



ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2013

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit AS 2

The British Political Process

[AQ121]

MONDAY 10 JUNE, MORNING

**MARK
SCHEME**

General Marking Instructions

This mark scheme is intended to ensure that the AS examination is marked consistently and fairly. The mark scheme provides examiners with an indication of the nature and range of candidate responses likely to be worthy of credit. It also sets 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-year-olds, which is the age at which the majority of candidates sit their AS 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-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.

		AVAILABLE MARKS
1	[2] for each way identified. Candidates may refer to Life Peers, Hereditary Peers or Lords Spiritual. (AO1:4 marks)	4
2	Background For a party or parties to form the government in the UK it usually requires an absolute majority of seats in the Commons. Parliamentary majority refers to how many more MPs the government commands than all other parties in the Commons. Following the 2010 election no one party had a parliamentary majority. As a result the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats entered into a coalition that did have a majority over all other parties in the Commons. If no supporting example is included a maximum of [5] can be awarded. (AO1: 6 marks)	6
3	Background Judicial review is an increasingly popular method of holding the executive to account, as indicated by the dramatic increase in the number of applications for review. However, a number of major limitations to the review process have been identified. It is an expensive process and it has been argued that this means that it is only open to wealthy members of society. Most applications for review are turned down by judges leading to the criticism that this puts power in the hands of unelected judges to decide which cases they will consider. In the majority of cases reviews find in favour of the executive due, some would argue, to a pro-executive stance on the part of judges. The impact of reviews on executive policy has been questioned given that the government can change the law. Weaker answers will tend to focus on one limitation and lack evidence. Stronger answers will clearly identify two limitations and present relevant evidence. If no supporting example is included a maximum of [8] can be awarded. (AO1: 10 marks)	10

4 Background

Throughout the 20th century there was a steady reduction in the powers of the Lords as the Commons became the dominant House within Parliament. Most candidates will probably refer to the Parliament Acts that have reduced the powers of the Lords to obstruct the government's budget; have reduced the length of time that the Lords can delay other legislation; have allowed the Commons to use the Parliament Act to force through legislation against Lords opposition. The Lords are also limited by the Salisbury Convention. Candidates may refer to other relevant limitations including the lack of democratic legitimacy.

Weaker answers will tend to focus on one limitation and lack evidence.

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

If an answer contains only one piece of evidence, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

If an answer contains only one limitation, a maximum of Level 4 can be awarded.

Level 1 ([1]–[4])

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

The candidate demonstrates little knowledge and understanding of the limitations on the powers of the Lords 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 has no evidence (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling punctuation and grammar is poor. An argument, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed and the level of communication and the use of political vocabulary are both rudimentary (AO3).

Level 2 ([5]–[7])

AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 2 marks; AO3: 2 marks

The candidate demonstrates mostly basic knowledge and understanding of the limitations on the powers of the Lords but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a limited attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with more general material (AO1). There is some limited analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument is constructed although the level of communication, the structure and presentation of ideas and the use of appropriate political vocabulary are limited (AO3).

Level 3 ([8]–[10])**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of the limitations on the powers of the Lords 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 more general material (AO1). There is some limited analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument is constructed although the level of communication, the structure and presentation of ideas and the use of appropriate political vocabulary are limited (AO3).

Level 4 ([11]–[13])**AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 4 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates full and accurate knowledge and understanding of the limitations on the powers of the Lords and deploys this to answer the question. The answer contains relevant evidence and examples (AO1). There is sound analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. An argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is appropriate use of political vocabulary and a conclusion is reached (AO3).

Level 5 ([14]–[16])**AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 5 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive, detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of the limitations on the powers of the Lords and deploys this consistently to answer the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented (AO1). There is thorough analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. An argument is constructed which displays effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is consistent use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[16]

16

5 (a) Background

It is often claimed that British politics is party dominated. MPs owe their election and re-election to their party. Most MPs are career politicians and their chances of promotion are dependent on their party. For these reasons MPs are inclined to be party loyalists and to put the interests of party before their own principles and the interests of their constituents. When loyalty wavers the party is willing to use the whips to ensure that backbenchers do what they are supposed to do. The alternative view is that MPs are not simply party “drones” who uncritically follow the party line. MPs have to be careful to represent their constituency and be prepared to vote against their party if necessary. MPs are also willing to put political belief before party over major issues and the last decade has seen rebellions within all three governing parties. Some would argue that MPs’ first loyalty is to themselves as demonstrated by the expenses scandal and by the way in which MPs use their position to forge beneficial links with outside interests. Weaker answers will be limited in terms of argument and especially evidence. Stronger answers will display understanding of the issues and be able to support this with evidence.

