

Thursday 23 May 2013 – Morning

AS GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F852/01/I Contemporary Government 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

Resignations over collective responsibility

Minister	Date	Reason for resignation
Nigel Lawson	1989	Disagreement over economic policy with Margaret Thatcher
Geoffrey Howe	1990	Disagreement over EU policy with Margaret Thatcher
Robin Cook/Clare Short	2003	Disagreement over Iraq invasion with Tony Blair

Source B

The conventions of individual ministerial responsibility and collective cabinet responsibility

Individual ministerial responsibility is vital to the democratic process as it ensures that someone, ultimately, is accountable for the actions of all public servants and services. There is debate about how valuable collective cabinet responsibility is to our system of government. Everyone is well aware that ministers must disagree at times over a variety of issues, so retaining an appearance of unity is simply insulting the intelligence of the public. Given the fact that ministers cheerfully 'leak' to further their own ends and block colleagues' aspirations, the time has come to end this unnecessary convention.

Source C

Resignations over individual ministerial responsibility

Minister	Date	Reason for resignation
Peter Mandelson	1998	Failure to declare a home loan
Stephen Byers	2002	Failings of his special advisers
Beverley Hughes	2004	Misleading Parliament over immigration issues
David Blunkett	2005	Work outside Parliament
David Laws	2010	Parliamentary expenses
Liam Fox	2011	Breaching ministerial code



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