

*Preliminary Certificates in Journalism*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PART 1**

**1JJ5**

Date: 14 May 2008

Time allowed: 2 hours

**Instructions:**

- Put your name at the top of each sheet of paper used and number each page.
- Do **NOT** include the training centre at which you are sitting the examination.
- Dictionaries and other reference books are **NOT** allowed.
- Write each question number clearly in the left-hand margin and begin each answer on a separate sheet.
- Answer **four** questions.
- **Both** questions in Section A (questions 1 and 2) must be answered and you **MUST** choose **two** questions from Section B (questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

**Information:**

- The maximum score for this paper is 200 marks. The pass mark is 50 per cent.
- All questions are worth 50 marks each. Candidates are advised to allocate their time proportionately.
- The *Examining Body* for this paper is the NCTJ.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION AAnswer questions 1 and 2

1. Your council is considering plans for a leisure complex. It will go ahead if the cabinet agrees to include it in its capital estimates when it meets next week.

The council has several choices with regard to financing the new project. It can use its **capital receipts**, seek a **capital grant**, **borrow**, enter into a **public private partnership (PPP)/private finance initiative (PFI)** arrangement or use **revenue sources**.

- (a) Explain the possibilities and limitations of the terms above. (40 marks)
- (b) Give five people you would contact to follow up the story and give reasons for your choice. (10 marks)

**(50 marks)**

2. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given. (5 marks each)

Comprehensive Performance Assessment	Trunk roads
National non-domestic rate	Quality Parish Council
Chief Constable	Monitoring Officer
Electoral register	Declaration of interest
Leader of the Council	Basic allowance
Natural England	Housing benefit
Traffic Commissioners	Council constitution
Trading Standards Officer	Dedicated Schools Grant

**(50 marks)**

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** questions from numbers. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

3. Your newspaper covers a county which has a large city with a unitary authority yet the rest of the county, which is largely rural, is administered by a county council, four district councils, and parish councils. Separate police and fire authorities cover all areas.
- (a) Explain the differences between the unitary and two tier areas by detailing how the local government services are delivered in each, indicating clearly which council is responsible. (30 marks)
- (b) Indicate which authorities are responsible for collecting the council tax, and how all authorities receive council tax income. (10 marks)
- (c) Outline the composition of the separate authorities for administering the two emergency services. How are they funded? (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
4. The scrutiny committee of your local authority has published a report into an investigation it has carried out into Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) in its schools. It calls for sex education to be taught to children from the age of six.
- (a) Explain what powers scrutiny/overview committees have to carry out independent inquiries and how they carry out those investigations, and identify who can sit on such committees. (30 marks)
- (b) What other powers do scrutiny committees have? (10 marks)
- (c) Suggest five people you could contact to develop this story. For each contact, list one question you would ask. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

5. A Premier League football club in your area is looking to re-locate from its existing rather delapidated stadium to a new 60 000 seat arena to be built on the edge of town on a brownfield site. The football club is in the process of seeking planning permission from the local planning authority. To allay concerns by some local residents about additional parking problems and traffic congestion on match days the football club offers to fund a new park and ride scheme plus a new link road to allow swift access to the nearby motorway as a planning contribution (gain).
- (a) Outline the process of applying for planning permission and explain what a planning contribution (gain) is. (25 marks)
- (b) What is a brownfield site? (5 marks)
- (c) If permission is rejected by the planning authority how would the football club's appeal be handled and by whom? (10 marks)
- (d) Indicate five contacts you would want to approach for quotes on this story and justify your choice of interviewees. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
6. Your newspaper has just published an article showing that the number of reported child abuse cases dealt with by the local social services authority has doubled in the past five years. The news editor has asked you to prepare a background feature on the general issue of protecting children from abuse.
- (a) Identify which authorities are responsible for children's services, explaining the services they may provide for families and children and their powers and duties in relation to child protection and how they work together to tackle child abuse in the community. What may happen to children who have been taken into care? (40 marks)
- (b) Indicate FIVE organisation or individuals you would contact to develop this story and FIVE questions you would ask. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

7. Governors of one of the community comprehensive schools in your area are to apply to the Department for Children, Schools & Families for their school to become a Specialist School, specialising in physical education. You have been asked to prepare an article and to carry out interviews to support the story.
- (a) Explain what is meant by: (5 marks each)
- community schools  
voluntary controlled/voluntary aided schools  
specialist schools  
comprehensive schools  
grammar schools  
school governors  
academies  
national curriculum (40 marks)
- (b) List FIVE sources you would contact to follow up the story and indicate FIVE questions (in total) that you may wish to put to your interviewees. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
8. Answer FIVE of the following: 10 marks each
- (a) Explain the difference in the role of a councillor and an officer. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain the difference between a Committee recommendation and a resolved item. (10 marks)
- (c) Explain the rights of the press and the public to attend council, committee and sub-committee meetings of principal local authorities (i.e. other than cabinet, cabinet committees or parish / community councils). When and how can they be excluded? (10 marks)
- (d) What is council tax, who sets and collects it? (10 marks)
- (e) The Commissioner for Local Administration (Ombudsman) handles complaints against a council only if suspicion of maladministration exists. Explain what is meant by maladministration. (10 marks)
- (f) What are housing associations and how are they funded? (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

**ends**



*Preliminary Certificates in Journalism*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PART 1**

Date: 14 November 2007

Time allowed: 2 hours

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- Number each page.
- Answer **four** questions.
- **Both** questions in Section A (questions 1 and 2) must be answered and you **MUST** choose **two** questions from Section B (questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

**Information:**

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- All questions are worth 50 marks each.
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**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION AAnswer questions 1 and 2

