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# A-Level POLITICS PAPER 1

Government and politics of the UK

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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.
- 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 marks for questions are shown in brackets.
  - The maximum mark for this paper is 77.
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**Section A - Short Questions**

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3

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**1** Explain and analyse the significance of three sources of the British constitution.

**[9 marks]**

**2** Explain and analyse three ways in which pressure groups seek to influence government policy.

**[9 marks]**

**3** Explain and analyse three factors that can influence voting behaviour.

**[9 marks]**

**Turn over for the next question**

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**Section B - Extract Question**

Read the extract below and answer question 4 that follows.

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**Party funding: there is an alternative to murky donations from the super-rich**

There are fundamental problems arising as the traditional two-party system collapses. Party memberships are crashing – the paid-up support the Conservatives had when Cameron became leader has declined by over half, which was itself barely one-fifth of the number when Margaret Thatcher took over the Tories. The average age of members is almost 70.

The 2011 Kelly review saw the solution as more state funding, yet this would only shore up organisations that are clearly failing. It feels often that the main parties think their history gives them an unquestionable right to survive. If so, it's a misguided belief, with the digital age disrupting politics as it does so many other areas of life. Public contempt would also be fuelled if voters saw more of their taxes going to political parties at a time of spending cuts.

Far more sensible would be to adopt the review's other key suggestion of a £10,000 cap on individual donations – then throw in a ban on funding from any other sources. For the reason most of these businesses, unions and wealthy people hand over huge sums is to buy influence, along with baubles and titles – all profoundly anti-democratic.

Extract taken from an article written by the journalist Ian Birrell in *The Guardian* newspaper (07 October 2016)

- 4** Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above article over a cap on individual donations to political parties.

**[25 marks]**

**Turn over for the next question**

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**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.

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**Either**

- 5** 'There are many factors that can give the prime minister power over cabinet colleagues.'  
Analyse and evaluate this statement. **[25 marks]**

**Or**

- 6** 'Despite their weaknesses select committees play an increasingly central role in British Politics.'  
Analyse and evaluate this statement. **[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**