



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2009

Government and Politics

GOVP1

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Monday 19 January 2009 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

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 GOVP1.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **two** questions.

Each question carries 40 marks.

1 Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Low Turnout and Voter Apathy

One of the most obvious ways in which an individual can participate within a political system is by casting a vote. Turnout figures are, therefore, one measure of political participation.

Though low turnout in the 2001 (59.4%) and 2005 (61.5%) General Elections caused widespread concern, these national turnout figures masked massive variations between one *constituency* and another. In 2005, for example, turnout ranged from 41.4% (in Liverpool Riverside) to 80.2% (West Tyrone). Furthermore, voters are more likely to turn out when they feel that their vote will make a difference or where they value the institution to which candidates are seeking election.

We should also remember that falling turnout is not necessarily a sign that people are less politically engaged or active than they once were. As Norrena Hertz remarked in *The Independent* in June 2001, 'It's not about apathy...while voting is waning, other forms of political expression are on the rise'.

Source: adapted from P FAIRCLOUGH, *AS & A Level Government and Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2005

- (a) Explain the term *constituency* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify and explain **two** reasons why turnout at general elections has fallen since 1997. (10 marks)
- (c) 'The election campaign is now the major factor in determining voting behaviour.'
Discuss. (25 marks)

2 Electoral Systems

Read the extract below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

The Additional Member System					
<p>There are 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs). Elections to the Parliament operate under a form of additional member systems (AMS). Electors cast two votes: one for the MSP who will represent their constituency; and one for their preferred party. The MSPs elected in the 73 single-member constituencies are chosen under the <i>first-past-the-post</i> (FPTP) system. The 56 seats awarded on the basis of party support are chosen under a regional party list system designed to ‘top-up’ those parties that have been disadvantaged by the system used in the constituency contests.</p>					
2007 Scottish Parliament Elections					
Party	Constituencies		Regional Lists		Totals
	% Votes	Seats Won	% Votes	Seats Won	
Conservative	16.2	4	13.9	13	17
Labour	32.2	37	29.2	9	46
LibDem	16.6	11	11.3	5	16
SNP	32.9	21	31.0	26	47
Green	-	-	4.0	2	2
Others	2.1	0	10.6	1	1
Totals		73		56	129

Source: adapted from D DENVER, ‘2007 Scottish Parliament Elections: a historic moment?’, *Politics Review*, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2007

- (a) Explain the term *first-past-the-post* (FPTP) used in the extract. (5 marks)
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, outline the likely consequences of adopting the additional member system (AMS) in UK general elections. (10 marks)
- (c) Analyse the arguments in favour of retaining the first-past-the-post system for elections to the House of Commons. (25 marks)

Turn over ▶

3 Political Parties

Read the extract below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

The extract is adapted from Part 1, Section 3 of the Power Report. It contains evidence that the main parties were not distinctive enough, guided by the search for votes rather than deeply held values.

- (a) Explain the term *ideology* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the extent to which the gap between the policies of the Labour and Conservative parties has been ‘greatly reduced’ since the mid-1990s. (10 marks)
- (c) ‘UK political parties no longer perform the role of representing the interests of their members, nor do they provide genuine opportunities for political participation.’ Discuss. (25 marks)

4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Direct Action

Direct action refers to the act of deliberately campaigning outside the normal decision-making process and targeting the public, rather than the policy-makers. By acting in this fashion, direct action groups hope to change public attitudes, which they believe will lead to more fundamental changes in society than merely through enacting individual pieces of legislation.

There has been a marked increase in the numbers of *outsider groups* using such tactics since the start of the 1990s (eg hunt saboteurs, campaigners against live animal exports, roads protesters, Fathers4Justice). This rise in direct action has resulted in part from their failure in using more traditional methods, though it has also been facilitated by other factors such as the rise of new technology.

Source: adapted from N SMITH, *UK Parties and Pressure Groups*, Philip Allan Updates, 2007

- (a) Explain the term *outsider groups* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** reasons why direct action has been on the increase in recent years. (10 marks)
- (c) Evaluate the factors that can result in some pressure groups being more successful than others. (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

There are no questions printed on this page

There are no questions printed on this page

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Copyright © 2009 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.