1. Your Council's cabinet/executive has been debating whether to include a costly new road link in its **capital estimates**. Members in favour insisted that the funding of the capital programme be supplemented by the use of **capital receipts** or **revenue sources**. Those against said it should only be included if funds were forthcoming in the form of a **capital grant** from central government or if funding can be obtained from the private sector through a **Private Finance Initiative**.
- (a) Explain what are meant by **capital estimates, capital receipts, revenue sources, capital grants, Private Finance Initiatives (PFI)**. (30 marks)
- (b) Explain what other methods might be open to the local authority to fund such a project. (10 marks)
- (c) You are going to interview a councillor who favours funding the project through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI). List five questions that you would put to him that require him to justify the use of a PFI and the issues raised by the other forms of funding for capital expenditure. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

2. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given. (5 marks each)

Relative Needs Formula (RNF)	Key decision
Parish meeting	Standing orders
National non-domestic rate/ uniform business rate	Trading Standards Officer
Foster parents	Brownfield site
Wards	Natural England
Declaration of interest	Trunk road
Listing Officer	Debt charge
Unison	Learning and Skills Council

**(50 marks)**

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** questions from Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

3. The circulation area of your newspaper covers two **city councils**. As the county has a **hybrid** structure of local government, one city is part of the **two-tier structure** and the other is a **unitary** authority. This is very confusing to readers and you have been asked to prepare a short article explaining the different structures.
- (a) Explain the terms **two-tier, unitary, hybrid** and **city council** and indicate where the different structures may be found. List the services provided by a district council, county council, unitary authority. (40 marks)
- (b) You have arranged to interview two councillors - one from each authority - about the advantages and disadvantages of each structure. List five questions (in total) that you would ask them. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
4. In the agenda for your local Council cabinet/executive you find the following item - "Commissioner for Local Administration, Second Report."
- (a) In general terms, to what will this item refer? (4 marks)
- (b) Explain the powers of the Commissioners for Local Administration (Ombudsmen), indicating clearly their possible findings and the limitation to their powers. (40 marks)
- (c) What should you do to follow up this story and who may you wish to contact? (6 marks)
- (50 marks)**

5. Your local Council is holding a press conference to announce a collaborative project with a Housing Association to build 50 new houses to rent. The Council has stated that working with a housing association is the best way to ensure that affordable new social housing is available to rent and that social housing is needed due to the recent increase in homeless families in the borough.
- (a) Outline the responsibilities of a local housing authority to homeless families. (20 marks)
- (b) Explain what role housing associations play in social housing, indicating why the council believes housing associations are better placed to provide good quality housing for rent. (20 marks)
- (c) You have arranged an interview with your local council's executive member for housing. Indicate five questions you would ask. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

6. Education stories have been constantly in the news and your editor has decided to run a series of articles to highlight the main issues. She wants to start the series with a piece which shows how local authorities have steadily lost power due to both greater centralisation and the delegation of more power to individual schools and parents.

In preparing for the first article explain the following terms in a way your readers will understand:

(5 marks each)

National Curriculum  
 Academies  
 School governors  
 Community schools  
 Foundation schools  
 Grammar (selective) schools  
 Primary schools  
 Colleges of further education  
 Office of Standards in Education (OFSTED)  
 Higher education

**(50 marks)**

7. A developer wants to build a shopping precinct. From a planning point of view, what facilities are available to ensure full consideration of the opinions of the developer, those opposed to the proposal and the local council? How does the system operate?

**(50 marks)**

8. Answer FIVE of the following: 10 marks each

- (a) Explain the legal requirements a person must fulfil in order to stand in a local election. What are the disqualifications? (10 marks)
- (b) Explain the role of the Chief Finance Officer. (10 marks)
- (c) List the main areas of responsibility of an Environmental Health Officer. (10 marks)
- (d) Explain the rights of the press and the public to attend council, committee and sub-committee meetings of principal local authorities (i.e. other than cabinet, cabinet committees or parish / community councils). When and how can they be excluded? (10 marks)
- (e) How is the police and fire service organised and funded locally? (10 marks)
- (f) Briefly describe the system for regulating bus services in England and Wales. (10 marks)

**(50 marks)**

**ends**



*Preliminary Certificates in Journalism*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PART 1**

**KE6**

Date: 16 May 2007

Time allowed: 2 hours

**Instructions:**

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- Dictionaries and other reference books are **NOT** allowed.
- Write each question number clearly in the left-hand margin and begin each answer on a separate sheet.
- Each page **MUST** be marked either 'mf' or 'ends'.
- Answer **four** questions.
- **Both** questions in Section A (questions 1 and 2) must be answered and you **MUST** choose **two** questions from Section B (questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

**Information:**

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SECTION AAnswer questions 1 and 2

1. The local council has announced controversial plans to introduce a new tram system to deal with environmental concerns about traffic pollution.

Funding the project has become a highly political issue which has divided the parties on the council.

You have been asked to provide information for a background piece on the controversial plans.

- (a) Identify and explain the sources of funding for capital projects. What controls are imposed on capital spending? (40 marks)
- (b) Suggest five local contacts to help you develop this story and give reasons for your choice. (10 marks)

**(50 marks)**

2. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given. (5 marks each)

standing orders	anti social behaviour orders (ASBOs)
Code of Conduct	listed buildings
Chief Executive	housing associations
council tax	Audit Commission
virement	Highways Agency
planning inquiry	licensing authorities
care order	2 Tier structure
child minder	wards

**(50 marks)**

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** questions from Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

3. You have a story that a candidate who is standing in a local election is not eligible to stand, because he holds a politically restricted post.
- (a) List the legal requirements for candidates in a local election (including the grounds on which they can be barred), and indicate what is meant by a politically restricted post. (20 marks)
- (b) Who would you contact to follow up the story and why? (10 marks)
- (c) List the legal requirements of voters in local elections. (20 marks)
- (50 marks)**
4. You are covering a meeting of a committee of a small district council which is operating under “alternative arrangements” (i.e. has no cabinet or executive mayor) when the Chairman says: **“Would the Press please leave.”**
- (a) Is this request lawful and if not why not? What rights do the Press have in covering meetings and receiving documents of district councils operating under alternative arrangements? (40 marks)
- (b) Outline possible ways you might respond to this request and indicate which one you would adopt. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

5. Governors of one of the community comprehensive schools in your area are to apply to the Department for Education and Skills for their school to become a Specialist School, specialising in physical education. You have been asked to prepare an article and to carry out interviews to support the story.

