**End of Topic Test; Parliament**

Total marks = 55 Pass mark = 40/55

Level 1 Questions

1. **Identify 3 functions of the House of Commons (3 marks)**
	* Debating major issues
	* Making law (Legislation)
	* Scrutinising the executive
	* Sustaining government
	* Representation
	* Financial scrutiny
	* Redress of grievances
2. **Identify 2 functions of the House of Lords (2 marks)**
	* Debating major issues
	* Making law (Legislation)
	* Scrutinising the executive
3. **Identify 3 distinctions between the House of Commons and the House of Lords (3 marks)**
	* HofC is elected, HofL is appointed and hereditary peers
	* HofL weak party discipline, HofC strong party discipline (whip system)
	* HofL seen as revising chamber, secondary chamber, less power/authority
4. **Identify 3 functions of departmental select committees (3 marks)**
	* To scrutinise the work of a department
	* To examine administration and policy of relevant bodies
	* To gather evidence and write reports that are presented to parliament and government
5. **Briefly describe 3 reasons why MPs tend to follow the party line (3 marks)**
	* Whip system
	* Rewards/sanctions
	* Party loyalty – ideological/manifesto MPs were elected on
6. I**dentify 3 categories of peer in the House of Lords (3 marks)**
	* Hereditary peers
	* Appointed peers
	* Lords Spiritual
7. **Identify 3 legal limitations on the power of the House of Lords (3 marks)**
	* The **Parliament Acts** of 1911 and 1949 mean that any Bill (except one to postpone a General Election) that passes the Commons in two successive Sessions can be presented for Royal Assent without the consent of the Lords, as long as certain time restrictions apply
	* The **Salisbury Convention** requires the House of Lords not to reject at Second Reading any government legislation that has been passed by the Commons and that carries out a manifesto commitment.
	* The Lords may not amend Bills relating to **taxation or government** expenditure and under the Parliament Acts the amount of time given to scrutiny of the Finance Bill in the Lords is limited.

Total = 20 marks

Level 2 Questions

1. **Briefly describe five differences in the composition or functions of the Lords or the Commons (5 marks)**
	* The Commons is publicly elected.
	* The party with the largest number of members in the Commons forms the government.
	* Members of the Commons (MPs) debate the big political issues of the day and proposals for new laws.
	* It is one of the key places where government ministers, like the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, and the principal figures of the main political parties, work.
	* The Commons alone is responsible for making decisions on financial Bills, such as proposed new taxes.
	* The Lords can consider these Bills but cannot block or amend them.
	* The House of Lords is the second chamber of the UK Parliament. It is independent from, and complements the work of, the elected House of Commons.
	* The Lords shares the task of making and shaping laws and checking and challenging the work of the government.
2. **Identify 3 reasons why the Government tends to dominate Parliament and 3 ways in which Parliament can control the government. (6 marks)
Reasons why the Government tends to dominate Parliament;**
	* FPTP system – majority government (nearly always!)
	* Majority party forms government
	* Fusion of powers and overlap of personnel
3. **Ways in which Parliament can control the government;**
	* Select Committees
	* PMQT
	* Questions to Ministers
	* Debates
	* Opposition Days
	* Written Questions and Letters
4. **Look at each of the characteristics of Parliament’s relationship to the Government. In each case state whether they are factors which give Government dominance or which help Parliament to control the Government. (11 marks)**

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| **Feature** | **Helping the Government or Parliament?** |
| There is strong party loyalty | GOVERNMENT |
| MPs have strong constituency links | PARLIAMENT |
| Votes of no confidence | PARLIAMENT |
| Departmental select committees | PARLIAMENT |
| MP’s research capability | PARLIAMENT |
| Party whips | GOVERNMENT |
| The Parliament Act of 1949 | GOVERNMENT |
| Legislative committees in the Commons | PARLIAMENT |
| Legislative committees in the Lords | PARLIAMENT |
| Crossbenchers in the Lords | PARLIAMENT |
| Political patronage | GOVERNMENT |

Total = 22 marks

Level 3 Questions

1. Study the following 2 descriptions of parliamentary government. One is more accurate than the other. Identify which is more accurate and give 3 reasons why it is more accurate. (4 marks)

Description 1
Parliamentary government means parliament is at the centre of the political process. It means that parliament is sovereign and that all political authority lives in parliament. It also means that all important political decisions are made by Parliament. Instead of the Cabinet always being at the centre of power, Parliament is. This is because power is effectively evenly shared between the Government and Parliament. It also means that there is a clear separation of powers between the executive and legislative.

Description 2
Parliamentary government describes a political system where Parliament is the source of all political authority. It also means there is a lack of separation of powers. The Government is part of Parliament, members of government must be drawn from Parliament and the Government is constantly accountable to Parliament. Though Parliament is the main representative body, it is not expected that policy should originate in Parliament.

**Description 2 is the most accurate because;**
	* Parliamentary sovereignty
	* Fusion of powers
	* Overlap of personnel
	* Not all important decisions are made by parliament (executive authority)
2. **Write a short definition, of about 50 words, of each of the following, including examples where appropriate. (9 marks)**
**1. Party Whips**
A whip is an official in a political party whose primary purpose is to ensure partydiscipline in a legislature
**2. Political patronage**
The practice or custom observed by a political official of filling government positions with qualified employees of his or her own choosing.
**3. The Salisbury Convention**
The **Salisbury Convention** requires the House of Lords not to reject at Second Reading any government legislation that has been passed by the Commons and that carries out a manifesto commitment.

Total = 13 marks