2.10 The Structures and Powers of the Devolved Governments of the UK: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief. For levels-marked and source-based questions, write a developed response using accurate institutional knowledge, examples and clear reasoning. The final essay requires a well-structured evaluation with a conclusion.

1 State one Act that established the Northern Ireland Assembly and give its year, in the context of UK devolution.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State two powers that are normally reserved to the UK Parliament rather than devolved governments, naming the context of devolved powers.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Explain briefly what the reserved-powers model means for the Scottish Parliament under the Scotland Acts.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Explain two ways in which the devolution settlements of Scotland and Wales differ under the reserved-powers model as of the Wales Act 2017 and Scotland Act 2016. Include a brief supporting example for one of the differences.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.10 The Structures and Powers of the Devolved Governments of the UK: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

naming Northern Ireland Act 1998 with the correct year **B1**

Answer: The Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Question 2

one correct reserved power, e.g. foreign policy or defence **B1**

a second correct reserved power, e.g. immigration or macroeconomic monetary policy **B1**

Answer: Any two of: foreign policy; national defence; immigration; macroeconomic policy including monetary policy set by the Bank of England; constitutional matters affecting the whole UK.

Question 3

identifies that under the reserved-powers model, the Scottish Parliament can legislate on all matters that are not explicitly reserved to Westminster **B1**

gives a correct example of a devolved area, e.g. education or health **B1**

notes that reserved matters are listed and remain the competence of the UK Parliament **B1**

Answer: Under the reserved-powers model the Scottish Parliament can legislate on all matters that are not explicitly reserved to the UK Parliament; devolved areas include education and health, while reserved matters are listed in statute and remain Westminster competence.

Question 4

identifies one valid difference, e.g. Scotland has wider income-tax powers than Wales, oe **B1**

explains that difference, e.g. Scotland can set rates and bands for non-savings, non-dividend income tax, while Wales can vary rates but not the UK-set bands, oe **B1**

identifies a second valid difference, e.g. justice and policing are devolved in Scotland but reserved in Wales, oe **B1**

explains that difference, e.g. Scotland can legislate and make policy in those areas through its separate legal system, while Wales remains within the England-and-Wales jurisdiction, oe **B1**

adds a relevant supporting example for either difference, e.g. Scotland can create a different income-tax band structure, while Wales cannot alter the bands; accept other accurate illustrations of the chosen contrasts **B1**

Answer: Scotland has wider income-tax powers: it can set rates and bands for non-savings, non-dividend income, while Wales can vary rates but not the UK-set bands. For example, Scotland can create a different band structure. Justice and policing are devolved in Scotland, enabling policy and legislation within its separate legal system, while these areas remain reserved for Wales within the England-and-Wales jurisdiction. Other accurate, explained differences with a supporting example are accepted.

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