- (a) Explain what is meant by: (5 marks each)

community schools  
 voluntary controlled/voluntary aided schools  
 specialist schools  
 comprehensive schools  
 grammar schools  
 school governors  
 academies  
 national curriculum

(40 marks)

- (b) List FIVE sources you would contact to follow up the story and indicate FIVE questions (in total) that you may wish to put to your interviewees.

(10 marks)

**(50 marks)**

6. A company wishes to build a major development on the outskirts of a quiet village and has submitted a planning application to the district council in a shire area. Describe how the application will be considered, outlining the action that could be taken by opponents of the scheme. What role does the local parish council play?

**(50 marks)**

7. Your newspaper has received a letter from a reader concerned about the closure of an old people's home and proposals to care for the residents in the community. Your editor has asked you to follow up this story.
- (a) What is meant by community care? Indicate which local authorities are responsible for community care and indicate the services local authorities may provide for the elderly. (40 marks)
- (b) The executive member for social services who agrees to talk to you says his time is precious. So you prepare, in advance, five questions to put to him. List your questions. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
8. Answer FIVE of the following: 10 marks each
- (a) Explain who sets rateable values for non-domestic properties and on what basis they are determined. To whom can one appeal against the valuation? Who sets the non-domestic rating (uniform business rate) multiplier? (10 marks)
- (b) Explain the difference between the various allowances and expenses that councillors may claim. (10 marks)
- (c) List the main areas of responsibility of an Environmental Health Officer. (10 marks)
- (d) What conclusions can the Commissioner for Local Administration (Ombudsman) reach in investigating complaints against a council, and what powers does he have? (10 marks)
- (e) Distinguish between fostering and adoption. (10 marks)
- (f) Which authorities are responsible for the library services? List the services libraries may provide and explain who pays for them. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

**ends**

*Preliminary Certificates in Journalism*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PART 1**

Date: **15 November 2006**

Time allowed: 2 hours

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**Information:**

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- Question 1 and 2 are worth 50 marks each. Questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are worth 50 marks each. Candidates are advised to allocate their time proportionately.
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SECTION AAnswer questions 1 and 2

1. Local government finance is not clearly understood by the public.

You have been asked to write a short feature explaining clearly to your readers how local government revenue expenditure is financed. Set out the information you would include in such an article.

**(50 marks)**

2. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given.

Greater London Authority (GLA)	child minder
standing orders	listed buildings
basic allowance	home help
key decision	specialist schools
Head of the Paid Service	planning contribution (gain)
delegated powers	Highways Agency
virement	mandatory acts
housing benefit	Trading Standards Officer

**(50 marks)**

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** questions from Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

3. In the run-up to local elections in your area, you get a tip-off that one of the candidates is not eligible to stand because he holds a **politically restricted post**.
- (a) Explain the term **politically restricted post**. (4 marks)
- (b) List the legal requirements for candidates in a local election. (16 marks)
- (c) What officials would you interview to check out this story and why? (10 marks)
- (d) In reporting local election results outline five key points you should try to cover. (20 marks)
- (50 marks)**
4. What rights do the Press and the public have to attend council and committee meetings of principal local authorities (i.e. excluding the cabinet, cabinet committees and parish and community councils)? What rights do they have to see council documents for such meetings? (50 marks)
5. A school in your area received a critical OFSTED report some months ago and you have learned that it is to apply to the Department for Education and Skills for Fresh Start status.
- (a) Explain what the Fresh Start programme involves and what might happen to the school, the pupils, staff and governing body once the initiative is under way. (20 marks)
- (b) Outline the role of OFSTED in the educational process. (20 marks)
- (c) Name five people you would approach for quotes on the above story, and why. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

6. A story has broken locally about two children aged four and five left alone for two days in the family home by their parents. Concerned neighbours alerted the police who broke into the house.
- (a) Explain what powers childrens' services would have to make such children safe at short notice and how this should be done. (10 marks)
- (b) If childrens' services deem the children to be facing significant long-term harm by continuing to reside at the family home, how can a care order be instituted, how long does it last and how would the children be cared for if taken into care? (30 marks)
- (c) What local organisations or individuals could help you develop this story? (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
7. Problems on a large housing estate in your area have led to calls for increased policing from concerned residents. Police say, however, they are already fully stretched and increased patrols would be beyond their current resources. A local councillor is determined to raise the matter at the next Police Authority meeting and press the Chief Constable for an explanation.
- (a) Outline the role and powers of the Police Authority and indicate how they might be applied in this situation. (20 marks)
- (b) Outline the role and powers of a Chief Constable. (15 marks)
- (c) Explain the role of the Home Office in police matters. (15 marks)
- (50 marks)**
8. Answer FIVE of the following: 10 marks each
- (a) Outline the main powers and duties of a County Council. (10 marks)
- (b) Identify and list the main sources of, and controls over, income for local authority capital spending and controls. (10 marks)
- (c) What conclusions can the Commissioner for Local Administration (Ombudsman) reach in investigating complaints against a council, and what powers does he have? (10 marks)

- (d) Outline what is meant by a structure plan and state which authority draws it up. (10 marks)
- (e) List the main areas of responsibility of an Environmental Health Officer. (10 marks)
- (f) Which local authorities are responsible for car parking and what powers do they have? (10 marks)

