

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 2 Parties and Pressure Groups

GOV2

Friday 23 May 2008 9.00 am to 10.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 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.

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.

Political Parties

Political parties in Britain face testing times. They find themselves challenged by electoral volatility, falling turnout, declining *mass membership* and disappearing activists. Interest groups and new social movements increasingly seem the main voices of public opinion, as do journalists and commentators of the news media. One single pressure group, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, claims more members than all the parties put together. Over 98 per cent of British citizens do not belong to a political party. Once political parties were the engines of democracy but today they are symptoms of public apathy. Nevertheless, parties retain a number of important roles. Most importantly, parties continue to link citizens to political institutions.

Source: adapted from R HEFFERNAN, 'Political Parties and the Party System', in P DUNLEAVY et al (eds), *Developments in British Politics 7*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2003

- (a) Explain the term *mass membership* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Despite declining membership, political parties still play important roles in the political system.' Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

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

Party Funding

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The extract explains why political parties need financial resources and how they obtain funds.

Source: adapted from B JONES et al, *Politics UK*, Pearson Education, 2007

- (a) Explain the term *constituency parties* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) ‘The case for the state funding of political parties is now overwhelming.’ 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.

Pressure Groups and Government

Pressure groups are formally outside government but some work so closely with government that they are almost part of the governing process. Both national and local governments may seek the active cooperation and partnership of business groups and voluntary organisations, and may even delegate important tasks to them. Such *insider groups* may continue to put pressure on government, but as recipients of grants and other benefits they are also 'clients' of government. Decisions may emerge as a result of a debate within a network of public, private and voluntary organisations, all with an interest in a particular area of policy. It may even be possible on occasion for a government department, such as Agriculture, Transport or Health, to be 'captured' by the interests for which it is responsible.

Source: adapted from R LEACH et al, *British Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2006

- (a) Explain the term *insider groups* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) 'It is usually government, and not pressure groups, that gains most from pressure-group politics.' Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

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

Modern Pressure Groups

International developments may affect the world of pressure groups. Controversial international issues – the Vietnam war in the 1960s, the war against Iraq in 2003, the cause of Palestine or even globalisation itself – may become the focus of campaigns in their own right. Pressure groups must take account of international developments to a much greater degree than ever before. The growing role of the European Union (EU) in some policy areas entails the need for some groups to pay as much if not more attention to policy issues at that level. The *trade union movement*, for example, has become increasingly supportive of European integration and is much more willing to participate in European-level activities, despite a long period of outright opposition to British membership of the EU.

Source: adapted from G PEELE, *Governing the UK*, Blackwell Publishing, 2004

- (a) Explain the term *trade union movement* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) ‘Westminster and Whitehall are no longer the important access points for pressure groups that they once were.’ Discuss. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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