



GCE AS/A level

1401/01



S16-1401-01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP1

People, Politics and Participation

A.M. MONDAY, 6 June 2016

1 hour 30 minutes

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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer any **TWO** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The maximum mark for this paper is 80.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that credit will be given for reference to concepts and examples, where relevant, from the politics and government of Wales.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in answers that involve extended writing (part (c) questions).

Answer two questions.

Each question is worth 40 marks.

1. Participation and Voting Behaviour

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

A disconnected generation?

5 Since 1992 the proportion of young citizens turning out to vote at British general elections has declined dramatically. Researchers have pointed out that for many young people politics has become a dirty word. The media have frequently portrayed young people as *politically apathetic* or 'Thatcher's airheads'. It is claimed that young people are more likely to vote in reality TV shows like Big Brother than in local, European or general elections.

10 However, studies have uncovered participation by young people in other types of political activity including formal voluntary work and informal community networks. In addition, studies show that young people are concerned about political issues but that these tend not to be recognised as mainstream political participation.

[Extract adapted from *Young Adults and Electoral Turnout in Britain*,
Edward Phelps, Sussex European Institute, (2006)]

- (a) What is meant by the term '*politically apathetic*' (line 4)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain how age affects political participation. [10]
- (c) Analyse whether social class is still important, compared to other factors affecting voting behaviour. [25]

2. Electoral Systems

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

The two-party system

The dominance of the two largest parties in elections has been declining steadily since the 1970s, and reached a new low in 2010 – when the Conservatives and Labour combined won the support of less than two-thirds of those who voted.

5 Scotland and Wales realistically now have four-party politics. Since the 1960s, the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru have grown into serious political forces. Right across Britain, the proportion of people voting for parties other than the main ones (such as the Greens) or for independent candidates, has also been slowly increasing, and *coalition governments* are becoming more common.

[Extract adapted from *The 2010 Election*, Professor Roger Scully, www.politicscymru.com, (2011)]

- (a) What is meant by the term ‘*coalition governments*’ (line 8)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain why two-party politics is in decline. [10]
- (c) ‘Electoral systems in the UK are not as democratic as referendums are.’ Discuss. [25]

3. Political Parties in Wales and the UK

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

Candidate selection

The number of individuals who want to be elected to public offices exceeds the number of seats available. Within every political party there are willing candidates for every seat contested, hence the need for short-listing. Parties play a key role in separating the genuine contenders from the 'no-hopers'.

5 All three major parties have traditionally employed a similar three-stage process in selecting candidates: first, they must get their name onto a centrally approved list; secondly, the local party will short-list; and thirdly, *party members* in the constituency will vote for their preferred candidate. There have been efforts to reform the way candidates are selected, including the use of open primaries.

[Extract adapted from UK Government and Politics, Lynch and Fairclough, (2010)]

- (a) What is meant by the term '*party members*' (line 7)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain the roles of parties in candidate selection. [10]
- (c) Evaluate the significance of third and minor parties in Wales and the UK. [25]

4. Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

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

5	Social movements
10	<p>Interest in social movements has been revived by the emergence of 'new' social movements since the 1960s, such as the peace movement, the women's movement, <i>the environmental movement</i> and so on. What is new about the social movements that emerged at the end of the twentieth century? Whereas the more traditional pressure groups were organisations of and for the oppressed or the disadvantaged, contemporary social movements have, in contrast, more commonly attracted the young, the better-educated and the relatively affluent.</p> <p>Being part of a social movement requires commitment and political activism rather than card-carrying, formal membership. The most dramatic examples of this have been the anti-capitalism and anti-globalisation demonstrations across the world.</p>

[Extract adapted from Politics, Andrew Heywood, (2007)]

- (a) What is meant by the term '*the environmental movement*' (line 3)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain the differences between social movements and more traditional pressure groups. [10]
- (c) Assess whether access points are more important to pressure group success than other factors. [25]

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