**(50 marks)**

**ends**



## PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS - PART I

16 MAY 2006

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS **NOW** BUT **DO NOT** OPEN  
THIS PAPER UNTIL TOLD BY THE INVIGILATOR

Total time allowed: 2 hours

Instructions to candidates:

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**MARKS MAY BE DEDUCTED IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS**

- (a) Put your name on the **TOP OF EACH SHEET** of paper you use, **NUMBER** the sheets and fill in the examination folder if one is issued.
- (b) Answers must be **HAND WRITTEN LEGIBLY**, on **ONE** side of the paper only.
- (c) Candidates should put every question number **CLEARLY** in the left hand margin. Marks may be lost if it is not clear to the examiner which question is being answered.
- (d) Start each question on a new page **IRRESPECTIVE** of the length of the answer.
- (e) Dictionaries or other reference books are **NOT** allowed.
- (f) **FOUR QUESTIONS IN TOTAL HAVE TO BE ANSWERED. BOTH** questions in Section A (question 1 and 2) must be answered and you **MUST** choose **TWO** questions from Section B (questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 ) The number of marks each question carries is indicated in brackets after the question.
- (g) All mobile phones and pagers **MUST BE SWITCHED OFF** before the start of the examination. **ANY CANDIDATE FOUND USING A MOBILE PHONE DURING AN EXAM WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS - PART I****SECTION A****Answer questions 1 and 2**

1. You have covered your local Council's cabinet/executive meeting where it was announced that if the draft estimates were approved, would be spending above its **Formula Spending Share (FSS)** (formerly Standard Spending Assessment (SSA)). The Director of Finance explained that the authority was permitted to spend above FSS but warned members that because of **gearing** a small overspend would lead to a large increase in **council tax**. He added that though this could be ameliorated by the use of **balances**, the council still faced the possibility of central government using its **reserve powers (capping)**, if it spends according to its plans.
- (a) Explain what is meant by **FSS** and **gearing, balances, council tax** and **reserve powers** (capping). (10 marks)
- (b) Describe how the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is allocated and its importance in local government finance. (10 marks)
- (c) List **TWO** people you would contact to follow up the story and outline **THREE** questions you would ask. (5 marks)
- (25 marks)

2. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given.

Leader of the Council

foster parents

Monitoring Officer

Chief Constable

Trading Standards Officer

conservation areas

key decision

Highways Agency

delegated powers

registered bus route

Comprehensive Performance Assessment

UNISON

Commissioner for Local administration

building permission

national non-domestic rate/uniform business rate

Code of Conduct

(25 marks)

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** questions from Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

3. A council cabinet has decided to close a local day care centre for old people and sell the site for development, claiming the building is out-dated and not well used.
- (a) Explain the steps the relevant scrutiny committee could take to prevent this decision from being implemented and identify who can sit on such committees. (10 marks)
  - (b) What other powers do scrutiny committees have? (5 marks)
  - (c) What criticisms could be made about the system of scrutiny? (5 marks)
  - (d) Outline the rights the press and the public have to attend scrutiny committee meetings. (5 marks)
- (25 marks)
4. The circulation area of your newspaper covers two **city councils**. As the county has a **hybrid** structure of local government, one city is part of the **two-tier structure** and the other is a **unitary** authority. This is very confusing to readers and you have been asked to prepare a short article explaining the different structures.
- (a) Explain the terms **two-tier**, **unitary**, **hybrid** and **city council** and indicate where the different structures may be found. List the services provided by a district council, county council, unitary authority. (20 marks)
  - (b) You have arranged to interview two councillors - one from each authority - about the advantages and disadvantages of each structure. List five questions (in total) that you would ask them. (5 marks)
- (25 marks)

5. You have been asked to help produce a glossary of educational terms to accompany an article explaining all the recent educational changes.

Define and explain the meaning and/or role of the following:

National Curriculum  
 academies  
 school governors  
 community schools  
 foundation schools (formerly grant maintained schools)  
 grammar (selective) schools  
 primary schools  
 colleges of further education  
 Office of Standards in Education (OFSTED)  
 higher education

(25 marks)

6. Your newspaper has received a letter from a reader concerned about the closure of an old people's home and proposals to care for the residents in the community. Your editor has asked you to follow up this story.

(a) What is meant by community care? Indicate which local authorities are responsible for community care and indicate the services local authorities may provide for the elderly. (20 marks)

(b) The executive member for social services who agrees to talk to you says his time is precious. So you prepare, in advance, five questions to put to him. Spell out these questions. (5 marks)

(25 marks)

7. As a municipal reporter on a local paper, your editor has asked you to investigate two planning stories. In the first case a local farmer has built a house for his daughter on his land without seeking planning permission. The second case involves a local planning authority decision to seek the compulsory purchase of three cottages belonging to elderly residents, to accommodate a road widening scheme outlined in the structure (unitary) plan.

(a) Explain the procedure for applying for planning permission. (10 marks)

(b) Outline the compulsory purchase order process. (10 marks)

(c) Suggest five different potential contacts to help you develop one of the stories and give reasons for your choices. (5 marks)

(25 marks)

8. Answer FIVE of the following: 5 marks each
- (a) Explain the legal requirements a person must fulfil in order to stand in a local election. What are the disqualifications?
  
  - (b) Explain the difference between the various allowances and expenses that councillors may claim.
  
  - (c) Outline the rights of the press and the public to attend meetings of a parish/community council. How and when may they be excluded?
  
  - (d) Identify and list the main sources of, and controls over, income for local authority capital spending and controls.
  
  - (e) Who are the main housing authorities? List their major responsibilities.
  
  - (f) List the main areas of responsibility of an Environmental Health Officer.

