiently and effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Mostly relevant general points are made throughout the answer.
	3–4	Student portrays some knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are sometimes used to support analysis and evaluation. Some relevant general points are made.
	1–2	Student portrays superficial knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, with little to no analysis or evaluation.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
AO2 Analysis	9–10	Student shows strong perception in formulating a reasoned analysis of political concepts or theories, making consistently convincing links between material and concepts.
	7–8	Student shows consistently good, reasoned analysis of political concepts or theories, making multiple reasoned links between material and concepts.
	5–6	Student shows mainly reasoned analysis of political concepts or theories, making some relevant links between material and concepts.
	3–4	Student shows some signs of analysing political concepts or theories, making some relevant links between material and concepts.
	1–2	Student shows little to no reasoned analysis of political concepts or theories, making simple links between material and concepts.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
AO3 Evaluation	9–10	Student engages in building an entirely relevant evaluation on politics, making strongly effective and reasoned judgements and arguments throughout. Conclusions are entirely reasoned as a result.
	7–8	Student builds an almost fully relevant evaluation on politics, making judgements and arguments throughout. This results in mostly reasoned arguments.
	5–6	Student builds a mostly reasoned evaluation on politics, making judgements and arguments throughout. This leads to generally reasoned arguments.
	3–4	Student engages in formulating some evaluative work on politics, making some relevant judgements. Some of these arguments are still partially relevant, leading to poorly reasoned arguments.
	1–2	Student engages in little to no evaluative work on politics, making judgements. Many of these arguments are only descriptive, leading to poorly reasoned arguments.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
Balance	If an answer is not balanced, it cannot receive above a level 2 (AO1).	

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# Model Answers (Set A)

1. Evaluate the view that New Labour's constitutional reforms were successful.

## Indicative Content

AO1	AO2
<b>Agreement</b>	
Introduction of the devolution settlements for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.	All devolved institutions approved by electorate and have become important parts of constitution.
Abolition of most hereditary peers from the House of Lords and end of Conservative dominance.	The most significant reform the House of Lords has received since 1949.
New Labour introduced a variety of new electoral systems for use in local elections.	Most of these systems remain in use today and have led to more representative election results.
<b>Disagreement</b>	
Introduction of devolution in England, through local authority mayors and regional assemblies.	A regional assembly and many mayoral positions rejected in local referenda and then abandoned.
Full reform of the House of Lords stalled in Parliament and failed after multiple attempts.	New Labour had sought to create at least a partially elected House of Lords.
New Labour did not seek electoral reform for general elections, having proposed a referendum on FPTP.	New Labour dropped their commitment to electoral reform after the 1997 general election.

## Model Answer

The New Labour government introduced a number of reforms during its tenure that fundamentally altered the constitution in the UK. Some argue that these changes to the British constitution in decades, and that nothing alike has been seen since that most of New Labour's constitutional reforms were ultimately unsuccessful. In many reforms are omitted in the following, this essay will focus on three key areas in order to argue that New Labour introduced more successful constitutional reforms than those that did not live up to their initial ambitions.

One reason to think that New Labour's constitutional reforms were successful was the devolution settlements introduced. The establishment of a parliament in Northern Ireland and London were major constitutional steps in what was a unitary political system dominated by Westminster. New Labour succeeded in winning local population for these institutions through referenda, and the strengthening of their powers, gaining cross-party consent and becoming constitutional fixtures. Although these devolved institutions are not formally entrenched, they have largely moved beyond the realm of political possibilities. However, despite the success of these reforms, New Labour was considerably less successful at rolling out devolution across the rest of the country. We can look in two directions. Firstly, the implementation of local authority mayors was a failure. Although some local authorities backed the creation of a mayor, and several which initially approved mayors have since abolished them, leaving that only a handful of local authority mayors remain in place. Further, the creation of regional assemblies in England failed at the very first hurdle, after being rejected in referenda.

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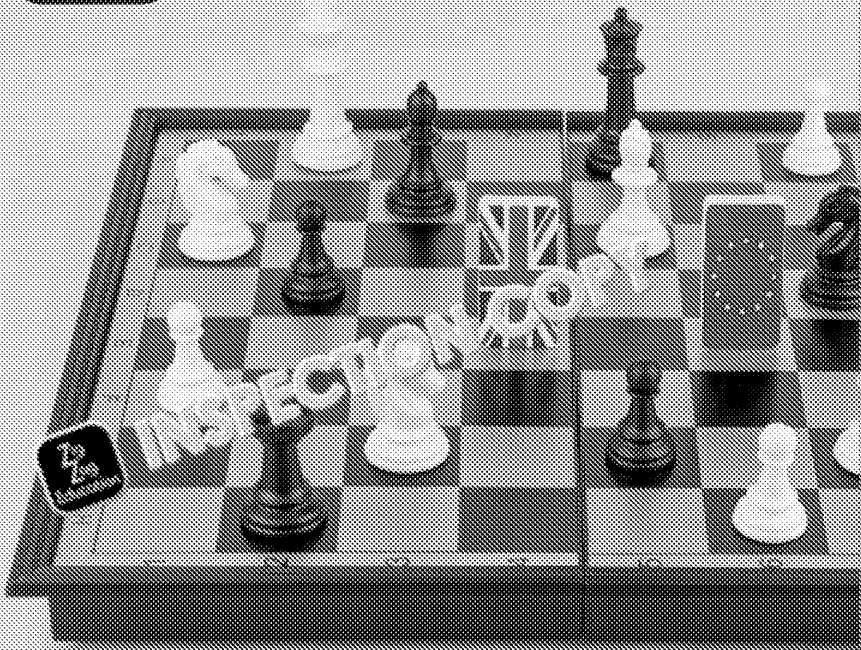




## **Preview of Answers Ends Here**

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Quizzes

- Quizzes (Set B).....
- Constitution .....
- Parliament .....
- Prime Minister and Executive .....
- Judiciary .....
- Power and Sovereignty .....
- Answers (Set B) .....
- Constitution .....
- Parliament.....
- Prime Minister and Executive .....
- Judiciary .....
- Power and Sovereignty.....

