



**Tuesday 20 May 2014 – Morning**

**AS GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**F851/01/I** Contemporary Politics of the UK

**INSERT**

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- You must use your own knowledge and the sources in this Insert to answer Question 1.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- This document consists of **2** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR**

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**Sources for Question 1**

Read **all** the sources below and use them when answering Question 1.

**SOURCE A**

Parties dominate British politics as:

- the vast majority of candidates who stand in general elections belong to a party;
- most voters cast their votes for a party candidate;
- most MPs since 1945 have belonged to a party;
- European, regional and local elections are conducted on the basis of party;
- the House of Commons, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly are organised around parties;
- government is run by parties, even under a coalition.

Without parties, it seems, the entire political system would collapse.

**SOURCE B**

Critics of political parties argue that they contribute little to democracy. First, there are hardly any differences in policy between the main parties and so there is no real choice. Secondly, you have to belong to a party to have any chance of being elected to the House of Commons, and certainly to become a member of the government. Thirdly, MPs always have to follow the party line and so cannot properly represent their constituents. Parties, their critics say, never do what they promise and are only ever interested in gaining power.

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