\* \* \* \* \*



*Preliminary Certificates in Journalism*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PART 2**

**2JJ5**

Date: 14 May 2008

Time allowed: 2 hours

**Instructions:**

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- Write each question number clearly in the left-hand margin and begin each answer on a separate sheet.
- Answer **four** questions.
- Section A, question 1 **MUST** be answered and you **MUST** choose **three** questions from Section B (questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

**Information:**

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- All questions are worth 50 marks each.
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**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION AQuestion 1 **MUST** be answered

1. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given. (5 marks each)

Welsh Assembly Government (Welsh Executive)	Postal vote
National Executive Committee of the Labour Party	White Paper
FT100 Share Index (FOOTSIE)	Statutory Instrument
Network Rail	Office of Fair Trading
NATO	The Speaker
European Court of Human Rights	Referendum
Commission for Equality and Human Rights	Minister of State
Proportional representation (PR)	Executive agency

**(50 marks)**

SECTION B

Answer **THREE** questions from numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

2. Outline the main provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In what ways is it useful to journalists and explain how you would use it to obtain information from a public body?

(50 marks)

3. A **Private Members Bill** on a sensitive moral issue has reached its **Second Reading**. **Party Whips** are to allow a free vote in the House of Commons and your local back bench MP has not yet decided how she will vote on the Bill.

To help prepare for an article in your paper:-

- (a) Explain the terms **Private Members Bill** and **Second Reading**. (10 marks)
- (b) Outline the role played by the **Party Whips**. (10 marks)
- (c) Outline and discuss the main roles of a back bench MP. (30 marks)

(50 marks)

4. You are helping the newspaper's healthcare correspondent prepare background material on a big health story which has recently broken in your area. A report released by the **Healthcare Commission** into an outbreak of a hospital-acquired infection (MRSA) at a local **NHS trust** has been severely critical of management at the trust after 16 patients died over a two year period. In response to severe criticism from the Shadow Health Minister who is a local MP, the **Department of Health** has reiterated its determination to tackle hospital-acquired infection and argued that it has issued best-practice guidelines to NHS trusts, has released additional funding to **Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)** to tackle the problem and has asked **Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs)** to make this a priority in overseeing PCTs.
- (a) Explain the role of the organisations in bold print in running the NHS. (40 marks)
- (b) You have arranged an interview with the chief executive of the local NHS trust which has been severely criticised in the Healthcare Commission report. Outline five questions you would put to the chief executive. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

5. With the Euro debate, your editor is concerned that readers do not understand the role and functions of the European Union.

She has asked you to help prepare an article explaining the role of the four main institutions and providing background information.

- (a) Explain the role and composition of the European Commission, Council of Ministers, European Parliament and European Court of Justice. (30 marks)
- (b) Outline what is meant by the Euro and federalism in relation to the European Union. (10 marks)
- (c) Suggest FIVE contacts you might interview and the type of questions you might ask to follow up this story. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

6. An outspoken local MP has voiced the opinion that the Monarchy has no place in a modern democratic society. Your editor has asked you to research the role played by the Monarchy for a piece in next week's paper.
- (a) Describe the role played by the Monarchy and explain how it is funded. (40 marks)
- (b) Identify five contacts you would need to talk to help you with this feature and indicate the relevance of each. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

7. There is press speculation over what the Chancellor of the Exchequer intends to do in the forthcoming Budget to plug a £30bn hole in revenue predicted in the previous Budget, due to lower than expected growth and a consequent fall in tax revenue.

The options are: to increase taxation; to increase borrowing; or to announce spending cuts.

You are preparing a feature article to inform your readers of the nature of the problem and its possible solution.

- (a) Explain the purpose of the Budget and how it is presented in Parliament. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain direct taxes; indirect taxes; Public Sector Net Cash Requirement (PSNCR); GDP, recession, balance of payments (5 marks each)  
(30 marks)
- (c) You have arranged to interview your local MP – an opposition treasury spokesperson, who has ruled out tax rises if in government. Suggest five questions to ask to indicate the opposition's alternative policies. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

8. Answer FIVE of the following: 10 marks each

- (a) Explain what is meant by the sovereignty of Parliament and rule of law. (10 marks)
  
- (b) List the main powers of the Prime Minister. (10 marks)
  
- (c) List and explain the groups of people who have the right to sit in the House of Lords, after the changes brought about by the Labour Government. (10 marks)
  
- (d) Explain briefly how candidates are approved and selected for a major political party. (10 marks)
  
- (e) Outline the role of the Prison Service. (10 marks)
  
- (f) Explain the difference between contributory and non-contributory benefits. (10 marks)

**(50 marks)**

**ends**

*Preliminary Certificates in Journalism*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PART 2**

Date: 14 November 2007

Time allowed: 2 hours

**Instructions:**

- Put your name on the top of each sheet of paper used and number the sheets as necessary.
- Do **NOT** include the training centre at which you are sitting the examination.
- Dictionaries and other reference books are **NOT** allowed.
- Write each question number clearly in the left-hand margin and begin each answer on a separate sheet.
- Number each page.
- Answer **four** questions.
- Section A, question 1 **MUST** be answered and you **MUST** choose **three** questions from Section B (questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

**Information:**

- The maximum score for this paper is 200 marks. The pass mark is 50 per cent.
- All questions are worth 50 marks each.
- The *Examining Body* for this paper is the NCTJ.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION AQuestion 1 **MUST** be answered

1. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given. (5 marks each)
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Parliamentary Sovereignty                           | Monetary policy committee                |
| Scottish Parliament                                 | Office of Communications (OFCOM)         |
| Permanent Secretary                                 | Network Rail                             |
| Speaker   | Prison Service                           |
| Electoral Commission                                | Inflation                                |
| Jobcentre Plus                                      | Commission for Human Rights and Equality |
| ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation & Arbitration Service) | European Court of Human Rights           |
| Standing Committee                                  | G8                                       |
- (50 marks)

