

General Certificate of Education
January 2003
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 2 Parties and Pressure Groups

GOV2

Friday 10 January 2003 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen. Pencil should only be used for drawing.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV2.
- Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.
In Section A answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
In Section B answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Advice

- You are advised to spend approximately 10 minutes reading the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each question.

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Section A

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

- 1 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

The Labour Party

Liz Davies was once a left-wing member of the Labour Party, but resigned arguing that the National Executive Committee (NEC) and *party conference* are totally dominated by the leadership. She feels that individuals on the NEC accept whatever the leadership demand and that grassroots members have no influence in the party whatsoever. She argues that conferences are stage-managed to the point where delegates' speeches are frequently written by party staff. She believes that no real debate now takes place within the wider Labour Party because of centralised control.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term *party conference*. (8 marks)
- (b) "Old Labour was concerned with implementing socialism; New Labour is concerned with winning power." Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

- 2 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Changing Party Ideologies

Conservatism has triumphed since 1997. Although the Conservative Party has been defeated soundly in two general elections, modern Conservative ideology has dominated *New Labour* thinking and been put into practice by Blair governments. Labour's policies have embraced the free market and drawn the private sector deep into government as a partner with the public sector. Low inflation, not low unemployment, is Labour's top economic priority. New Labour's social policies are shaped by individualism and equality of opportunity, both of which are modern Conservative principles.

- (a) Explain what is meant by *New Labour*. (8 marks)
- (b) To what extent, if any, has the Conservative Party's ideology changed since Mrs Thatcher's resignation in 1990? (22 marks)

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

Turn over ►

Section B

Answer **one** question from this Section.

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

- 3 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Pressure Group Democracy

How democratic are pressure groups? In much the same way as political parties will include individuals with different opinions, so pressure groups contain members with different interests and views. For example, the BMA contains both wealthy Harley Street specialists and ordinary doctors. The RSPCA contains both pro- and anti-blood sports members. The NFU contains big farmers and small farmers, arable farmers and livestock farmers.

Members naturally have different interests, views and priorities and want their pressure group to pursue different policies. *Internal pressure group democracy* inevitably means, therefore, that the views of some members will not be represented.

- (a) Explain what is meant by *internal pressure group democracy*. (8 marks)
- (b) “Pressure groups help the powerful in society but not the weak.” Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

- 4 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Protest and New Social Movements

The trade union movement is an example of an ‘old’ social movement. Examples of new social movements include the environmental movement and anti-globalisation protesters. New social movements are much more loosely structured and organised than traditional pressure groups, although a new social movement might include a *traditional pressure group*. The aim of a new social movement is to place an issue on the political agenda rather than, as with pressure groups, to influence government policy. Often the central concern of a new social movement will shape the day-to-day lives of people in them, with their private lives conforming to green or anti-capitalist principles. This is in contrast to the formal membership of pressure groups which may involve little more than attending occasional meetings or paying an annual subscription.

- (a) Explain what is meant by a *traditional pressure group*. (8 marks)
- (b) Assess the success of protest movements as a force shaping British politics. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS