



Rewarding Learning

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
January 2011**

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit AS 1

**The Government and
Politics of Northern Ireland**

[AQ111]

THURSDAY 13 JANUARY, MORNING



TIME

1 hour 15 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Study the source provided and answer questions **1** and **2** and either **3(a)** or **3(b)**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 50.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in questions **2** and **3**.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of the page indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question in allocating the available examination time.

You are advised to study the source before attempting to answer questions **1** and **2**, and to refer to the source in your answers to these questions.

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Study the source below and answer the questions that follow:

Source

Northern Ireland political parties tend to stem from two main blocs – Unionist and Nationalist. As a result of changes to party policy and strategy, dominant parties such as the Ulster Unionist Party and Social Democratic and Labour Party have been overtaken by their more radical rivals. The electoral success of the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin reflected the positive response from voters to changes in strategy by these parties over issues such as power-sharing. The UUP and SDLP have been forced into a period of review and reform.

Adapted from: Margery McMahon. Government and Politics of Northern Ireland. 3rd edition. Colourpoint Press. P 50

- 1 With reference to the source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **two** reasons why the UUP and SDLP “have been overtaken by their more radical rivals”. [8]

- 2 With reference to the source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how the UUP and SDLP have attempted to reverse their decline. [16]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Assess the extent to which the Executive Committee has succeeded in providing effective government for Northern Ireland. [26]

Or

 - (b) Assess the reasons why the Alliance Party has always struggled in Northern Ireland politics. [26]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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