If an answer contains no examples/evidence, a maximum of Level 3 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 little knowledge and understanding of the debate about MPs and party loyalty 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 has no evidence (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling punctuation and grammar is poor. An argument, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed and the level of communication and the use of political vocabulary are both rudimentary (AO3).

Level 2 ([6]–[10])

AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 5 marks; AO3: 2 marks

The candidate demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of the debate about MPs and party loyalty 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 (AO1). There is some basic analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is limited. An argument is constructed although the level of communication and the structure and presentation of ideas are both basic. There is restricted use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

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

The candidate demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of the debate about MPs and party loyalty 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 more general material (AO1). There is some limited analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument is constructed although the level of communication, the structure and presentation of ideas and the use of appropriate political vocabulary are limited (AO3).

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

The candidate demonstrates full and accurate knowledge and understanding of the debate about MPs and party loyalty and deploys this to answer the question. The answer contains relevant evidence and examples (AO1). There is sound analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. An argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is appropriate use of political vocabulary and a conclusion is reached (AO3).

Level 5 ([21]–[24])**AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 13 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive, detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of the debate about MPs and party loyalty and deploys this consistently to answer the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented (AO1). There is thorough analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. An argument is constructed which displays effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is consistent use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3). [24]

Or

(b) Background

The idea that the British Prime Minister is becoming more and more presidential was first voiced over 40 years ago. Given that Clement Atlee ignored most of his Cabinet in taking the decision that Britain should have atomic weapons, the idea could have been put forward even earlier. The idea itself is that the Prime Minister is no longer “primus inter pares” but now dominates Cabinet and the idea of collective cabinet government is effectively defunct. Recent years have seen the growth of evidence to support such a conclusion with fewer and shorter cabinet meetings, the use of one-to-one meetings with ministers to determine policy, the growth of the Prime Minister’s office and the increase in special advisers being just some of the reasons cited. However, there is much evidence to suggest that the Prime Minister is not a president and cannot ignore cabinet. The role of their cabinets in bringing about the premature departure of both Thatcher and Blair supports such a conclusion. The setting up of a coalition government in 2010 has added a range of other limitations on the Prime Minister in dominating the cabinet and has led many to talk of the revival of cabinet government.

Weaker answers will be limited in terms of argument and especially evidence. Stronger answers will display understanding of the issues and be able to support this with evidence.

If an answer contains no examples/evidence, a maximum of Level 3 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 little knowledge and understanding of the debate about Prime Ministerial control over cabinet 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 has no evidence (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling punctuation and grammar is poor. An argument, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed and the level of communication and the use of political vocabulary are both rudimentary (AO3).

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

The candidate demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of the debate about Prime Ministerial control 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 (AO1). There is some basic analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is limited. An argument is constructed although the level of communication and the structure and presentation of ideas are both basic. There is restricted use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

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

The candidate demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of the debate about Prime Ministerial control 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 more general material (AO1). There is some limited analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument is constructed although the level of communication, the structure and presentation of ideas and the use of appropriate political vocabulary are limited (AO3).

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

The candidate demonstrates full and accurate knowledge and understanding of the debate about Prime Ministerial control over cabinet and deploys this to answer the question. The answer contains relevant evidence and examples (AO1). There is sound analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. An argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is appropriate use of political vocabulary and a conclusion is reached (AO3).

Level 5 ([21]–[24])**AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 13 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive, detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of the debate about Prime Ministerial control over cabinet and deploys this consistently to answer the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented (AO1). There is thorough analysis of political information, arguments and explanations (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. An argument is constructed which displays effective communication and a logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[24]

24

Total**60**

