

General Certificate of Education
June 2004
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 1 Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour

GOV1

Wednesday 9 June 2004 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-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 GOV1.
- 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.

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.

EITHER

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

"2001 general election results", figures and text adapted from J CURTICE, "The Electoral System: Biased to Blair?" in *Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol. 54, No. 4 (Oxford University Press) 2001, pp 803-814 - not reproduced here due to copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *parliamentary majority* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) "All electoral systems are biased." Discuss with reference to electoral systems that you have studied. (22 marks)

OR

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

The First Elections to the Scottish Parliament in 1999					
Party	Constituency vote		“PR Top-up” vote		Total no. of seats
	No. of seats	% vote	No. of seats	% vote	
Labour	53	39	3	33	56
SNP	7	29	28	28	35
Conservative	0	16	18	16	18
Liberal Democrat	12	14	5	12	17
Others	1	3	2	11	3
Turnout 58.7%					
<p>With 56 seats, Labour was the largest single party but was 9 seats short of having an overall majority. The Conservatives failed to win a single seat in the constituency (first-past-the-post) elections but won 18 MSP seats from the “PR Top-up” votes. The SNP became the official opposition. Labour decided that it could not govern as a majority administration and relied on the support of the 17 Liberal Democrat MSPs.</p>					

- (a) Explain the term “PR Top-up” votes used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “Different electoral systems result in different ways of governing.” Discuss. (22 marks)

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

Turn over ►

SECTION B

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

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

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

Political Involvement of the Individual

The findings of a recent survey divided the population into three main types of participant: (i) a small number of *activists*; (ii) the majority whose participation is limited to voting; and (iii) the almost inactive, who scarcely participate at all. Findings also revealed that the activists are not typical of the electorate at large, but are overwhelmingly well educated and middle class. Individuals in professional or managerial occupations are more likely to be politically active than are members of other social groups.

- (a) Explain the term *activists* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “Voting is predominantly a middle-class activity.” Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

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

Text on opinion polls in the last days of general election campaigns,
from B COXALL & L ROBINS, Contemporary British Politics
(Palgrave) 1998, p 163 - not reproduced here due to copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *election campaign* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Assess the influence of opinion polls and media coverage on general election results. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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