

INGLÉS

Examen tipo

TO THE STUDENT

1. Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully.
2. Answer all questions in English.
3. Time: 1.30 hours

The British Constitution. There is no written constitution. A thousand years ago, before the Norman Conquest in 1066, the Anglo-Saxon kings consulted the Great Council (an assembly of the leading men from each district) before taking major decisions. Between 1066 and 1215 the king ruled alone, but in 1215 King John signed the Carta Magna (the Great Charter), which gave some of the powers to the nobles. In later centuries this was seen as the first occasion on which the king was forced to take advice. In 1264 the first parliament of nobles met together. Since then the British Constitution has evolved, in other words, it has grown up slowly, as a result of countless Acts of Parliament. There have been no violent changes in the constitution since the **bloodless revolution** of 1688. The Parliament invited William and Mary to become Britain's first constitutional monarchs. A constitutional monarch is one who can rule only with the support of Parliament. The Bill of Rights (1689) was the first legal step towards constitutional monarchy. This Bill prevented the monarch from making laws or raising an army without Parliament's approval. Since 1689 the power of Parliament has grown steadily, and the power of the monarch has declined to nothing. The Great Reform Bill of 1832 and the Second Reform Bill of 1867 enabled a very large section of the population to vote for its government. Today every citizen aged eighteen or over has the right to vote.

The party that wins the most seats in a general election forms the government, and the leader of this party becomes Prime Minister, the head of the government. The prime minister usually takes policy decisions with the agreement of his Cabinet (a committee of leading Ministers)

QUESTION 1 (1 MARK)

Write a summary of the story in English

QUESTION 2 (1 MARK)

Explain in English the meaning of the following phrases from the text:

- a) "**bloodless revolution**"
- b) "**The party that wins the most seats**"

QUESTIONS 3 (3 MARKS)

Answer the following questions in English, IN YOUR OWN WORDS as far as possible:

- a) How has the British Constitution developed?
- b) Which is the role of the Prime Minister?

QUESTION 4 (2 MARKS)

Here are the answers to questions about the text. What are the corresponding questions?

- a) In 1066.
- b) William and Mary.

QUESTION 5 (3 MARKS)

5. Do you think that the Spanish Constitution should be modified in the next decade?. Do it in not more than 100 words (minimum 80). Use your own words in English.