

General Certificate of Education  
January 2006  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



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

**GOV2**

Wednesday 11 January 2006 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- 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 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.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

**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.

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**EITHER**

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

Text from B AXFORD, *Politics: An Introduction*, Routledge, 2002, pp264-5.  
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- (a) Explain the term *New Right* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) ‘The values of New Labour are based on the values of Thatcherism.’ Discuss. (22 marks)

**OR**

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

Text from J KINGDOM, *Government and Politics in Britain*, Polity Press, 2003, pp319-321.  
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- (a) Explain the term *extra-parliamentary organisations* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Major political parties may claim to be democratic organisations but in practice they are not.' Discuss. (22 marks)

**Turn over for the next Section**

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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.

**Pressure Groups and the Mass Media**

An important part of the political process is getting an issue on the political agenda and defining it in a way which is helpful to your particular point of view. In a modern complex society one of the ways of doing this is through the media. A recent survey found that 13% of pressure groups regarded the media as their most important target. Four out of five groups claimed that they were in contact with the mass media at least once a week. Some issues are more liable than others to be featured in the media. The Snowdrop campaign was one of the most successful *single-issue campaigns* in British pressure group history. The media quickly took up the campaign ... and subsequent publicity made the Snowdrop petition difficult for the Government to ignore.

Source: adapted from W GRANT, *Pressure Groups and British Politics*, Macmillan, 2000

- (a) Explain the term *single-issue campaigns* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Examine reasons why some pressure groups largely base their campaigns on media coverage. (22 marks)

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**OR**

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

**Pressure Groups at the Local Level**

Local government is a very important arena for pressure group activity. Many pressure groups have developed *insider relations with local councils*. In urban areas New Labour and Liberal Democrat councils treat business, community and voluntary groups favourably. Tenants' and residents' associations, along with certain cause groups, are treated less favourably because they are seen as too narrow and selfish. Old Labour councils look favourably on associations representing tenants, women and ethnic minorities, as well as single-interest groups, but they are less receptive towards business interests. Conservative councils generally favour middle-class residents' associations and the voluntary sector.

Source: adapted from B COXALL, *Pressure Groups in British Politics*, Pearson Education, 2001

- (a) Explain the term *insider relations with local councils* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Some pressure groups are more likely to be successful at the local level than at national or international levels.' Discuss. (22 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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