

General Certificate of Education  
June 2007  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



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

**GOV2**

Tuesday 5 June 2007 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 to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise relevant information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**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.

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**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.

**Parties and the Political System**

Political parties provide a link between government and people; they seek to educate, instruct and activate the electorate. They use the mass media and local organisations to maintain contacts with relatively politically-inactive citizens and lead them to the awareness and acceptance of various policies. They also seek to involve the population in politics. These activities may be restricted to election periods, with various methods of increasing the party's votes. However, they may extend far beyond electoral propaganda and the party may seek to mobilise support by promoting links with sympathetic groups. Thus the Labour party has long-standing links with the trade union movement. Parties also perform the important function of producing *political leaders*.

Source: adapted from A R BALL & B G PETERS, *Modern Politics and Government*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005

- (a) Explain the term *political leaders* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Britain's political parties have become weaker over recent decades.' Discuss. (22 marks)

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**OR**

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

**Choosing Labour's Leader**

In 1980, Michael Foot was the last Labour leader to be elected by the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP). Following considerable pressure for more internal party democracy, a new system of choosing the Labour leader was adopted in 1981. The rather clumsy method involved setting up an *electoral college* in which the trade unions had 40% of the votes, constituency parties 30% and the PLP 30%. The system was first used in a contest for the deputy leadership in 1981, when Denis Healey narrowly defeated Tony Benn. After the 1993 Conference the system of election was further modified. The proportions in the electoral college were adjusted but, more significantly, unions and constituency parties were obliged to ballot members individually and divide their votes accordingly. Using the modified system, Tony Blair and John Prescott achieved clear majorities in the 1994 elections for Leader and Deputy Leader in each category as well as overall.

Source: adapted from B COXALL et al, *Contemporary British Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2003

- (a) Explain the term *electoral college* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'The methods parties use to elect their leaders reveal where power is located.' Discuss. (22 marks)

**Turn over for Section B**

**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.

**Pressure Group Competition**

Some argue that pressure groups are not as powerful as they are portrayed in the media. Firstly, pro and anti groups compete for influence with government and, secondly, groups concerned with one interest compete with groups representing other closely related interests.

If a pressure group organises in a particular area to support specific interests then *countervailing groups* will form to represent alternative interests. For example, the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) developed to oppose what was seen as the growing power of the TUC (Trade Union Congress).

Similarly, a pressure group concerned with combating one form of addiction will compete for influence against other groups concerned with combating other forms of addiction. For example, anti-smoking groups such as ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) will compete for influence inside the Department of Health with groups such as Alcohol Concern.

Source: second paragraph adapted from M J SMITH, *Pressure Politics*, Baseline Book Company, 1995

- (a) Explain the term *countervailing groups* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) ‘Groups representing sectional interests dominate pressure group politics.’ Discuss. (22 marks)

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**OR**

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

**Elected Representatives or Direct Action?**

A 73 year-old retired social worker was the second person to be jailed in 2005 for refusing to pay her full council tax bill. She told the Magistrates' Court, "*lobbying* MPs and councillors has fallen on deaf ears and all that is left is to take direct action, whatever the consequences". Before sentencing her, the Magistrate said, "You have been given every chance to pay the debt, and you have refused. You may think you are a martyr, but you're not – so we are sending you to prison." Many of her supporters in court, including those in the Devon Pensioners' Action Forum, compared her with Emmeline Pankhurst, the suffragette, who went to prison in her campaign to win the vote for women.

- (a) Explain the term *lobbying* used in the passage. (8 marks)
- (b) Consider reasons why many pressure groups still seek support for their causes in Parliament. (22 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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