

A-level POLITICS

Paper 1 Government and politics of the UK

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **7152/1**.
- Answer **all** questions from Section **A** and Section **B**.
- Answer **one** question from Section **C**.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Do **not** tear out any part of the book. All work must be handed in.
- If you use more than one answer book, check that you have written the information required on each book.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 77.

Section A – Short Questions

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3.

0	1
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Explain and analyse three ways in which membership of the EU has had an impact upon UK politics.

[9 marks]

0	2
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Explain and analyse three ways in which collective responsibility has come under pressure since 1979.

[9 marks]

0	3
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Explain and analyse three long-term factors, other than class, that can influence voting behaviour.

[9 marks]

Section B – Extract Question

Read the extract below and answer question 4 that follows.

Extract 1

The House of Lords needs reforming, but abolishing it is not the answer.

In the past year, the House of Lords has made almost 2,300 changes to improve legislation. Apart from daily oral questions, peers have tabled more than 8,000 written questions and taken part in more than 160 debates. Well over 300 peers have been active members of select committees. I am opposed to “passengers” in the Lords who make no or very little contribution. However, they are a minority.

Those who argue for the abolition of the second chamber need to say how this work would be done. When a government has a big majority, having a second chamber to ensure legislation does not slip through without proper debate and analysis is absolutely essential.

The Lords has agreed to take action to reduce numbers. However, the resignation honours list beckons. It is at this point that prime ministers are tempted to reward rather than ask what contribution a person under consideration can make.

Extract taken from an opinion piece by Norman Fowler in *The Guardian*, 3 June 2019.

Norman Fowler is Lord Speaker and was a cabinet minister with Margaret Thatcher for 11 years.

Extract 2

This broken House of Lords doesn’t need reform. It needs scrapping.

One in nine peers, between 2017 and 2018, did not participate in any House of Lords business: yet one of these still claimed £25,000.

Some will say that the House of Lords provides an invaluable function. But here is an institution beyond reform. It has been stuffed full of lobbyists, party donors, ex-party staffers and well-connected businesspeople. The Lords is not brimming with specialists and experts.

Its existence is an affront to democracy. The alternative is to replace it with an elected chamber. However, this is fraught with problems. Instead, we should look at a unicameral system.

Extract taken from an opinion piece in *The Guardian* by columnist Owen Jones, 31 May 2019. Owen Jones is a regular *Guardian* columnist and author of books such as *The Establishment – And How They Get Away With It*.

0	4
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Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above extracts regarding House of Lords reform.

[25 marks]

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C – Essay Question

Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

In your answer you should draw on material from across the whole range of your course of study in Politics.

Either

0	5
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'The ongoing process of devolution threatens the sovereignty of the Westminster Parliament.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

or

0	6
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'Political parties fulfil valuable roles and functions within the UK political system.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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