



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2011

Government and Politics

GOVP1

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Monday 23 May 2011 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions in each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions

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 should be answered in continuous prose.

For these questions you will be marked on your ability to:

- use good English
- organise information clearly
- 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 topic.

Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions in each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1 Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 1**, **0 2** and **0 3** which follow.

Political participation in Britain	
Political participation is often measured in terms of electoral <i>turnout</i> alone. However, there are a number of other ways in which an individual can take part in the political process aside from casting a ballot at an election. The Citizen Audit (2000) looked at some of these avenues for non-electoral participation:	
Acts of political participation in Britain, 2000	
'During the last 12 months, have you done any of the following to influence rules, laws or policies?'	
	Participated
Individual actions	
Donated money to an organisation	62%
Refused to buy certain products	31%
Contacted a politician	13%
Signed a petition	50%
Collective actions	
Attended a political meeting or rally	5%
Taken part in a public demonstration	5%
Formed a group of like-minded people	5%
Participated in illegal protest activities	2%

Source: adapted from P WHITELEY, 'Democracy and participation – Is there a participation crisis?', *Politics Review* Vol 19, No 1, Philip Allan Updates, 2009, reproduced by permission of the Publisher

- 0 1** Explain the term *turnout* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider why some commentators have spoken of a 'participation crisis' in recent years. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'Deciding which party to vote for is now essentially a rational exercise.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 2 Electoral Systems

Read the extract below and answer questions

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 which follow.

First-past-the-post

Elections have a key role to play in modern democracies. They are the main mechanism by which the 'will of the people' is to be measured. The people cannot be consulted on each and every issue. A representative democracy provides for voter choice in the selection of those individuals who will make decisions on behalf of the citizens. If we are to ensure that the 'will of the people' is achieved, the operation of the electoral system is of paramount importance.

There can be little dispute that the system used for UK general elections fails to fulfil this basic and essential purpose. That is to say, first-past-the-post does not accurately reflect the 'will of the people' because it results in large numbers of *wasted votes*. For example, at the May 2010 General Election, the Liberal Democrats only won 57 seats (8.76%) despite securing 23% of the popular vote across the UK. The Liberal Democrats secured an average of 119788 votes nationally for every Commons seat won, compared with Labour's 33350 and the Conservatives' 34989.

Source: adapted from M SIMPSON, 'Electoral reform – Is FPTP defensible?', *Politics Review* Vol 19, No 2, Philip Allan Updates, 2009, reproduced by permission of the Publisher

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 Explain the term *wasted votes* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider why the first-past-the-post system disadvantages some parties. (10 marks)
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 'The use of referendums in the UK since 1997 has done little to strengthen democracy.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Topic 3 Political Parties

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 7**, **0 8** and **0 9** which follow.

Internal party democracy

Based on a federal structure, the democratic credentials of the Labour Party are historically strong. Power was divided between various bodies, with sovereignty resting with the *party conference* – the parliament of the party.

However, until the publication of the 1997 document ‘Partnership into Power’, the Labour Party paid little attention to the issue of the membership’s role in the structure of the party. On paper, at least, this document radically transformed the way decisions would be made. In future, all members of the party would be able to contribute to the policy-making process, making it more open and democratic.

This was part of a process of party modernisation. Individual members had earlier been given the right to cast individual ballots as part of the Electoral College used when choosing the Labour leader. Previously, their votes had only contributed towards the Constituency Labour Party (CLP) vote. The Conservative Party also gave individual members a say in selecting the party leader after 1997 as part of their efforts to strengthen internal party democracy.

Source: adapted from N SMITH, *UK Parties & Pressure Groups*, Philip Allan Updates, 2007, reproduced by permission of the Publisher

- 0 7** Explain the term *party conference* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, outline the ways in which the Conservative Party and the Labour Party select their leaders. (10 marks)
- 0 9** ‘The main UK parties differ on economic policy alone.’ Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer questions

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 which follow.

Attracting public attention

In recent years, many *cause groups* have made greater use of high-profile mass protests and stunts as a way of getting their message across. In February 2008, for example, four Greenpeace protesters climbed on top of an Airbus A320 at Heathrow and unfurled a banner declaring, 'Climate Emergency. No Third Runway'. Two days later, activists from the group Plane Stupid took to the roof of Parliament in order to display two massive banners: one demanding, 'No Third Runway' and the other labelling Parliament as 'British Airports Authority HQ'. By the summer, many of those involved in the ongoing protests outside Heathrow had marched down to join the week-long climate change camp in Kent.

Such 'joined-up', 'umbrella group' activity has its roots in earlier campaigns against the poll tax (1990), the war in Iraq (2003) and world poverty (2005). 2008 thus marked the year when the old hands of the environmental movement united with a new generation of activists who had learned their lessons from the high-profile anti-road protests of the 1990s.

Source: adapted from P FAIRCLOUGH and E MAGEE, *UK Government & Politics Annual Survey*, Philip Allan Updates, 2009, reproduced by permission of the Publisher

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 Explain the term *cause groups* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider why direct action could be said to undermine UK democracy. (10 marks)
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 'The most successful UK pressure groups still tend to focus on lobbying the Westminster Parliament, despite the availability of numerous other access points.' Discuss. (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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