



**ADVANCED**  
**General Certificate of Education**  
**2012**

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**Government and Politics**

Assessment Unit A2 1

Comparative Government

**[AQ211]**

**WEDNESDAY 16 MAY, MORNING**

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**MARK  
SCHEME**

## **General Marking Instructions**

These mark schemes are intended to ensure that the AS/A2 examinations are marked consistently and fairly. The mark schemes provide examiners with an indication of the nature and range of candidate responses likely to be worthy of credit. They also set out the criteria which they should apply in allocating marks to candidates' responses. The mark scheme should be read in conjunction with these general marking instructions which apply to all papers.

### **Quality of candidates' responses**

In marking the examination papers, examiners will be looking for a quality of response reflecting the level of maturity which may reasonably be expected of 17- and 18-year-olds, which is the age at which the majority of candidates sit their AS/A2 examinations.

### **Flexibility in marking**

The mark schemes which accompany the specimen examination papers are not intended to be totally prescriptive. For many questions, there may be a number of equally legitimate responses and different methods by which the candidates may achieve good marks. No mark scheme can cover all the answers which candidates may produce. In the event of unanticipated answers, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement to assess the validity of answers. If an answer is particularly problematic, then examiners should seek the guidance of the Supervising Examiner for the paper concerned.

### **Positive marking**

Examiners are encouraged to be positive in their marking, giving appropriate credit for valid responses rather than penalising candidates for errors or omissions. Examiners should make use of the whole of the available mark range for any particular question and be prepared to award full marks for a response which is as good as might reasonably be expected for 17- and 18-year-old GCE candidates. Conversely, marks should only be awarded for valid responses and not given for an attempt which is completely incorrect or inappropriate.

### **Types of mark schemes**

Mark Schemes for questions which require candidates to respond in extended written form are marked on the basis of levels of response which take account of the quality of written communication. These questions are indicated on the cover of the examination paper.

Other questions which require only short answers are marked on a point for point basis with marks awarded for each valid piece of information provided.

## Levels of Response

Questions requiring extended written answers are marked in terms of levels of response. In deciding which level of response to award, examiners should look for the “best fit” bearing in mind that weakness in one area may be compensated for by strength in another. In deciding which mark within a particular level to award any response, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement. The following guidance is provided to assist examiners:

**Threshold performance:** Response which just merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the bottom of the range.

**Intermediate performance:** Response which clearly merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the middle of the range.

**High performance:** Response which fully satisfies the level description and should be awarded a mark at or near the top of the range.

## Quality of Written Communication

Quality of written communication is taken into account in assessing candidates' responses to all questions that require them to respond in extended written form. These questions are marked on the basis of levels of response. The description for each level of response includes reference to the quality of written communication which is incorporated within the marks awarded for AO3. Where the quality of candidates' subject knowledge and understanding is not matched by the quality of written communication, marks awarded will not exceed the maximum for Level 4.

## Option A: The United Kingdom and the United States of America

### Section A

#### 1 Background

One of the most frequent criticisms of the US Constitution is that it is an inflexible document that has been changed very little since it was enacted over 200 years ago. The Source identifies two of the reasons for this inflexibility and candidates should refer to these. A third reason for inflexibility is the complexity and difficulty in actually changing the document. This has also contributed to the dearth of changes to the Constitution since the Bill of Rights was added. The result of the inflexibility of the document is that the Constitution is a barrier to the effective government of the USA. It has prevented the passage of the Equal Rights amendment; it ensured the survival of racial discrimination until well into the latter half of the 20th century; it produces regular gridlock in policy making; it produces contradictory policies on issues such as the death penalty and gay rights.

Supporters of the Constitution argue that it is not an inflexible document. It has been successfully amended, both formally and informally, and thus has kept pace with the needs of the American people.

Weaker answers will tend to rely upon the Source and provide little further evidence. Better answers will be balanced and will offer a range of evidence.

If an answer contains no evidence beyond the Source, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

If an answer fails to refer to the Source, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer is totally one-sided, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

#### Level 1 ([1]–[6])

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the debate about the flexibility of the Constitution and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material and/or makes general statements and/or contains no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited. (AO3).

**Level 2 ([7]–[12])****AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 6 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the debate about the flexibility of the Constitution but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 3 ([13]–[18])****AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 9 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the debate about the flexibility of the Constitution but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])****AO1: 7 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the debate about the flexibility of the Constitution and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])****AO1: 8 marks; AO2: 15 marks; AO3: 7 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the debate about the flexibility of the Constitution and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[30]

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

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**Section A****30**

**Section B****2 Background**

The Presidential veto refers to one of the most significant powers of the US President. It enables the President to block the passage of Congressional legislation with which he/she disagrees. Under Article 1 of the Constitution the President may inform Congress that he/she will not sign into law a Bill that they have forwarded. This effectively “kills” the Bill unless Congress exercises its ability to overturn a veto. The power of veto includes the pocket veto that can come into operation at the end of a Congressional session.

If no example is provided a maximum of [4] can be awarded.

**(AO1: 5 marks)**

[5]

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**3 Background**

The representative role is of crucial significance to members of Congress as it is the key to securing re-election in the USA. Representatives will be extremely active in their electoral district as intermediaries between voters and all sorts of authorities. They will also seek to be active at Congressional level in securing benefits for their area in the time-honoured process of “bringing home the bacon.” Answers should seek to demonstrate how the legislative process in the US gives Representatives more opportunities to secure benefits for their area. Representatives also represent their party and interest groups and candidates can legitimately refer to this. **(AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 5 marks)**

If an answer refers to only one way in which members can carry out their representative role, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

If an answer contains no evidence, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

**Level 1 ([1]–[2])**

**AO1: 1 mark; AO2: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the representative role of members of Congress and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

**Level 2 ([3]–[4])**

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the representative role of members of Congress but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant general or irrelevant material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

**Level 3 ([5]–[6])****AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the representative role of members of Congress but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question. The response contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

**Level 4 ([7]–[8])****AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the representative role of members of Congress and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

**Level 5 ([9]–[10])****AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise knowledge and understanding of the representative role of members of Congress and deploys this to produce an exemplary response to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). [10]

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**4 Background**

Along with their other roles, Congress and Parliament are charged with scrutinising the policies and practice of the executive arm. Central to this scrutiny role in both systems are committees. The widely accepted view is that Congressional committees are much more effective scrutinisers of the executive because they have greater powers given to them by the Constitution; they are more independent of executive control; there are high status political bodies. UK committees are inferior in all these respects.

A more balanced view would be one that recognises that Parliamentary committees are not insignificant when it comes to scrutiny and that they have succeeded in subjecting ministers to detailed and searching examination. The work of Congressional committees is hampered by other pressures upon them, from interest groups for example, and by the ability of the President to circumvent scrutiny.

Weaker answers will tend to be unbalanced and offer a limited range of evidence. Stronger answers will both compare and contrast and will have greater evidence.

If an answer contains no evidence a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded. If only one scrutiny mechanism is identified a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

**Level 1 ([1]–[5])****AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 2 marks; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny powers of Congressional and Parliamentary committees and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited (AO3).

**Level 2 ([6]–[10])****AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 5 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny powers of Congressional and Parliamentary committees but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 3 ([11]–[15])****AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 8 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny powers of Congressional and Parliamentary committees but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([16]–[20])****AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 11 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny powers of Congressional and Parliamentary committees and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([21]–[25])****AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 14 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny powers of Congressional and Parliamentary committees and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[25]

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**5 (a) Background**

One ingredient of a democratic political system is that the legislature should not be a puppet of the executive but should possess a strong degree of independence to act as a scrutiny and legislative body. This theory seems to operate more effectively in the USA, largely because of the stricter application of the principle of separation of powers. The greater power of party in Britain and the fact that the executive is part of the legislature in the UK also contribute to a much greater degree of executive control.

But this is not the complete picture. Executive dominance in the UK is never certain and Parliament has proven repeatedly that the government cannot treat it with contempt. The last decade has been a period of increased parliamentary independence.

It would also be wrong to underestimate the capacity of the executive in the US to manipulate and control Congress, especially when the same party is in control of both the White House and Congress.

Weaker answers will lack balance and have limited concrete evidence. Stronger answers will have more evidence and be better balanced.

If an answer contains no relevant evidence, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced in treatment of the two systems a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced and lacks evaluation, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

### **Level 1 ([1]–[6])**

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of executive control over the legislature in the UK and USA and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited (AO3).

