

General Certificate of Education  
January 2004  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**Unit 2 Parties and Pressure Groups**

**GOV2**

Friday 9 January 2004 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 read through 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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Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.

**SECTION A**

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

Each question carries 30 marks.

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**EITHER**

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

**Participation and Political Parties**

As individuals, citizens often find that it is difficult to participate in the political process. However, political parties do provide opportunities for participation at a variety of levels. This can range from the very low, such as licking envelopes, delivering leaflets and *canvassing*, rising to a higher degree of political activity, such as attending party conferences. At the highest level it can involve standing for election at any tier of government.

*Source:* adapted from P. COCKER & A. JONES, *Contemporary British Politics and Government* (Liverpool Academic Press) 2002  
By kind permission of Liverpool Academic Press

- (a) Explain the term *canvassing* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Assess the opportunities for effective political participation that parties provide for their members. (22 marks)

**OR**

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

**Levels of Party Activity**

The European issue has given rise to new *minority parties* in Britain such as the single-issue Referendum Party and the UK Independence Party.

The need to become part of the groupings in the European Parliament has had an impact on the major parties. Labour found it easy for its MEPs to become members of the European Socialist Party. The Conservatives found it harder to find like-minded political partners. For a time, Conservative MEPs linked in with the European Democratic Group, but then joined the centre-right European People's Party.

- (a) Explain the term *minority parties* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) "It is difficult for any one party to represent electorates at local, national and European levels." Discuss. (22 marks)

**TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT QUESTION**

**Turn over ►**

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**SECTION B**

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Each question carries 30 marks.

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**EITHER**

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

**The Effectiveness of Pressure Groups**

The study of *pressure group politics* is concerned not only with how groups operate, but also with what they are able to achieve. Some groups bring about changes in government policies, while others struggle to be heard. The issue of who gains and who loses should be the focus of any political analysis.

- (a) Explain the term *pressure group politics* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss, with examples, how the effectiveness of pressure groups might be measured. (22 marks)

**OR**

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

**Pressure Group Representation**

In *lobbying government*, disabled people are represented by numerous charities and agencies. A crucial issue for disabled people is how far a voluntary body staffed by people who are not disabled can represent the interests of people who are disabled. Some charities are almost as concerned with helping the families of disabled people as with helping disabled people themselves. What serves the best interests of relatives might not be in the best interests of the disabled themselves.

Source: adapted from R. DRAKE, "Disabled people, voluntary organisations and participation in policy making"  
*Policy and Politics* (Policy Press) Vol. 30, No. 3, 2002

- (a) Explain the term *lobbying government* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) "Pressure groups play a vital role within a democracy." Discuss. (22 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**