**Comparative Politics – 12 Marks (AO1 – 6, AO2 – 6)**

**Constitutional**

*Similarities and differences between:*

* The nature of the Constitutions
* The sources of the Constitutions
* Principles of the Constitutions
* Federalism and devolution

**Legislatures**

*Similarities and differences between:*

* Powers of each house
* Strengths of each House
* Weakness of each House
* The extent to which ‘each of the Houses is equal’
* Impact on the executive/government

**Executives**

*Similarities and differences between:*

* Roles of the executives
* Powers of the executives
* Impact of the executive on politics and government (including legislation)
* Accountability to the legislatures

**Supreme Court and Civil Rights**

*Similarities and differences between:*

* Basis for their power
* Extent of their power
* Effectiveness of rights protection in each country
* Effectiveness of interest groups in protection of rights
* Impact on government and politics of each country

**Democracy and Participation**

*Similarities and differences between:*

* The party system in each country
* Degree of internal party unity for the main parties
* Policy profiles of the main parties in each country
* Campaign finance and party funding (including debates for reform)
* Power of pressure groups
* Methods of pressure groups
* Influence of pressure groups

**Gaining AO2**

For any AO1 point you identify, answer:

* Why did this similarity/difference occur? (i.e. the wider political context)
* What is the impact of this similarity/difference on politics and/or government?
* For Q2, which theory **best** explains the difference – rational, cultural, structural – and why?

*N.B. There is* ***NO*** *AO3 marks available. Any comments about strength/weak of a point will be ignored!*