

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

**Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE**

**Thursday 23 May 2024**

Morning (Time: 1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper  
reference

**8PL0/02**

**Politics**

**Advanced Subsidiary**

**PAPER 2: UK Government**

**You must have:**

Source Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

## Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- There are **three** sections and you must answer **four** questions:
  - in Section A answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** 1(b)
  - in Section B answer **both** Question 2 **and** Question 3
  - in Section C answer **either** Question 4(a) **or** 4(b).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
  - *there may be more space than you need.*

## Information

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
  - *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

## Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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**SECTION A**

**Answer EITHER Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b). Begin your answer on page 3.**

**EITHER**

**1** (a) Describe the role of a Peer in the House of Lords. (10)

**OR**

(b) Describe the convention of individual ministerial responsibility. (10)

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(Total for Question 1 = 10 marks)

**TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS**



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**SECTION B BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.**





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(Total for Question 2 = 10 marks)



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**(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)**

**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS**



## SECTION C

Answer EITHER Question 4(a) OR Question 4(b). Begin your answer on page 11.

### EITHER

- 4 (a) 'The doctrine of *ultra vires* and the process of judicial review ensure that the Supreme Court has significant influence over the executive.'

How far do you agree that *ultra vires* and judicial review enable the Supreme Court to have significant influence over the executive?

*In your answer you must:*

- refer to **both** *ultra vires* and judicial review
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding of study from Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

### OR

- (b) 'Devolution across the UK has been a success.'

How far do you agree that devolution in the UK has been a success?

*In your answer you must:*

- refer to at least **two** devolved bodies
- consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way
- draw on relevant knowledge and understanding of study from Component 1: UK Politics.

(30)

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(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)

**TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS**  
**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS**



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## **Politics**

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### **Source Booklet**

**Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.**

*Turn over* ►

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## Sources for use with SECTION B.

*Source 1 considers the various factors that Prime Ministers (PMs) consider when appointing members to their Cabinets. The source was written in 2022.*

### Source 1

Liz Truss was criticised for only appointing her supporters to senior cabinet positions, despite the majority of Conservative MPs supporting her rival, Rishi Sunak, in the leadership contest. Rishi Sunak was criticised for re-appointing Suella Braverman as Home Secretary less than a week after she was sacked for breaching the ministerial code. Labour argued that Sunak needed Braverman's support in his successful leadership bid to replace Truss after she resigned.

Prime Ministers (PMs), consider many things when appointing their most senior ministers. Blair balanced his cabinet with 'Old Labour' and 'New Labour' ministers, Thatcher appointed 'wets' as well as 'dries'. PMs also need to include so called 'big beasts' – popular figures in the party and country, such as Gordon Brown under Blair. Increasingly, PMs are expected to ensure their cabinets reflect the diversity of the UK. And there is an expectation that a Scottish or Welsh Secretary of State should represent a Scottish or Welsh constituency.

Of course, PMs also need to consider the abilities of senior colleagues. For instance, Michael Gove was seen as a 'safe pair of hands' by several Conservative Prime Ministers.



Sources 2 and 3 are adapted from an Institute of Government report on select committees in the 2017–19 parliamentary session.

### Source 2

Select committees contribute to the current issues of the day. The Exiting-the-EU Committee forced the government to publish its 39 'economic impact' assessments informing parliamentary and public debate around the likely economic consequences of Brexit. In 2018, the Home Affairs Select Committee launched an inquiry into the Windrush scandal\*. Following oral evidence from the former Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, it became apparent that there were inaccuracies in her answers, forcing her to resign as she had 'inadvertently misled' MPs. This demonstrated the power of select committees.

Some committees widened scrutiny beyond the 'Westminster bubble'. The Health and Housing committees ran a joint citizens' assembly as part of their inquiry into the long-term funding of adult social care. Their greater independence from the party whips has also increased their influence on government.

\* The Windrush scandal refers to the Home Office's denial of rights to people who came as children from Commonwealth countries to the UK, before 1973.

### Source 3

Select committees play a significant role in contributing to current political issues. They informed the debate around Brexit, although they had no influence on the final outcome – a treaty debated and passed by Parliament in one day. It is easy for governments to ignore their recommendations, even when agreed by all members of the committee. The Home Affairs Select Committee's investigation into the Windrush scandal did lead to Amber Rudd's resignation, not for the policy failure but for misleading Parliament. However, two years later many Windrush victims were still waiting for compensation, which shows how little policy had changed.

Select committees are now more independent from the party whips and therefore more willing to criticise government policy, but they still lack sufficient powers or permanent staff.

(Sources 2 and 3: adapted from [https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/parliamentary\\_monitor\\_2020.pdf](https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/parliamentary_monitor_2020.pdf))

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