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## Constitution – Quiz

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- Which of the following constitutional milestones permitted freedom of press and free elections?  
 a) Magna Carta (1215)  c) Acts of Supremacy (1534)  
 b) Bill of Rights (1689)  d) Parliament Act (1911)
- Which of the following constitutional milestones forms the first legal basis for which rights were restricted?  
 a) Magna Carta (1215)  c) Acts of Supremacy (1534)  
 b) Bill of Rights (1689)  d) Parliament Act (1911)
- Which of the following constitutional milestones is legislation limiting the powers of the House of Commons?  
 a) Magna Carta (1215)  c) Acts of Supremacy (1534)  
 b) Bill of Rights (1689)  d) Parliament Act (1911)
- Which of the following constitutional milestones represented the formal union of the kingdoms of England and Scotland?  
 a) Magna Carta (1215)  c) Acts of Supremacy (1534)  
 b) Bill of Rights (1689)  d) Parliament Act (1911)
- What is the term for the texts outlining constitutional principles?  
 a) Statute law  c) Conventions  
 b) Common law  d) Authority
- What is the term for primary legislation passed by Parliament?  
 a) Statute law  c) Conventions  
 b) Common law  d) Authority
- What is the term for political traditions and customs?  
 a) Statute law  c) Conventions  
 b) Common law  d) Authority
- What is the term for legal precedent arising from judicial rulings?  
 a) Statute law  c) Conventions  
 b) Common law  d) Authority
- Which of the following takes precedent over primary legislation?  
 a) Royal proclamation  c) Treaties  
 b) Statutory instruments  d) Lords' Orders
- What is the term for a single, central political authority which has supreme power?  
 a) Unentrenched  c) Unitary  
 b) Unwritten  d) Unicameral
- What is the term for rules and procedures followed informally based on custom?  
 a) Unentrenched  c) Unitary  
 b) Uncodified  d) Unicameral
- What is the term for rules and procedures which can be changed by legislation?  
 a) Unentrenched  c) Unitary  
 b) Uncodified  d) Unicameral

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13. Under which of the following administrations was the Supreme Court established?
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) The Blair Government | <input type="checkbox"/> c) The Cameron Government      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) The Brown Government | <input type="checkbox"/> d) The Gordon Brown Government |
14. Which of the following administrations organised withdrawal from the EU?
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) The Blair Government | <input type="checkbox"/> c) The Cameron Government      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) The Brown Government | <input type="checkbox"/> d) The Gordon Brown Government |
15. Which of the following administrations removed most hereditary peers from the House of Lords?
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) The Blair Government | <input type="checkbox"/> c) The Cameron Government      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) The Brown Government | <input type="checkbox"/> d) The Gordon Brown Government |
16. Which of the following administrations led in the introduction of fixed five-year parliaments?
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) The Blair Government | <input type="checkbox"/> c) The Cameron Government      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) The Brown Government | <input type="checkbox"/> d) The Gordon Brown Government |
17. What is meant by secondary legislation?
- a) European law that takes precedent over statute law
- b) Statutory instruments supporting the implementation of laws
- c) Acts of Parliament passed by majority vote
- d) Laws that are passed by local authorities
18. What is meant by secondary legislation?
- a) European law that takes precedent over statute law
- b) Statutory instruments supporting the implementation of laws
- c) Acts of Parliament passed by majority vote
- d) Laws that are passed by local authorities
19. What is meant by the term 'reserved powers'?
- a) A system of devolution in which certain powers are granted
- b) A system of devolution in which certain powers are entrenched
- c) A system of devolution in which certain powers can be reduced
- d) A system of devolution in which certain powers are protected
20. What is meant by the term 'conferred powers'?
- a) A system of devolution in which certain powers are granted
- b) A system of devolution in which certain powers are entrenched
- c) A system of devolution in which certain powers can be reduced
- d) A system of devolution in which certain powers are protected
21. Which of the following countries has no devolved institutions?
- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) England          | <input type="checkbox"/> c) Scotland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) Northern Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> d) Wales    |
22. Which of the following institutions has no power over policing and the justice system?
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) UK Parliament             | <input type="checkbox"/> c) Scottish Parliament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) Northern Ireland Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> d) Senedd Cymru        |
23. Which of the following institutions has no power to change income tax bands?
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) UK Parliament             | <input type="checkbox"/> c) Scottish Parliament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) Northern Ireland Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> d) Senedd Cymru        |
24. Which of the following institutions has the least reserved powers?
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) London Assembly           | <input type="checkbox"/> c) Scottish Parliament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) Northern Ireland Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> d) Senedd Cymru        |

25. What is unique in the UK about the Scottish political system?
- a) Control over policing and justice
  - b) Mandatory power sharing
  - c) Does not have powers relating to foreign affairs
  - d) Separate legal system
26. What is a city mayor?
- a) A directly elected executive leader with jurisdiction over a single local authority
  - b) A ceremonial executive leader with jurisdiction over multiple local authorities
  - c) A directly elected executive leader with jurisdiction over multiple local authorities
  - d) A ceremonial executive leader with jurisdiction over a single local authority
27. What now-abandoned reform did Parliament implement as a solution to the regional inequalities of the 1980s?
- a) Regional assemblies
  - b) Federalism
  - c) English devolution
  - d) English regionalism
28. Which institution has become responsible for laws previously enforced by the Home Office?
- a) Parliament
  - b) The Supreme Court
  - c) The Courts
  - d) Local Authorities
29. What is the term for the arrangement which limits the power of the monarch?
- a) Constitutional monarchy
  - b) Parliamentary privilege
  - c) Parliamentary sovereignty
  - d) Royal prerogative
30. What is the term for the arrangement which ensures legislative supremacy?
- a) Constitutional monarchy
  - b) Parliamentary privilege
  - c) Parliamentary sovereignty
  - d) Royal prerogative



