



STUDY DOG
POLITICS

A-Level Practice Paper Set 1

Paper 1

Government and Politics of the UK

Time: 2 hours

In the style of AQA

Name	
Mark	
Grade	

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- Answer **all** questions from sections A and B.
- Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6 from section C.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that 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 book, check that you have written the information required on each book.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 77.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets

Section A – Short Questions

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3.

- 1 Explain and analyse three impacts of the EU on UK government. [9 marks]

- 2 Explain and analyse three factors affecting the success of political parties. [9 marks]

- 3 Explain and analyse three methods of parliamentary scrutiny of the executive. [9 marks]

SAMPLE



Section B – Extract Question

Read the extracts below and answer question 4 that follows.

The Constitution is in crisis: we need to modernise it

After the Labour party's strong victory in the 1997 general election, winning 179 seats, they have made moves and provisions towards constitutional reform. Indeed, the two prime ministers; Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have done much for reform over the years, as illustrated by devolution and the human rights act. Indeed, they made provision for reform in 4 key areas, modernisation, and greater protection of rights, democratisation and decentralisation. However, it can be argued that their reform has been limited, and much more can be done for constitutional reform.

It is clear that the modernisation aspects of the reform have been severely limited. Indeed, this can be illustrated by the reform of the House of Lords. Over the past 10 years, only part 1 of the reform process has taken place. This has included the removal of over 600 hereditary peers to only 92. However, no reform for a partially or fully elected second chamber has taken place. Until this happens it is argued that the Lords is not democratically legitimate as all policy making institutions must have legitimacy.

However, there has been an increase in referenda as Tony Blair promised in his election manifesto. These include the referenda over the Manchester Congestion Charge in 2008, and the 2004 Referenda in the North-East were both effective in affecting the governing party views. In addition, the increase in e-petitions has been effective. Indeed, the road pricing tax was dropped after 1 million people signed a petition against it. Finally, MPs have agreed on a referendum over electoral reform, from our current first past the post system to alternative vote.

Extract written by Study Dog

- 4 Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above article over the need for further constitutional reform.

[25 marks]



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

- 5** 'Despite its weaknesses, first past the post is the best electoral system for UK general elections.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

Or

- 6** 'Minor political parties are playing an ever-more important role in today's politics.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

