



**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)
General Certificate of Education
2017**

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit AS 2

The British Political Process

[AQ121]

MONDAY 5 JUNE, MORNING

**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.

		AVAILABLE MARKS
1	<p>Two marks for each type of debate identified. Debates on the Second Reading and Third Reading of a Bill will not be considered as separate types of debate. Candidates may refer to legislative debates, Adjournment Debates, Emergency Debates, Opposition Day Debates, Public Bill Committee Debates, Queen's Speech Debate, Budget Debate.</p> <p>(AO1: 4 marks)</p>	4
	[4]	
2	<p>Background</p> <p>Candidates should seek to identify that a referendum differs from other forms of election in that candidates are not being elected to office. Instead, the electorate vote on an issue, usually being asked a straight yes/no question. In the UK referenda are rare and are usually reserved for decisions on major constitutional issues. It is the government of the day that decides to put a matter to the electorate in a referendum. It is assumed that most candidates will refer to the European referendum as an example but others are also acceptable.</p> <p>If no relevant example is included, a maximum of 5 marks can be awarded.</p> <p>(AO1: 6 marks)</p>	6
	[6]	
3	<p>Background</p> <p>Although the number of judicial reviews has increased enormously, the process still attracts many criticisms. Critics argue that the process is expensive and therefore reserved for those with the means to pursue a review. The cost has decreased somewhat in recent years, however. The process is also often a lengthy one, although there has been an attempt to 'speed up' the process. Most applications for review are not granted and therefore go no further. The majority of decisions made by judges are in favour of the executive.</p> <p>Weaker answers will tend to lack evidence. Stronger answers will clearly identify two criticisms and present relevant evidence.</p> <p>One mark for identification and 4 marks for explanation of two criticisms.</p> <p>(AO1: 10 marks)</p>	10
	[10]	
4	<p>Background</p> <p>In addition to the powers of appointment, reshuffle and dismissal, PMs are able to exercise control over the colleagues in a number of other ways. They control meetings of the Cabinet, determining when it will meet, what it will discuss and often what its conclusions are. Cabinet committees are also under the control of the PM. It is widely recognised that PMs by-pass cabinet altogether, with Blair being a famous exponent. Prime Ministers enjoy the support of a large team of personal advisers, giving them the advantage over other ministers.</p> <p>Weaker answers will be limited in range and evidence. Stronger answers will have a broader range. An answer that includes no relevant examples/evidence can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.</p> <p>Level 1 ([1]–[4]) AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 1 mark; AO3: 1 mark</p> <p>The candidate demonstrates little knowledge and understanding of how PMs are able to control the cabinet and makes little attempt to answer the question.</p>	

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 basic knowledge and understanding of how PMs are able to control the cabinet 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 limited. 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 how PMs are able to control the 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 ([11]–[13])

AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 4 marks; AO3: 4 marks

The candidate demonstrates full and accurate knowledge and understanding of 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 how PMs are able to control the 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 presentation of ideas. There is consistent use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[16]

AVAILABLE
MARKS

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5 (a) Background

A regular theme of some commentators on the British system is that the power of Parliament has been steadily eroded throughout the 20th century as the executive increased its control over the political process. This led some to argue that Parliament had become a largely symbolic institution with little or no real power. Increased executive control over legislation, high levels of party discipline and loyalty, the weakness of scrutiny mechanisms, the growing careerism of MPs and the reduction in the powers of the Lords were all given as causes of this decline.

Defenders of Parliament reject this claim and argue that it remains a crucial part of the political system. Governments ignore Parliament at their peril and many defeats have been inflicted even on governments with secure majorities. Scrutiny of the executive remains strong and has been enhanced due to recent reforms. MPs have displayed a greater degree of independence and a rejuvenated Lords continues to delight in giving governments a bloody nose.

Weaker answers will be limited in terms of argument and especially evidence. Stronger answers will display understanding of the issue and be able to support this with evidence. An answer that contains no relevant evidence/examples can be awarded a maximum of Level 3. An answer that is unbalanced can be awarded a maximum of Level 4.

Level 1 ([1]–[5])

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

The candidate demonstrates little knowledge and understanding of Parliament's record as a 'watchdog' 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 Parliament's record as a 'watchdog' 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 Parliament's record as a 'watchdog' but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt

AVAILABLE MARKS

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 arguments for and against 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 ([21]–[24])

AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 13 marks; AO3: 5 marks

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive, detailed and accurate knowledge and understanding of Parliament's record as a 'watchdog' 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]

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5 (b) Background

Party is central to the British political system with both party loyalty and party discipline crucially affecting the behaviour of MPs. One view is that the result is that MPs act as Disraeli recommended and "stick to their party" irrespective of their own views or the merits of their party's position. This fundamentally undermines the role of the Commons and the principle of Parliamentary Sovereignty.

The alternative view is that the days of MPs being simply party drones are past. Increasingly MPs are willing to challenge their party and to oppose it. Rebellion by MPs on both the government and opposition sides is becoming increasingly common and party whips seem unable to prevent it. A new, more assertive, Commons is the result.

Weaker answers may present an unbalanced account of the executive's control over legislation, with little supporting evidence. Stronger answers will be both balanced and well supported. An answer that contains no relevant evidence/examples can be awarded a maximum of Level 3. An answer that is unbalanced can be awarded a maximum of Level 4.

Level 1 ([1]–[5])

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

The candidate demonstrates little knowledge and understanding of party control over backbenchers 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 Parliament's power over legislation 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 party control over backbenchers 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 party control over backbenchers 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 party control over backbenchers 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]

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Total

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