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## Parliament – Quiz

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- Which of the following defines the term 'Whips'?
  - a) MPs who are responsible for counting the votes
  - b) MPs who are responsible for ensuring their party votes unanimously
  - c) MPs who are members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet
  - d) MPs who may vote against their own party
- Which of the following defines the term 'Frontbenchers'?
  - a) MPs who are responsible for counting the votes
  - b) MPs who are responsible for ensuring their party votes unanimously
  - c) MPs who are members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet
  - d) MPs who may vote against their own party
- Which of the following defines the term 'Tellers'?
  - a) MPs who are responsible for counting the votes
  - b) MPs who are responsible for ensuring their party votes unanimously
  - c) MPs who are members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet
  - d) MPs who may vote against their own party
- Which of the following defines the term 'Backbenchers'?
  - a) MPs who are responsible for counting the votes
  - b) MPs who are responsible for ensuring their party votes unanimously
  - c) MPs who are members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet
  - d) MPs who may vote against their own party
- Which of the following defines the term 'Crossbenchers'?
  - a) Peers who sit in the Lords as a function of their job
  - b) Peers who are appointed by the executive
  - c) Peers who sit in the Lords without party alignment
  - d) Peers who sit in the Lords as a result of their background
- Which of the following defines the term 'Life peers'?
  - a) Peers who sit in the Lords as a function of their job
  - b) Peers who are appointed by the executive
  - c) Peers who sit in the Lords without party alignment
  - d) Peers who sit in the Lords as a result of their background
- Which of the following defines the term 'Lords Spiritual'?
  - a) Peers who sit in the Lords as a function of their job
  - b) Peers who are appointed by the executive
  - c) Peers who sit in the Lords without party alignment
  - d) Peers who sit in the Lords as a result of their background
- Which of the following defines the term 'hereditary peers'?
  - a) Peers who sit in the Lords as a function of their job
  - b) Peers who are appointed by the executive
  - c) Peers who sit in the Lords without party alignment
  - d) Peers who sit in the Lords as a result of their background
- Which of the following MPs represents the government within a specified area?
  - a) Secretary of State
  - b) Speaker
  - c) Junior Minister
  - d) Leader of the House of Commons

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10. Which of the following MPs has the exclusive power to call a vote of no confidence?
- a) Secretary of State  c) Junior Ministers
- b) Speaker  d) Leader of the Opposition
11. Which of the following MPs serves as the head of a government department?
- a) Secretary of State  c) Junior Ministers
- b) Speaker  d) Leader of the Opposition
12. Which of the following MPs chairs proceedings in the House of Commons?
- a) Secretary of State  c) Junior Ministers
- b) Speaker  d) Leader of the Opposition
13. Which of the following is a bill proposed by a minister?
- a) Government bill  c) Private Member's bill
- b) Statutory instrument  d) By-law
14. Which of the following is a bill proposed by a backbencher?
- a) Government bill  c) Private Member's bill
- b) Statutory instrument  d) By-law
15. In which legislative stage in the Commons is a debate limited to the content of the bill?
- a) Second reading  c) Report stage
- b) Committee stage  d) Third reading
16. In which legislative stage in the Commons does a detailed examination of the bill take place?
- a) Second reading  c) Report stage
- b) Committee stage  d) Third reading
17. In which legislative stage in the Commons is a debate on the general principle of the bill?
- a) Second reading  c) Report stage
- b) Committee stage  d) Third reading
18. In which legislative stage in the Commons are amendments proposed and considered?
- a) Second reading  c) Report stage
- b) Committee stage  d) Third reading
19. How many peers are there in the House of Lords?
- a) 651  c) 796
- b) 704  d) 823
20. What is the term for the document in which all parliamentary speech in the House of Commons is recorded?
- a) Hansard  c) Magdalen
- b) Erskine May  d) The Commons
21. What is the term for the convention that the Lords should not oppose policies of the Government?
- a) Parliamentary privilege  c) Royal Assent
- b) Confidence and supply  d) Salisbury
22. What is the term for the ability of parliamentarians to say what they please in the House of Commons?
- a) Parliamentary privilege  c) Royal Assent
- b) Confidence and supply  d) Salisbury
23. What is the term for the final stage in the process of a bill becoming law?
- a) Parliamentary privilege  c) Royal Assent
- b) Confidence and supply  d) Salisbury

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24. What is the term for an arrangement between a minority government and  
 a) Parliamentary privilege  c) Royal  
 b) Confidence and supply  d) Salisbury
25. Which of the following parliamentary committees scrutinises the actions  
 a) Grand committee  c) Joint  
 b) Select committee  d) General
26. Which of the following parliamentary committees scrutinises legislation?  
 a) Grand committee  c) Joint  
 b) Select committee  d) Public
27. Which of the following legislation removed the responsibility of hereditary peers  
 a) Parliament Act 1911  c) House  
 b) Parliament Act 1949  d) Fixed
28. Which of the following legislation formalised the supremacy of the Commons  
 a) Parliament Act 1911  c) House  
 b) Parliament Act 1949  d) Fixed
29. Which of the following legislation formalised the length of time between  
 a) Parliament Act 1911  c) House  
 b) Parliament Act 1949  d) Fixed
30. Which of the following legislation removed the ability of the Lords to delay  
 a) Parliament Act 1911  c) House  
 b) Parliament Act 1949  d) Fixed