### **Level 2 ([7]–[12])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 6 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of executive control over the legislature in the UK and USA but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

### **Level 3 ([13]–[18])**

**AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 9 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of executive control over the legislature in the UK and USA but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])****AO1: 7 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of executive control over the legislature in the UK and USA and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])****AO1: 8 marks; AO2: 15 marks; AO3: 7 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of executive control over the legislature in the UK and USA and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

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**(b) Background**

Many observers claim that there has been a concentration of political power in many democratic political systems in recent years. In the United States there has been a steady growth in presidential power since before the Second World War with the US Cabinet now little more than an advisory body. In the UK a similar process has occurred with similar consequences for the principle of cabinet government. One key reason for this increase in power has been the ever greater reliance of both presidents and PMs upon personal advisers rather than upon their cabinet colleagues. For some, the Chief of Staff in the White House and the Director of Communications in Number Ten are now pivotal to the power structures in both systems.

However, personal advisers are only one reason for the growth in Presidential and Prime Ministerial power and candidates should discuss these factors. Candidates should also consider that the argument of greater Presidential and Prime Ministerial power has been overstated. Neither is as powerful as the argument above suggests.

The emergence of a coalition government in the UK has added another element to the debate about the significance of cabinet. Weaker answers will lack balance and have limited concrete evidence. Stronger answers will have more evidence and be better balanced.

If an answer contains no relevant evidence, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced in treatment of the two systems a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced and lacks evaluation, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

### **Level 1 ([1]–[6])**

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the debate about the powers of the President and Prime Minister over cabinet and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited (AO3).

### **Level 2 ([7]–[12])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 6 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the debate about the powers of the President and Prime Minister over cabinet but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

### **Level 3 ([13]–[18])**

**AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 9 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the debate about the powers of the President and Prime Minister over cabinet but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])****AO1: 7 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the debate about the powers of the President and Prime Minister over cabinet and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])****AO1: 8 marks; AO2: 15 marks; AO3: 7 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the debate about the powers of the President and Prime Minister over cabinet and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3). [30]

**Section B**

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**70****Option A****100**

## Option B: The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

### Section A

#### 1 Background

The revelations of the Ryan Report are just one cause of the renewed debate about the extent to which the Irish constitution protects the rights of Irish citizens. Critics of the constitution argue that it has failed to protect rights in many areas in addition to the failure to protect those in care. The rights of the disabled, of the unmarried and of homosexuals have all been raised as areas where Bunreacht Na hÉireann has not protected citizens, as a constitution should do in the 21st century.

The counter-argument is that the constitution has steadily evolved over the past seventy years and especially since the 1970s. This has resulted in progressive changes that have extended constitutional protection and ensured that the rights members of society are guaranteed.

Candidates need to support both arguments with relevant evidence and refer to examples of formal amendments and judicial reviews

Weaker answers will tend to rely upon the Source and provide little further evidence. Better answers will be balanced and will offer a range of evidence.

If an answer contains no evidence beyond the Source, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

If an answer fails to refer to the Source, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer is totally one-sided, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

#### **Level 1 ([1]–[6])**

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the debate about the constitution and human rights and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material and/or makes general statements and/or contains no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited (AO3).

**Level 2 ([7]–[12])****AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 6 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the debate about the constitution and human rights but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 3 ([13]–[18])****AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 9 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the debate about the constitution and human rights but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])****AO1: 7 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the debate about the constitution and human rights and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])****AO1: 8 marks; AO2: 15 marks; AO3: 7 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the debate about the reform of the constitution and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[30]

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

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**Section A****30**

**Section B****2 Background**

A vote of confidence occurs when a government declares an issue to be a matter of the Commons' or Dail's confidence in the administration. If a government were to lose such a vote it would be obliged to resign and this would generally lead to a general election. Governments are reluctant to use votes of confidence for fear of losing but John Major used them as a device for controlling party rebels. The last British government to resign having lost a vote of confidence was that of James Callaghan in 1979. Vote of confidence can also refer to an internal party vote on the party's leadership.

[5]

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**3 Background**

The Seanad has a range of powers. First, it is part of the legislative process and Bills must come before it for approval. Second, it has a scrutiny function and can debate government policy and performance. Senators participate in Oireachtas Committees with TDs. Third, some Senators have a representative function having been elected to represent a constituency or interest group. Fourth, the Seanad can have a recruitment function as some Senators may be chosen to be part of the government.

If an answer refers to only one way in which members can carry out their representative role, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

If an answer contains no evidence, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

**Level 1 ([1]–[2])****AO1: 1 mark; AO2: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Seanad and makes little attempt to answer the question.

The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material.

The response contains general statements and/or no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

**Level 2 ([3]–[4])****AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Seanad but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question.

