



*Rewarding Learning*

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)  
General Certificate of Education  
January 2013**

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## **Government and Politics**

### **Assessment Unit AS 1**

#### **The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland**

**[AQ111]**

**MONDAY 14 JANUARY, AFTERNOON**

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#### **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

In 1998 the SDLP got the highest number of votes cast for any party – 177 000 – and 24 seats in the Assembly. In this year's Assembly elections its vote was slashed to 94 000 and 14 seats. Its status has plummeted as the primary voice of nationalism with the retirement of Hume and Mallon. The Durkan and Ritchie years produced no big idea. This is the daunting task facing the man the SDLP is about to choose as its new leader.

*Adapted from: The Belfast Telegraph. 4.11.2011*

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **two** ways by which the SDLP has sought to reverse the decline in its support. [8]
  
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the causes of SDLP decline since 1998. [16]
  
- 3 **Either**
  - (a) Assess the view that the divisions within the Executive Committee have prevented it from governing Northern Ireland effectively since 2007. [26]

Or

  - (b) Assess the view that the Assembly has been a legislative failure since 2007. [26]

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**THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER**

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