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## Prime Minister and Executive

1. What is the term for the executive power to make appointments and have pardons?  
 a) Secondary legislation  
 b) Royal prerogative  
 c) Prime Minister's Office  
 d) Patronage
2. What is the term for the executive power of proposing and passing into law?  
 a) Secondary legislation  
 b) Royal prerogative  
 c) Prime Minister's Office  
 d) Patronage
3. What is the term for the executive power to enact statutory instruments without legislative oversight?  
 a) Secondary legislation  
 b) Royal prerogative  
 c) Prime Minister's Office  
 d) Patronage
4. What is the term for the executive powers adopted by the head of government in international affairs?  
 a) Secondary legislation  
 b) Royal prerogative  
 c) Prime Minister's Office  
 d) Patronage
5. What is meant by the term 'individual responsibility'?  
 a) The Prime Minister is ultimately responsible for any government mistakes  
 b) Ministers are not responsible for government mistakes  
 c) A minister should take responsibility for their own department's mistakes  
 d) All members of Cabinet should take responsibility for government mistakes
6. Which government department is responsible for the administration of the Treasury?  
 a) Cabinet Office  
 b) Home Office  
 c) Foreign Office  
 d) Treasury
7. Which government department is responsible for setting the budget?  
 a) Cabinet Office  
 b) Home Office  
 c) Foreign Office  
 d) Treasury
8. Which institution is staffed by the most senior special advisors and civil servants?  
 a) Press Office  
 b) Prime Minister's Office  
 c) No 10  
 d) Cabinet
9. Which members of the executive are heads of government departments?  
 a) Junior ministers  
 b) Civil servants  
 c) Senior ministers  
 d) Special advisers
10. Which members of the executive are responsible for communication, policy and strategy?  
 a) Junior ministers  
 b) Civil servants  
 c) Senior ministers  
 d) Special advisers
11. Which members of the executive are MPs working in the government who are not heads of departments?  
 a) Junior ministers  
 b) Civil servants  
 c) Senior ministers  
 d) Special advisers
12. Which members of the executive are politically neutral bureaucrats who are not MPs?  
 a) Junior ministers  
 b) Civil servants  
 c) Senior ministers  
 d) Special advisers

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13. Which of the following describes a 'predominant' Prime Minister?
- a) A Prime Minister who is highly memorable
  - b) A Prime Minister who governs as 'first among equals'
  - c) A Prime Minister who asserts their authority over the government
  - d) A Prime Minister who is well established within politics
14. What is meant by the term 'sofa government'?
- a) The increasing profile and authority of the Prime Minister
  - b) An increasing reliance on informal decision-making
  - c) An increasing politicisation of civil servants
  - d) The increasing profile and authority of special advisors
15. Which of the following Prime Ministers always held a comfortable majority?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
16. Which of the following Prime Ministers secured a historic majority which was not theirs to lose?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
17. Which of the following Prime Ministers frequently had to negotiate narrow majorities?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
18. Which of the following Prime Ministers had to govern in coalition with junior partners?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
19. Which of the following Prime Ministers preferred discussions with special advisors?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
20. Which of the following Prime Ministers used Cabinet to skilfully maintain a narrow majority?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
21. Which of the following Prime Ministers made decisions more frequently in Cabinet?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
22. Which of the following Prime Ministers disliked having to deal with Cabinet?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
23. Which of the following Prime Ministers distanced themselves from their party's policies?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
24. Which of the following Prime Ministers carefully managed the divisions within their party?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron
25. Which of the following Prime Ministers transformed their party's philosophy?
- a) Harold Wilson
  - b) Margaret Thatcher
  - c) Tony Blair
  - d) David Cameron

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26. Which of the following Prime Ministers modernised their party's stance on  
 a) Harold Wilson  c) Tony Blair  
 b) Margaret Thatcher  d) David Cameron
27. Which of the following Prime Ministers was undermined by the key event  
 a) Harold Wilson  c) Tony Blair  
 b) Margaret Thatcher  d) David Cameron
28. Which of the following Prime Ministers was undermined by the key event  
 a) Harold Wilson  c) Tony Blair  
 b) Margaret Thatcher  d) David Cameron
29. Which of the following Prime Ministers was undermined by the key event  
 a) Harold Wilson  c) Tony Blair  
 b) Margaret Thatcher  d) David Cameron
30. Which of the following Prime Ministers was undermined by the key event  
 a) Harold Wilson  c) Tony Blair  
 b) Margaret Thatcher  d) David Cameron