SECTION B

Answer **THREE** questions from Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

2. An outspoken local MP has voiced the opinion that the monarchy has no place in a modern democratic society. Your editor has asked you to research the role played by the monarchy for a piece in next week's paper.
- (a) Describe the role played by the monarchy and explain how it is funded. (40 marks)
- (b) Identify five contacts you would need to talk to help you with this feature and indicate the relevance of each. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
3. You receive information that the Prime Minister has reshuffled the **government** and as a result your local MP, who up until now was a **backbencher** and outspoken member of a **select committee** who had been critical of government policy, has become a **junior minister**.
- (a) Explain what is meant by the terms **government, backbencher, select committee** and **junior minister**. (20 marks)
- (b) How and why will the MP's freedom to criticise government policy be affected by the appointment and what conventions will now affect him/her? (10 marks)
- (c) Explain who appoints government ministers. (10 marks)
- (d) List five people you would contact to follow up this story and give reasons for your choices. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

4. Your local MP has announced his retirement at the next election. He has represented the local constituency for 40 years although the seat has become highly marginal in recent years. There's a great deal of local interest in the candidates who will be selected to contest the seat at the next election. You persuade your editor to allow you to write an article explaining to your readers how different political parties will choose their candidates. You do not need to write the article but to prepare the background material.
- (a) Explain how any two major political parties select their candidates for general elections. (40 marks)
- (b) Who would you interview from the two political parties to ask how the constituency party will ensure women and ethnic minorities are represented on the shortlist? Give reasons for your choices. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
5. You have been asked to prepare a piece explaining the administrative structure of the NHS to your readers.
- (a) Explain the following terms and describe their role in the NHS structure: (8 marks each)
- Department of Health  
Strategic Health Authorities  
Primary Care Trusts  
NHS Trusts  
Foundation Hospitals
- (40 marks)
- (b) Indicate, with reasons, five contacts that you would use to get quotes to explain the administrative structure of the NHS. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

6. You are covering a story on a local company about which there are rumours concerning a hostile take-over bid. On a day when the FT 100 Share Index fell 25 points the value of the company's ordinary shares increased significantly. There have been reports that any take-over might be referred to the Competition Commission by the Director General of Fair Trading.
- (a) Explain what is meant by the terms: (8 marks each)
- FT 100 Share Index and why it is important  
 Ordinary Shares  
 Stock Exchange  
 Competition Commission  
 Director General of Fair Trading (40 marks)
- (b) Which Government Department would you telephone about a possible referral and list two local contacts you would approach to gauge local views and concerns about the take-over and give reasons for your choices. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
7. The local MP is a prominent "Euro-sceptic" who has been vociferous in arguing that the introduction of a Single Currency will have serious implications for the UK's sovereignty and could lead to a **federalist** Europe. He is critical of the role of the **Commission** and has expressed concern over the proposed extension of **qualified majority voting** in the **Council of Ministers**. He also remains unconvinced that the **European Parliament** will be able to play an effective role in checking the Commission.
- The MP is unhappy about the UK's signing of the **Social Chapter**, believing it is inconsistent with the principle of **subsidiarity**. He is also concerned that some decisions of the **European Court of Justice** have further undermined the sovereignty of the UK Parliament.
- (a) Explain the terms in bold type. (40 marks)
- (b) Identify five contacts to help you follow up this story and give reasons for your choices. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

8. Answer FIVE of the following: 10 marks each

- (a) List the main powers of the Prime Minister. (10 marks)
  
- (b) List and explain the groups of people who have the right to sit in the House of Lords, after the changes brought about by the Labour Government. (10 marks)
  
- (c) Outline what is meant by proportional representation and give an example of a PR system. (10 marks)
  
- (d) Explain the difference between contributory and non-contributory benefits. (10 marks)
  
- (e) Explain the difference between direct and indirect taxation with reference to examples. (10 marks)
  
- (f) Explain what is meant by parole and who grants it. (10 marks)

**(50 marks)**

**ends**

*Preliminary Certificates in Journalism*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PART 2**

**SG3**

Date: 16 May 2007

Time allowed: 2 hours

**Instructions:**

- Put your name on the top of each sheet of paper used and number the sheets as necessary.
- Do **NOT** include the training centre at which you are sitting the examination.
- Dictionaries and other reference books are **NOT** allowed.
- Write each question number clearly in the left-hand margin and begin each answer on a separate sheet.
- Each page **MUST** be marked either 'mf' or 'ends'.
- Answer **four** questions.
- Section A, question 1 **MUST** be answered and you **MUST** choose **three** questions from Section B (questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

**Information:**

- The maximum score for this paper is 200 marks. The pass mark is 50 per cent.
- All questions are worth 50 marks each.
- The *Examining Body* for this paper is the NCTJ.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION AQuestion 1 **MUST** be answered

1. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given. (5 marks each)

NATO	Conservative Central Office
individual ministerial responsibility	Income Support
Office of Water Regulation (OFWAT)	Cabinet committees
Equal Opportunities Commission	Prison Service
proportional representation (PR)	Permanent Secretary
The Environment Agency	CBI
elected hereditary peerages	White Paper
National Insurance	tactical voting

**(50 marks)**

SECTION B

Answer **THREE** questions from Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

2. In the light of the fact that prescription charges are lower in Wales than in England; that financial assistance is given to the elderly for both personal and nursing care in Scotland but not in England, you have been asked to prepare an article on devolution of powers to Scotland and Wales and the possible introduction of regional government to England.
- (a) Explain what is meant by devolution and outline the arrangements in Scotland and Wales. (40 marks)
- (b) You have arranged to interview an English Labour MP who supports the devolution arrangements. List FIVE questions you would put to him to respond to the criticisms raised by the opponents to devolution. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**
3. You have been asked to provide background information for a short feature explaining the role, powers and funding of the monarchy.
- (a) Outline the powers of the monarchy. (30 marks)
- (b) Indicate how the monarchy is funded. (8 marks)
- (c) List three local contacts you would approach for quotes to give this a local angle and give reasons for your choices. (12 marks)
- (50 marks)**
4. Explain the administration and financing of the NHS, indicating the responsibilities of the different authorities.
- (50 marks)**

5. You have been asked to help write a short feature on the Budget and to compile a glossary of economic terms.

For the purpose of this exercise you are not required to write the article but to prepare the material.

