

Wednesday 16 May 2012 – Morning

AS GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F851/01/I Contemporary Politics of the UK

INSERT

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- You must use your own knowledge and the sources in this Insert to answer Question 1.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- This document consists of **2** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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Sources for Question 1

Read the sources below and use them when answering Question 1.

SOURCE A: Election Outcomes

UK General Elections

Year	Type of Government	Party
1979	Majority	Conservative
1983	Majority	Conservative
1987	Majority	Conservative
1992	Majority	Conservative
1997	Majority	Labour
2001	Majority	Labour
2005	Majority	Labour
2010	Coalition	Conservative/Liberal Democrat

Scottish Parliament Elections

Year	Type of Government	Party
1999	Coalition	Labour/Scottish Liberal Democrat
2003	Coalition	Labour/Scottish Liberal Democrat
2007	Minority	Scottish Nationalist
2011	Majority	Scottish Nationalist

SOURCE B: The 2010 Coalition Government

The general election in May 2010 failed to produce an overall majority of seats for any one party and as a consequence the Conservatives formed a coalition with the Liberal Democrats.

Both parties wanted to keep their core manifesto promises but at the same time needed to make compromises if the coalition was to survive. Thus, for example, while the new government agreed to press ahead with £6bn of spending cuts in the first year and to protect NHS spending – all Conservative priorities – specific Tory promises on the EU were replaced by much vaguer plans to examine the balance of power between the UK and the EU.

However, the agreement to hold a referendum on the introduction of a new voting system for the House of Commons in the face of some Conservative backbench opposition seemed likely to threaten the unity of the coalition.



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