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## Judiciary – Quiz B

- What is the term for law based upon legal precedent established by courts?  
 a) Criminal law  
 b) Common law  
 c) Statute law  
 d) Civil law
- What is the term for law based upon Acts of Parliament?  
 a) Criminal law  
 b) Common law  
 c) Statute law  
 d) Civil law
- What is the term for a system of law designed to punish offenders?  
 a) Criminal law  
 b) Common law  
 c) Statute law  
 d) Civil law
- What is the term for a system of law designed to resolve disputes?  
 a) Criminal law  
 b) Common law  
 c) Statute law  
 d) Civil law
- What is the term for the primary legal advisor to the government?  
 a) Justice Secretary  
 b) Solicitor General  
 c) President  
 d) Attorney General
- What is the term for the secondary legal advisor to the government?  
 a) Justice Secretary  
 b) Solicitor General  
 c) President  
 d) Attorney General
- What is the term for head of the Ministry of Justice?  
 a) Justice Secretary  
 b) Solicitor General  
 c) President  
 d) Attorney General
- What is the term for the most senior Supreme Court justice?  
 a) Justice Secretary  
 b) Solicitor General  
 c) President  
 d) Attorney General
- Which of the following institutions was replaced by the Supreme Court?  
 a) Ministry of Justice  
 b) Law Lords  
 c) Attorney General  
 d) High Court
- In what year was the Supreme Court established?  
 a) 1974  
 b) 1998  
 c) 2005  
 d) 2012
- What is the term for the principle that judicial rulings should not be influenced by external pressure?  
 a) Judicial independence  
 b) Judicial activism  
 c) Judicial review  
 d) Judicial precedent
- What is the term for the principle that judicial rulings should not be influenced by external pressure?  
 a) Judicial independence  
 b) Judicial activism  
 c) Judicial review  
 d) Judicial precedent
- What is the term for the principle that judicial rulings should consider a wide range of factors?  
 a) Judicial independence  
 b) Judicial activism  
 c) Judicial review  
 d) Judicial precedent

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14. What is the term for the principle that judicial rulings should be limited in scope?  
 a) Judicial independence  
 b) Judicial activism  
 c) Judicial restraint  
 d) Judicial review
15. What is the term for the examination of executive or legislative decisions?  
 a) Incompatibility  
 b) Judicial review  
 c) Justification  
 d) Ultra vires
16. What is the term for a ruling that a power has acted beyond its legal authority?  
 a) Incompatibility  
 b) Judicial review  
 c) Justification  
 d) Ultra vires
17. What is the term for a ruling that a law conflicts with the European Convention on Human Rights?  
 a) Incompatibility  
 b) Judicial review  
 c) Justification  
 d) Ultra vires
18. What is the term for a ruling that the courts possess the authority to make laws?  
 a) Incompatibility  
 b) Judicial review  
 c) Justification  
 d) Ultra vires
19. What is the term for a judgment that a different authority should resolve a dispute?  
 a) Contempt of court  
 b) National security  
 c) Judicial review  
 d) Deferral
20. What is the term for the view that politicians should not comment on ongoing court cases?  
 a) Contempt of court  
 b) National security  
 c) Judicial review  
 d) Deferral
21. What is the term for the view that a certain verdict could jeopardise public safety?  
 a) Contempt of court  
 b) National security  
 c) Judicial review  
 d) Deferral
22. What is the term for the court with ultimate authority whose verdicts cannot be appealed?  
 a) Contempt of court  
 b) National security  
 c) Judicial review  
 d) Deferral
23. An extended prorogation of Parliament formed the basis of which Supreme Court case?  
 a) *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*  
 b) *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Application (2017)*  
 c) *Miller v the Prime Minister (2019)*  
 d) *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*
24. A ban on abortions formed the basis of which Supreme Court case?  
 a) *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*  
 b) *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Application (2017)*  
 c) *Miller v the Prime Minister (2019)*  
 d) *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*
25. The return of a former ISIS member to the UK formed the basis of which Supreme Court case?  
 a) *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*  
 b) *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Application (2017)*  
 c) *Miller v the Prime Minister (2019)*  
 d) *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*

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26. The law against assisted suicide formed the basis of which Supreme Court case?
- a) *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*
  - b) *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Application (2017)*
  - c) *Miller v the Prime Minister (2019)*
  - d) *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*
27. In which Supreme Court case was the judgment based on the principle of proportionality?
- a) *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*
  - b) *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Application (2017)*
  - c) *Miller v the Prime Minister (2019)*
  - d) *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*
28. In which Supreme Court case was the judgment based on the principle of proportionality?
- a) *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*
  - b) *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Application (2017)*
  - c) *Miller v the Prime Minister (2019)*
  - d) *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*
29. In which Supreme Court case was the judgment based on the principle of proportionality?
- a) *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*
  - b) *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Application (2017)*
  - c) *Miller v the Prime Minister (2019)*
  - d) *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*
30. In which Supreme Court case was the judgment based on the principle of proportionality?
- a) *Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice (2014)*
  - b) *Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Application (2017)*
  - c) *Miller v the Prime Minister (2019)*
  - d) *Begum v Home Secretary (2021)*

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## Power and Sovereignty –

1. What is the term for sovereignty that resides among the general population?  
 a) Legal sovereignty  c) Parliament  
 b) Popular sovereignty  d) Political sovereignty
2. What is the term for sovereignty that resides among the most superior state?  
 a) Legal sovereignty  c) Parliament  
 b) Popular sovereignty  d) Political sovereignty
3. What is the term for sovereignty that resides among elected representatives?  
 a) Legal sovereignty  c) Parliament  
 b) Popular sovereignty  d) Political sovereignty
4. What is the term for the supreme body of the UK's legislature?  
 a) Legal sovereignty  c) Parliament  
 b) Popular sovereignty  d) Political sovereignty
5. Which of the following may undermine sovereignty by being regarded as a threat?  
 a) Human Rights Act  c) Devolution  
 b) Referenda  d) Treaties
6. Which of the following may undermine sovereignty by creating conflicting laws?  
 a) Human Rights Act  c) Devolution  
 b) Referenda  d) Treaties
7. Which of the following may undermine sovereignty by generating a moral dilemma?  
 a) Human Rights Act  c) Devolution  
 b) Referenda  d) Treaties
8. Which of the following may undermine sovereignty by enabling the courts to challenge government actions?  
 a) Human Rights Act  c) Devolution  
 b) Referenda  d) Treaties
9. To what extent can the government choose to ignore the Sewel Convention?  
 a) Under any circumstances  c) If given judicial approval  
 b) With the support of Parliament  d) Depending on the circumstances
10. To what extent can the government change the operation of Parliament?  
 a) Under any circumstances  c) If given judicial approval  
 b) With the support of Parliament  d) Depending on the circumstances
11. Which international organisation restricts autonomy over UK defence spending?  
 a) United Nations  c) Council of Europe  
 b) WTO  d) NATO
12. Which international organisation restricts autonomy over human rights in the UK?  
 a) United Nations  c) Council of Europe  
 b) WTO  d) NATO
13. Which international organisation restricts autonomy over UK trade policy?  
 a) United Nations  c) Council of Europe  
 b) WTO  d) NATO
14. Which international organisation restricts autonomy over UK environmental policy?  
 a) United Nations  c) Council of Europe  
 b) WTO  d) NATO
15. Which of the following is an executive check on Parliament?  
 a) Democratic legitimacy  c) Select committees  
 b) Ultra vires  d) Patronage

