

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

General Certificate of Education Examination

JUNE 1974

ADVANCED LEVEL

British Government and Political System 1

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Three hours

Answer FOUR questions. All questions carry equal marks.

*Candidates are reminded of the necessity for good English and orderly presentation in their answers.*

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1. "The British constitution contains no fundamental rights; that is why we need a new bill of rights." Comment critically on this view. What might be the aims of such a bill?

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2. Examine the theories of the separation of powers and the rule of law as they apply in Britain or one other country.

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3. What are the main functions of Her Majesty's Opposition? Would a system of proportional representation undermine the ability of the opposition to perform its tasks?

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4. "The House of Lords stands as a paradox in the British parliamentary system since it is neither representative nor responsible." Discuss this view and show how far representative and responsible government is secured in Britain.

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4. 5. Compare and contrast the influence of the press and of television on politics in Britain.

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- 3 6. How important is social class in the determination of voting behaviour?
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7. "To be effective the Commons must be able to join in making government policy rather than merely in criticizing it after it has been made." Discuss this statement and suggest appropriate ways of reforming the House of Commons.
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8. Assess the effectiveness of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. What extensions in his terms of reference appear desirable?
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9. "Although the British Prime Minister is not elected, he is nevertheless more responsible to public opinion than the President of the United States." Discuss.
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10. Examine the problems of maintaining law and order in a democratic society.
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