The response contains some relevant material but also significant general or irrelevant material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

**Level 3 ([5]–[6])****AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Seanad but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question. The response contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

**Level 4 ([7]–[8])****AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Seanad and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

**Level 5 ([9]–[10])****AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Seanad and deploys this to produce an exemplary response to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2).

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**4 Background**

Until 2010 the contrasts between the PM and Taoiseach's powers to choose their cabinets was more clear cut: the Taoiseach was more limited as they had to relinquish control over certain cabinet positions to their coalition partners. With the emergence of a coalition in the UK the same constraints now apply to the PM. Other factors that influence the choice of cabinet members include the need to represent party factions; ensuring a representation of regions, women, ethnic groups; ensuring potential rebels are inside the tent rather than on the backbenches promoting rebellion; rewarding allies.

Weaker answers will tend to be unbalanced and offer a limited range of evidence. Stronger answers will both compare and contrast and will have greater evidence.

If an answer contains no evidence a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded. If only one scrutiny mechanism is identified a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

**Level 1 ([1]–[5])****AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 2 marks; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the powers of the PM and Taoiseach to choose their cabinets and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited. (AO3).

**Level 2 ([6]–[10])****AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 5 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the powers of the PM and Taoiseach to choose their cabinets but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 3 ([11]–[15])****AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 8 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the powers of the PM and Taoiseach to choose their cabinets but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([16]–[20])****AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 11 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the powers of the PM and Taoiseach to choose their cabinets and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([21]–[25])****AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 14 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the powers of the PM and Taoiseach to choose their cabinets and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[25]

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**5 (a) Background**

In both the UK and Ireland the criticism has often been levelled at MPs and TDs that they are little more than lobby fodder, meaning that they mindlessly obey the instructions of their party leadership. Rather than acting as independent elected representatives, MPs and TDs are subjected to rigid party discipline with the result that they “toe the line”. It has been suggested that this is even more the case in Ireland where to narrowness of government majorities has increased the pressure on TDs to be loyal. Reselection and the prospect of promotion are two other factors that weigh heavily with TDs. The same pressures apply to MPs but not to the same degree, it is argued. The evidence of this is the higher level of backbench revolt in the UK.

The alternative view is that this is an oversimplification. Some TDs are independents. Some party TDs are regular “loose cannons” posing regular problems for party leaders. Rebellions in Ireland are more likely to occur at party meetings and are less visible.

Weaker answers will lack balance and have limited concrete evidence. Stronger answers will have more evidence and be better balanced.

If an answer contains no relevant evidence, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced in treatment of the two systems a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced and lacks evaluation, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

### **Level 1 ([1]–[6])**

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the extent to which MPs and TDs are lobby fodder and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited (AO3).

### **Level 2 ([7]–[12])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 6 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the extent to which MPs and TDs are lobby fodder but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

### **Level 3 ([13]–[18])**

**AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 9 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the extent to which MPs and TDs are lobby fodder but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])****AO1: 7 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the extent to which MPs and TDs are lobby fodder and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])****AO1: 8 marks; AO2: 15 marks; AO3: 7 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the extent to which MPs and TDs are lobby fodder and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

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**(b) Background**

Political parties are central to the politics of both the UK and Ireland. MPs and TDs are, in the vast majority of cases, elected on a party ticket. Belonging to a party is crucial to electoral success. This is “absolutely vital” in the UK because so few MPs are elected as independents. Those who antagonise the party leadership are unlikely to survive and the exceptions to this prove the rule. The higher level of localism in Irish politics means that TDs are often very well respected local figures with a strong power base. While the party ticket is important, TDs can rely upon this base. The alternative view is that party is just as important in Irish politics and the consequences of a TD going against their party are just as fatal as in the UK. Disloyalty is a capital political crime in Ireland as in the UK.

Weaker answers will lack balance and have limited concrete evidence. Stronger answers will have more evidence and be better balanced. If an answer contains no relevant evidence, a maximum of Level 3 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced in treatment of the two systems a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer is unbalanced and lacks evaluation, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

**Level 1 ([1]–[6])****AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the significance of party in UK and Irish politics and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited (AO3).

**Level 2 ([7]–[12])****AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 6 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the debate about the growth of the power of the PM and Taoiseach but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 3 ([13]–[18])****AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 9 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the significance of party in UK and Irish politics but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])****AO1: 7 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the significance of party in UK and Irish politics and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])****AO1: 8 marks; AO2: 15 marks; AO3: 7 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the significance of party in UK and Irish politics and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

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**Section B****70****Option B****100****Total****100**