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16. Which of the following is a parliamentary check on the executive?  
 a) Democratic legitimacy  c) Select committees  
 b) Ultra vires  d) Patronage
17. Which of the following is a judicial check on the executive?  
 a) Democratic legitimacy  c) Select committees  
 b) Ultra vires  d) Patronage
18. Which of the following is a parliamentary check on the judiciary?  
 a) Democratic legitimacy  c) Select committees  
 b) Ultra vires  d) Patronage
19. Which of the following is an executive check on Parliament?  
 a) Whips  c) Legal sovereignty  
 b) Judicial independence  d) Prime Minister's Questions
20. Which of the following is a parliamentary check on the executive?  
 a) Whips  c) Legal sovereignty  
 b) Judicial independence  d) Prime Minister's Questions
21. Which of the following is a judicial check on the executive?  
 a) Whips  c) Legal sovereignty  
 b) Judicial independence  d) Prime Minister's Questions
22. Which of the following is a parliamentary check on the judiciary?  
 a) Whips  c) Legal sovereignty  
 b) Judicial independence  d) Prime Minister's Questions
23. Which of the following is an executive check on Parliament?  
 a) Declaration of incompatibility  c) Motion of no confidence  
 b) Royal prerogative  d) Judicial review
24. Which of the following is a parliamentary check on the executive?  
 a) Declaration of incompatibility  c) Motion of no confidence  
 b) Royal prerogative  d) Judicial review
25. Which of the following is a judicial check on the executive?  
 a) Declaration of incompatibility  c) Motion of no confidence  
 b) Royal prerogative  d) Judicial review
26. Which of the following is a parliamentary check on the judiciary?  
 a) Declaration of incompatibility  c) Motion of no confidence  
 b) Royal prerogative  d) Judicial review
27. Which of the following is an executive check on Parliament?  
 a) Elective dictatorship  c) Primary legislation  
 b) European Convention on Human Rights  d) Backbenches
28. Which of the following is a parliamentary check on the executive?  
 a) Elective dictatorship  c) Primary legislation  
 b) European Convention on Human Rights  d) Backbenches
29. Which of the following is a judicial check on the executive?  
 a) Elective dictatorship  c) Primary legislation  
 b) European Convention on Human Rights  d) Backbenches
30. Which of the following is a parliamentary check on the judiciary?  
 a) Elective dictatorship  c) Primary legislation  
 b) European Convention on Human Rights  d) Backbenches

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## **Preview of Answers Ends Here**

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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.



**Tests**

- Tests – Write-on (Set B)** .....
- Constitution .....
  - Parliament .....
  - Prime Minister and Executive .....
  - Judiciary .....
  - Power and Sovereignty .....

**Tests – Non-write-on (Set B)**.....

- Answers (Set B)** .....
- Constitution .....
  - Parliament.....
  - Prime Minister and Executive .....
  - Judiciary .....
  - Power and Sovereignty .....



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# 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.

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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 1

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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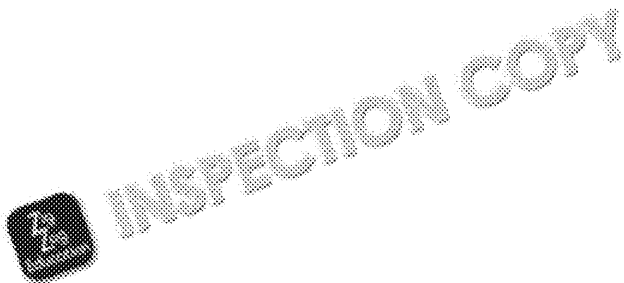
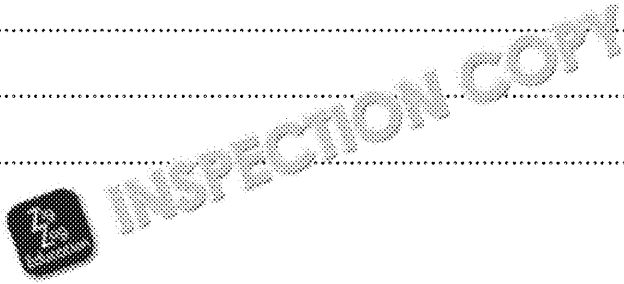
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## Prime Minister and Executive

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 president

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

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

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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 un...

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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 written.
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 damaging to 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 Ministers have become more presidential.
4. Explain **two** examples of 'pre-eminent' Prime Ministers.
5. Explain **two** examples 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 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**

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# Component 2A: UK Government



## Essays

Essays (Set A) .....

Level Grade Descriptors .....

Model Answers (Set A) .....

