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Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 1 June 2015 – 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.

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Sources for Question 1

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

Source A: Pressure groups and the courts

In September 2003 two journalists on their way to a demonstration were stopped and searched by the police. With the support of the civil liberties pressure group, *Liberty*, the journalists sought and gained a judicial review of the legality of the police action. When their case was dismissed by the British courts the journalists took their grievance to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). In 2010 the ECHR ruled that parts of the Terrorism Act 2000, which gave the police broad powers to stop and search members of the public, violated Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Source B: Pressure group critics

It is now almost 30 years since the Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, launched a fierce attack on pressure groups. He described them as ‘serpents strangling government’ and accused them of making it difficult for ministers to govern in the public interest. He also argued that they distorted the relationship between the legislature, the executive and the electorate.

More recently a government minister accused groups within the National Trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England of organising a ‘left-wing smear campaign’ against government plans to simplify the planning laws.

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