

General Certificate of Education
June 2005
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 1 Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour

GOV1

Tuesday 7 June 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.
- 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.

Text from J KINGDOM, *Government and Politics in Britain*, Polity, 2003, pp221-2.
Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *political agenda* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Newspapers have greater political influence over the electorate than radio and television.'
Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

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

Class and Voting

In the 2001 general election there was a solid Labour gain in winning middle class support and a Conservative gain in winning working class support. Classes A, B and C1 swung by 2 per cent to Labour, consolidating the party's advances in winning the support of 'Middle England'. Compared with 1997, the Conservatives won increased support from the working classes in 2001, particularly from social classes D and E. Long-term factors appear to have a declining influence on voting behaviour and few today would describe Britain's major parties as *class parties*. Labour, in particular, has developed into a 'catch-all' party.

- (a) Explain the term *class parties* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Voting behaviour is increasingly influenced by short-term factors.' 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.

Text from J CURTICE 'Changing Voting Systems' in P DUNLEAVY *et al*, *Developments in British Politics* 7, Palgrave Macmillan, 2003, p100. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *referendum* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Analyse the factors that have led to demands for changing the system of elections to the House of Commons. (22 marks)

OR

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

Manifesto and Mandate

A general election victory on the basis of a party's *manifesto* is regarded as a mandate to implement the set of policies outlined in the document. This link between manifesto and mandate is vital. Parties provide a political 'package deal' for the electorate, which embraces every key policy issue for the country. This 'package deal' is contained within the party's general election manifesto.

Source: adapted from C WILSON, Understanding A/S Level Government and Politics (MUP) 2003

- (a) Explain what is meant by the term *manifesto* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'The doctrine of the mandate is more appropriate to the First Past The Post system than to systems based on proportional representation.' Discuss. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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