- (a) Describe the purpose of the Budget and outline what the Chancellor will usually cover in his speech. (12 marks)
- (b) Explain the following economic terms: (4 marks each)
- inflation
  - recession
  - public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR)
  - retail price index (RPI)
  - balance of trade
  - indirect taxes
  - progressive taxes
  - F.T. All Share Index. (32 marks)
- (c) List THREE local sources you would contact for a comment on the Budget and give reasons for your choices. (6 marks)

**(50 marks)**

6. The European Union remains a major issue in UK Politics.

You have been asked to prepare a feature article on the key issues facing the European Union and the United Kingdom's membership.

- (a) Describe the role, powers and composition of the Commission, Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. (30 marks)
- (b) Outline FIVE issues currently facing the European Union and the UK's membership. (10 marks)
- (c) You have arranged to interview your local MP who opposes the United Kingdom's continued membership of the European Union. List FIVE questions you would ask him which will require him to justify his position. (10 marks)

**(50 marks)**

7. You receive information that the Prime Minister has reshuffled the **Government** and as a result your local MP, who up until now was a **backbencher** and had been critical of government policy, has become a **junior minister**.
- (a) Explain what is meant by the terms **Government, backbencher** and **junior minister**. (12 marks)
- (b) How and why will the MP's freedom to criticise government policy be affected by the appointment and what conventions will now affect him/her? (20 marks)
- (c) Explain who appoints government ministers. (10 marks)
- (d) List four people you would contact to follow up this story and give reasons for your choices. (8 marks)
- (50 marks)**

8. Answer FIVE of the following: 10 marks each

- (a) Explain what is meant by the sovereignty of Parliament. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain the roles of the Speaker and the Leader of the House of Commons. (10 marks)
- (c) Explain how any one of the major party leaders is chosen. (10 marks)
- (d) Outline the structure and objectives of the United Nations including some of its key agencies and programmes. (10 marks)
- (e) Explain the role, remit and powers of the Press Complaints Commission. (10 marks)
- (f) Explain what is meant by parole and who grants it. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

**ends**

*Preliminary Certificates in Journalism*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PART 2**

Date: **15 November 2006**

Time allowed: 2 hours

**Instructions:**

- Put your name on the top of each sheet of paper used and number the sheets as necessary.
- Do **NOT** include the training centre at which you are sitting the examination.
- Dictionaries and other reference books are **NOT** allowed.
- Write each question number clearly in the left-hand margin and begin each answer on a separate sheet.
- Each page **MUST** be marked either 'mf' or 'ends'.
- Answer **four** questions.
- Section A, question 1 **MUST be** answered and you **MUST** choose three questions from Section B (questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

**Information:**

- The maximum score for this paper is 200 marks. The pass mark is 50 per cent.
- All questions are worth 50 marks each. Candidates are advised to allocate their time proportionately.
- The *Examining Body* for this paper is the NCTJ.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION AQuestion 1 **MUST** be answered

1. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given.

ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation & Arbitration Service)

Civil List executive agency

Whips NATO

Consumer Council for Water National Lottery

National Assembly for Wales the Speaker

National Insurance Lord Chancellor

Cabinet committees individual ministerial responsibility

Permanent Secretary The Environment Agency

Royal Prerogative

**(50 marks)**

SECTION B

Answer **THREE** questions from Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

2. You have been asked to help write a short feature outlining the British constitution and the case for possible constitutional reform.

For the purpose of this exercise you are not required to write the article but to prepare the material.

- (a) Outline what is meant by:  
 an unwritten constitution  
 sovereignty of parliament  
 separation of powers  
 rule of law  
 political sovereignty (40 marks)
- (b) Outline two disadvantages and two advantages of **both** an unwritten **and** a written constitution. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

3. You have been asked in the run-up to a General Election to provide background for a short feature explaining the British electoral system and outlining the case for and against an alternative voting system.

- (a) Outline the first-past-the-post electoral system. (10 marks)
- (b) Outline what is meant by electoral reform (PR) and give an example of an alternative to first-past-the-post. (6 marks)
- (c) Give an example of a voting system other than first-past-the-post currently used in the UK. (4 marks)
- (d) Indicate the advantages and disadvantages of BOTH first-past-the-post and alternative systems. (20 marks)
- (e) List three local contacts you would approach for quotes to give this a local angle and give reasons for your choices. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

4. Describe the roles of the Department of Health, Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts in administering the National Health Service. What are National Health Service Trusts? **(50 marks)**
5. You are covering a story on a local company about which there are rumours concerning a hostile take-over bid. On a day when the FT 100 Share Index fell 25 points the value of the company's ordinary shares increased significantly. There have been reports that any take-over might be referred to the Competition Commission by the Director General of Fair Trading.
- (a) Explain what is meant by the terms: **(40 marks)**  
 FT 100 Share Index and why it is important  
 Ordinary Shares  
 Stock Exchange  
 Competition Commission  
 Director General of Fair Trading
- (b) Which Government Department would you telephone about a possible referral and list two local contacts you would approach to gauge local views and concerns about the take-over and give reasons for your choices. **(10 marks)**
- (50 marks)**
6. You are helping on a Budget special and have been asked to prepare a brief for the editor explaining key terms for the readers and then to obtain quotes from local contacts to get reactions to the Budget.
- (a) Explain, with examples, what is meant by: **(40 marks)**  
 Direct taxes  
 Inflation  
 Recession  
 Gross Domestic Product  
 Balance of Payments
- (b) List three local contacts you would approach to obtain reactions to the Budget and give reasons for your choices. **(10 marks)**
- (50 marks)**

7. Outline the role and membership of the major institutions of the European Community (the commission, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament and the European Court) and indicate which you feel to be the most powerful. **(50 marks)**
8. Answer FIVE of the following: 10 marks each
- (a) Explain what is meant by parole and who grants it. (10 marks)
  - (b) Outline the appeals procedure for claimants refused benefits by the Benefits Agency. (10 marks)
  - (c) Explain the role, remit and powers of the Press Complaints Commission. (10 marks)
  - (d) Explain what is meant by a Private Member's Bill and the methods by which it may be introduced. (10 marks)
  - (e) List and explain the groups of people who have the right to sit in the House of Lords, after the changes brought about by the Labour Government. (10 marks)
  - (f) Explain briefly how candidates are approved and selected for a major political party. (10 marks)
- (50 marks)**

**ends**

## PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS - PART II

**16 MAY 2006**

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS **NOW** BUT **DO NOT** OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL INSTRUCTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

Total time allowed: 2 hours

Instructions to candidates:

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**MARKS MAY DEDUCTED IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS**

- (a) Put your name on the **TOP OF EACH SHEET** of paper you use, **NUMBER** the sheets and fill in the examination folder if one is issued.
- (b) Answers must be **HAND WRITTEN LEGIBLY**, on **ONE** side of the paper only.
- (c) Candidates should put every question number **CLEARLY** in the left hand margin. Marks may be lost if it is not clear to the examiner which question is being answered.
- (d) Start each question on a new page **IRRESPECTIVE** of the length of the answer.
- (e) Dictionaries or other reference books are **NOT** allowed.
- (f) **FOUR QUESTIONS IN TOTAL HAVE TO BE ANSWERED.** Question 1 is compulsory. You must choose **THREE** questions from Section B. The number of marks each question carries is indicated in brackets after the question.
- (g) All mobile phones and pagers **MUST BE SWITCHED OFF** before the start of the examination. **ANY CANDIDATE FOUND USING A MOBILE PHONE DURING AN EXAM WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS - PART II**SECTION AQuestion 1 **MUST** be answered

1. State briefly what you understand by any ten of the following terms. Your answer should include a definition of the term and additional relevant information to put the term into context, or examples may be given.

devolution

monetary policy committee

postal vote

Office of Communications (OFCOM)

Spin Doctors

Equal Opportunities Commission

executive agency

Lord Chancellor

National Lottery

NATO

The Environment Agency

Lords Spiritual

UN Security Council

consumer prices index (CPI)

Social Security and Child Support Commissioners

National Executive Committee of the Labour Party

SECTION B

Answer **THREE** questions from Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

2. An outspoken local MP has voiced the opinion that the monarchy has no place in a modern democratic society. Your editor has asked you to research the role played by the monarchy for a piece in next week's paper.
- (a) Describe the role played by the monarchy and explain how it is funded. (20 marks)
- (b) Identify five contacts you would need to talk to help you with this feature and indicate the relevance of each. (5 marks)
- (25 marks)
3. You have been asked to prepare a piece explaining the new administrative structure of the NHS to your readers.
- (a) Explain the following terms and describe their role in the NHS structure:
- Department of Health  
Strategic Health Authorities  
Primary Care Trusts  
NHS Trusts  
Foundation Hospitals (20 marks)
- (b) Indicate, with reasons, five contacts that you would use to get quotes on the changes. (5 marks)
- (25 marks)

4. Following criticisms in the media that the House of Commons is an ineffective check on the powers of the executive (the Government), you have been asked by your editor to provide background information for a piece on the role of backbenchers and to interview your local MP who is a backbencher.
- (a) Describe the role and powers of backbenchers and indicate why they may be seen to be ineffective in holding the government to account. (20 marks)
  - (b) List FIVE questions that you would put to your interviewee to get him/her to comment on the accusation that backbench MPs are ineffective. (5 marks)
- (25 marks)
5. Outline the work of the Home Office. (25 marks)
6. Elections to the European Parliament in the UK are now conducted by the list system. You have been asked to help write a short feature on electoral reform.
- For the purpose of this exercise you are not required to write the article but to prepare the material.
- (a) Describe in outline the electoral system used to elect members of the House of Commons. (4 marks)
  - (b) Explain what is meant by the list system. (6 marks)
  - (c) Identify the main advantages and disadvantages of both the first-past-the-post system and the list system. (10 marks)
  - (d) List five local contacts you would approach for quotes and give reasons for your choices. (5 marks)
- (25 marks)

7. The European Union remains a major issue in UK Politics.

You have been asked to prepare a feature article on the key issues facing the European Union and the United Kingdom's membership.

- (a) Describe the role, powers and composition of the Commission, Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. (15 marks)
  - (b) Outline FIVE issues currently facing the European Union and the UK's membership. (5 marks)
  - (c) You have arranged to interview your local MP who opposes the United Kingdom's continued membership of the European Union. List FIVE questions you would ask him which will require him to justify his position. (5 marks)
- (25 marks)

8. Answer FIVE of the following:

- (a) Explain what is meant by the sovereignty of Parliament.
- (b) Outline the role of the Budget in a Government's economic strategy.
- (c) Describe briefly the work of Cabinet committees.
- (d) Explain the role, remit and powers of the Press Complaints Commission.
- (e) Explain how any two of the major party leaders are chosen.
- (f) Explain the difference between contributory and non-contributory benefits.

\* \* \* \* \*