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## Essays (Set B)

1. Evaluate the view that the Coalition Government's constitutional reforms were a success.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Commonwealth Politics and examine both sides of the argument.*
2. Using Source 1, overleaf, evaluate the view that the UK should adopt a federal system.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer
3. Evaluate the view that Private Members' Bills are an important form of legislation.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Commonwealth Politics and examine both sides of the argument.*
4. Using Source 2, overleaf, evaluate the view that the House of Lords provides a necessary check on the House of Commons.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer
5. Evaluate the view that a Prime Minister cannot govern without Cabinet.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Commonwealth Politics and examine both sides of the argument.*
6. Using Source 3, overleaf, evaluate the view that the use of royal prerogative powers should be subject to judicial review.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer
7. Evaluate the view that the UK Supreme Court is too political.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Commonwealth Politics and examine both sides of the argument.*
8. Using Source 4, overleaf, evaluate the view that human rights are a political issue.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer
9. Evaluate the view that Parliament has regained sovereignty due to Brexit.  
*You should use relevant knowledge from your study of UK Politics and Commonwealth Politics and examine both sides of the argument.*
10. Using Source 5, overleaf, evaluate the view that referenda undermine Parliamentary democracy.  
*In your response you must:*
  - compare and contrast the opinions in the source
  - consider and evaluate the view or views presented in the source and
  - use only the information in the source in your answer

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### Source 1

Support for Scottish independence has surged, with some polls suggesting more than 10%. Several factors appear to be at play. The conclusive victory in the 2019 general election, after a full decade in government, has increased support for the SNP. The party hasn't voted Tory for almost 70 years. Instability under Boris Johnson has also boosted the case for independence. The perceived better management of the Brexit crisis compared to England is another factor. But most significant of all is the Scottish electorate voted to remain in the European Union, yet the UK has left it according to some – the hardest possible terms, with no input permitted from Scotland or civil society.

But the peril facing the union doesn't end in Scotland. In Northern Ireland, the prospect of reunification is at an all-time high as well. In the present developments, the first is the result of the 2019 general election, in which nationalist unionist representatives for the DUP became a critical milestone towards reunification. The second is the result of the 2020 general election the following year, which saw Sinn Féin. With Sinn Féin surging in opinion polls on the basis of that result, calls for a referendum will no doubt grow. In the context of Sinn Féin running governments in both the North and the Republic, the circumstance that initiated the Irish independence movement more than a century ago.

Perhaps most extraordinary of all, however, is the surging support for Wales, a country which very nearly rejected devolution altogether in a referendum in 1979. For an independent Wales is now polling as high as 39% and enthusiasm is growing rapidly. Amid these developments, the English look particularly adrift. While devolution has taken place since the North East conclusively rejected it in 2004, and many 'metro mayor' elections in city regions continue to struggle with the issue, it would seem, is just another issue on which the nations of the United Kingdom are torn apart. Ultimately, in the coming years, it will be decisions taken by Parliament that will determine the surging secessionist movements.

### Source 2

The Conservative Party secured their largest parliamentary majority at 325 in 1987. The party also remains – by far – the largest grouping in the House of Lords, with 269 crossbenchers in a distant second place. Yet despite these advantages, the government has experienced development since the 2019 election: the government keeps getting defeated. The number of defeats is higher than at any time since the 1970s. The Police and Crime Bill and the Nationality and Borders Bill have both suffered more than 10 amendments. The Elections Bill, Health and Care Bill and various other pieces of legislation have also been voted down.

Perhaps the primary reason for this state of affairs is the government's loss of the votes of the non-affiliated crossbenchers. The Conservative Party has anything close to a majority of votes of non-partisan peers are of a different nature, and previous governments have been willing to make concessions to crossbenchers than in the present. It may argue that with a comfortable healthy majority it needn't concede to an opposition.

Many crossbench peers have complained that the legislation being introduced is increasingly vague and poorly written. Labour argues that many proposals are so vague that it makes inflicting defeats much easier. Nevertheless, despite the high number of defeats occurring, the success of peers in getting MPs to agree to their amendments remains high.

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### Source 3

The royal prerogative is a series of executive powers in UK politics which are exercised by the Prime Minister. Such powers include the ability to declare war, make international arrangements, and make various appointments, such as in the armed forces. The powers get their name from their previous history in which they were used by monarchs. In this sense, they are something of a feudal relic and have since been passed to the government by Parliament. They are therefore given a mandate for their use by the electorate.

Due to the UK's uncodified constitution, the royal prerogative is sometimes used to give much power to a majority government without accompanying checks and balances. This is broad and thus open to an interpretation that is overly generous to the government. In the field of international relations, however – as many of the powers do – it should not be ruled by committee.

Although not discussed frequently in a public political debate, the royal prerogative has become major political issues on occasion over the last decade. The royal prerogative over military action, for example, is increasingly accepted as being subject to Parliamentary approval. Parliament should first give its approval. This convention became particularly important when Parliament opposed the government's plans for military intervention in Iraq in 2003. The royal prerogative power to prorogue Parliament also gave rise to controversy when Boris Johnson controversially suspended the legislature for five weeks in 2019. This was found to be unlawful by the Supreme Court.

### Source 4

The Conservative Party have long aimed to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998. When in office their plans are looking closer to fruition. A new Bill of Rights was introduced to Parliament in June 2022 by the Justice Secretary Dominic Raab. The bill would replace the Human Rights Act. The UK would remain a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights. This means that while the same rights will remain in place, the way they will be enforced will change.

The new Bill of Rights emphasises the ultimate judicial authority of the UK Parliament. It removes the requirement of the Supreme Court to consider European Court of Human Rights verdicts. Instead it legislates that the court should give as great a deference to the government as possible. In practice, this means that judicial review will lean more towards upholding government decisions, than it will towards deciding that legislation is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Currently, although UK courts can rule that legislation is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, they cannot strike down legislation. UK courts have only had 27 declarations of incompatibility since the Human Rights Act was passed in 1998.

