2.5 Parliament's Legislative Process and Scrutiny of the Executive: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief but must be accurate. For levels-marked and source-based questions write a developed, well-structured response using accurate terminology and named examples where appropriate. Show any planning clearly.

1 Define the term 'First Reading' in the UK House of Commons legislative process for a public Bill.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State the statutory effect of the Parliament Act 1911 on the House of Lords ability to block a public Bill in ordinary circumstances.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 State two types of committee that may consider a public Bill in the House of Commons and state their principal difference in membership or purpose.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Explain the purpose of Report Stage in either House when a public Bill is being considered.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Explain the process known as 'ping pong' between the Houses when a Bill is amended by the House of Lords and returned to the House of Commons, mentioning the role of possible government decisions during this process.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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6 Explain two ways in which the House of Lords acts as a revising chamber during the passage of legislation, giving brief development of each way.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.5 Parliament's Legislative Process and Scrutiny of the Executive: Test Pack

Question 1

A concise definition that the First Reading is the formal introduction of a Bill to the House, its title is read and copies made available, with no substantive debate **B1**

Answer: The First Reading is the formal introduction of a Bill to the House, at which its title is read out and the Bill is published or made available to members, with no substantive debate on its content.

Question 2

States that the Lords lost the power to veto (block permanently) most public Bills and could only delay them, oe (the Money Bills point and the 1949 change need not be stated) **B1**

Answer: The Lords lost the power to veto most public Bills and could only delay them (up to two years under the 1911 Act, reduced to one year in 1949); it also removed their power to block Money Bills.

Question 3

One correct committee type, for example Public Bill Committee **B1**

A second correct committee type, for example Committee of the Whole House, with a correct contrast that a Public Bill Committee is a selected small group while a Committee of the Whole House involves all MPs **B1**

Answer: Public Bill Committee; Committee of the Whole House. The Public Bill Committee is a selected smaller group of MPs for detailed line by line scrutiny, while the Committee of the Whole House involves all MPs sitting as the committee to consider the Bill.

Question 4

Identifies that Report Stage allows the whole House to consider and vote on amendments made in committee **B1**

Explains consequence, for example it gives all members an opportunity to review, debate and propose further amendments before Third Reading **B1**

Answer: Report Stage allows the whole House to consider and vote on amendments made in committee and to propose further amendments, giving all members an opportunity to review and debate changes before the Third Reading.

Question 5

Identifies that ping pong is the exchange of a Bill between the Commons and Lords as each House considers and responds to amendments **B1**

Explains that the Commons may accept, reject or propose alternative amendments and return the Bill to the Lords **B1**

Identifies that this exchange can repeat until both Houses agree or the government intervenes, for example by asking the Commons to insist or by using the Parliament Acts **B1**

Explains consequence, for example persistent disagreement may lead the government to use the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords or to negotiate concessions **B1**

Answer: Ping pong is the back and forth exchange of a Bill between the Commons and the Lords as each House considers, accepts or amends the Bill. The Commons may accept Lords amendments, reject them, or propose alternatives and send the Bill back to the Lords. This exchange can repeat until agreement is reached, or the government may intervene by negotiating, asking the Commons to insist on its position, or ultimately relying on the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords where statutory conditions are met.

Question 6

Identifies a first way, for example proposing detailed amendments to improve clarity or correct drafting **B1**

Develops the first way, for example Lords members with expertise can suggest technical changes that the Commons may accept **B1**

Identifies a second way, for example detailed scrutiny by Lords select committees feeding evidence into amendment proposals **B1**

Develops the second way, for example committee reports can highlight unintended consequences and prompt government amendment or reconsideration **B1**

Answer: One way is by proposing detailed amendments to improve clarity or correct drafting, often drawing on the legal and policy expertise of Lords members; such amendments can lead to clearer, more effective statutes. A second way is through detailed scrutiny by Lords select committees, whose inquiries and reports can expose unintended consequences or gaps in a Bill and lead to amendment or further government reconsideration.

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