

General Certificate of Education
January 2005
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 1 Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour

GOV1

Tuesday 11 January 2005 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.

The Brent East By-election, September 2003

Party	Total votes	Percentage of vote	
Conservative	3368	16.1	
Labour	7040	33.8	
Liberal Democrats	8158	39.1	
Others	2368	10.9	Turnout 36.3%

Labour lost its first seat in a by-election for 15 years at the Brent East by-election when the Liberal Democrat candidate swept to victory on a 29% swing. Political commentators argued that the electorate in Brent East registered a *protest vote* against the Labour Government's policy on the war in Iraq, as well as its poor record on delivering improvements in healthcare and education.

- (a) Explain the term *protest vote* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Assess the political significance of by-elections. (22 marks)

OR

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

Text adapted from PATRICK DUNLEAVY, "Voting and the Electorate",
in H. DRUCKER ET AL (eds), *Developments in British Politics* (Macmillan) 1983.
Not reproduced here due to copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *class de-alignment* used in the heading of the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Assess the influence of social class on voting in recent general elections. (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.

Text adapted from PHIL COCKER & ALISTAIR JONES, *Contemporary British Politics and Government* (Liverpool Academic Press) 2002. Not reproduced here due to copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *direct democracy* used in the heading of the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Evaluate the case against the use of referendums in Britain. (22 marks)

OR

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

Text adapted from The Sunday Times, 21 September 2003 © Elections Centre, University of Plymouth, 21 September 2003. Not reproduced here due to copyright constraints.

Political scientists have calculated that even if the three major parties each won the same share of the *popular vote*, the Liberal Democrats would end up with about half as many seats as the Conservatives. In turn, the Conservatives would win less than two-thirds of the total seats won by Labour. This is mainly the result of the First-Past-The-Post electoral system benefiting parties whose support is concentrated in certain areas rather than spread evenly across the country. The result is that Labour and, to a lesser extent, the Conservatives win far more seats for their share of the vote.

- (a) Explain the term *popular vote* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “The Single Transferable Vote (STV) is not a suitable electoral system for Great Britain.” Discuss arguments for and against the adoption of STV for general elections. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS