



ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Contemporary Government of the UK

F852

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

- 8 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:

None

Tuesday 19 January 2010
Afternoon

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Write your answers in black ink in the Answer Booklet provided.
- Answer **both** questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B.
- You must use your own knowledge **and** the source material in your answer to Question 1.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten the sheets to the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- You are advised to spend 65 minutes on Section A and 25 minutes on Section B.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication including clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Sources for Question 1

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

Source A

The roles of ministers and civil servants

Traditionally the civil service was supposed to be impartial, neutral and anonymous. Civil servants' main task was just to administer the policies laid down by ministers. Their role in the making of policy was supposed to be purely advisory. Major changes which started under Margaret Thatcher have now placed much more emphasis on policy delivery and efficient management by civil servants. Perhaps a better title now for them ought to be 'public sector managers'.

[Original material]

Source B

Ministerial Resignations

Minister	Date	Reason for resignation
Peter Hain Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	2008	Allegations of irregularities in campaign finance.
Beverley Hughes Junior Home Office Minister	2004	Accepted responsibility for mismanagement in visa application system.
Stephen Byers Secretary of State for Transport	2002	Failings in transport policy.
Estelle Morris Secretary of State for Education	2002	Failings in education policy and concerns that 'she was not up to the job'.
Peter Mandelson Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	2001	Making misleading statements about passport application for Indian billionaires.

[Original material]

Section A

Answer **all** the questions in this section.

- 1 (a) Using the sources and your own knowledge, explain the different roles of
- (i) ministers [6]
 - (ii) senior civil servants [6]
- (b) Using the sources and your own knowledge, assess whether individual ministerial responsibility is still an important constitutional convention. [28]
- 2 Discuss the view that the opposition and backbenchers in parliament have little real power. [30]

Section A Total: [70]

Section B

Answer **one** question in this section.

- 3 Discuss the view that the sovereignty of parliament is the most important underlying principle of the British constitution. [30]
- 4 Discuss the view that it is easy for UK citizens to gain redress of grievances. [30]
- 5 Analyse the view that membership of the European Union has led to a significant loss of UK sovereignty. [30]

Section B Total: [30]

Paper Total: [100]

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