The government claims that the new Bill of Rights will restore the parliamentary sovereignty which the UK's constitution is based on, and also reduce judicial activism. Some argue that it will settle issues in the courts. But critics argue that it will make it harder to challenge government actions. It therefore empowers the government at the expense of individuals.

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Source 5

Referenda dominated the political landscape of the 2010s in the UK – a new phenomenon. Prior to the election of the New Labour government in 1997, no referendum had ever taken place: one nationwide in 1975, and three in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland respectively, also all in the 1970s.

In the previous era, referenda were largely regarded by British politicians as a last resort. A key point of the UK constitution was that final decisions are made in Parliament, not by referendum. Yet under New Labour, the idea of referenda became more prominent in determining support for devolved institutions. And it was Prime Minister Tony Blair who first embraced the referendum – twice gambling his political future on their results.

Cameron argued that his referendum would solve long-standing political questions. But it hasn't quite worked out that way. In the meantime, demands for second referenda on electoral reform argue the case for a referendum. The 2016 referendum on the Alternative Vote for proportional representation was only rejected. In Scotland, advocates of Scottish independence argue for a referendum. And opponents of Brexit contend that a referendum would be a more efficient way to resolve the issue.

On all of these issues, the demand on Parliament is now that they let the referendum decide. It is a far cry from the not-so-long ago when the word 'referendum' was a dirty word.

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# Level Grade Descriptors

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30-mark Extract Checklist (for source question)		
AO	Marks	Level description
AO1 Knowledge	9–10	Student portrays accuracy with a visible attention to detail knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics. Their knowledge is integrated consistently to support analysis and evaluation. Result is convincing general points throughout the answer.
	7–8	Student portrays detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are used effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Relevant general points are made.
	5–6	Student portrays accurate knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics. Knowledge is used efficiently and effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Mostly relevant general points are made.
	3–4	Student portrays some knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are sometimes used to support analysis and evaluation. Some relevant general points are made.
	1–2	Student portrays superficial knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, with little to no analysis and evaluation.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
AO2 Analysis	9–10	Student shows strong perception in formulating a reasoned analysis of the source material, making consistently convincing links to political theories and concepts.
	7–8	Student shows consistently good, reasoned analysis of the source material, making convincing links to political theories and concepts.
	5–6	Student shows mainly reasoned analysis of the source material, making some convincing links to political theories and concepts.
	3–4	Student shows some signs of analysing the source material, making some links to political theories and concepts.
	1–2	Student shows little to no reasoned analysis of the source material, making few links to political theories and concepts.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
AO3 Evaluation	9–10	Student engages in building an entirely relevant evaluation on politics using source material, making strongly effective and reasoned judgements and arguments throughout. Conclusions are entirely reasoned and convincing.
	7–8	Student builds an almost fully relevant evaluation on politics using source material, making strong judgements and arguments throughout. Mostly reasoned conclusions.
	5–6	Student builds a mostly reasoned evaluation on politics using source material, making good judgements and arguments throughout. Generally reasoned conclusions.
	3–4	Student engages in formulating some evaluative work on politics using source material, making some relevant judgements based on the source material. Some still partly descriptive in content leading to poorly reasoned arguments.
	1–2	Student engages in little to no evaluative work on politics, making few judgements based on the source material. Many of these are descriptive in content leading to poorly reasoned arguments.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
Balanced		If an answer is not balanced then it cannot receive above a level 2 (AO2 or AO3).
Source		Analysis and evaluation that is not connected to the material in the source cannot receive above a level 2 (AO2 or AO3).
Analysis		

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30-mark Essay Checklist		
AO	Marks	Level description
AO1 Knowledge	9–10	Student portrays accuracy with a visible attention to detail knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are used effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Relevant general points are made throughout the answer.
	7–8	Student portrays detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are used effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Relevant general points are made.
	5–6	Student portrays accurate knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics. Knowledge is used efficiently and effectively to support analysis and evaluation. Mostly relevant general points are made.
	3–4	Student portrays some knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, which are sometimes used to support analysis and evaluation. Some relevant general points are made.
	1–2	Student portrays superficial knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts surrounding UK politics, with little to no analysis or evaluation.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
AO2 Analysis	9–10	Student shows strong perception in formulating a reasoned analysis of political concepts or theories, making consistently convincing links between material and concepts.
	7–8	Student shows consistently good, reasoned analysis of political concepts or theories, making multiple reasoned links between material and concepts.
	5–6	Student shows mainly reasoned analysis of political concepts or theories, making relevant links between material and concepts.
	3–4	Student shows some signs of analysing political concepts or theories, making some relevant links between material and concepts.
	1–2	Student shows little to no reasoned analysis of political concepts or theories, making simple links between material and concepts.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
AO3 Evaluation	9–10	Student engages in building an entirely relevant evaluation on politics, making strongly effective and reasoned judgements and arguments throughout. Conclusions are entirely reasoned as a result.
	7–8	Student builds an almost fully relevant evaluation on politics, making judgements and arguments throughout. This results in mostly reasoned arguments.
	5–6	Student builds a mostly reasoned evaluation on politics, making relevant judgements and arguments throughout. This leads to generally reasoned arguments.
	3–4	Student engages in formulating some evaluative work on politics, making some relevant judgements. Some of these arguments are still partially relevant, leading to poorly reasoned arguments.
	1–2	Student engages in little to no evaluative work on politics, making judgements. Many of these arguments are only descriptive, leading to poorly reasoned arguments.
	0	No content worthy of marking.
Balance	If an answer is not balanced, it cannot receive above a level 2 (3–4).	

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