

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



SOCIAL SCIENCE: CITIZENSHIP
Unit 2 The Citizen and the Political Process

SSC2

Monday 5 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.00 am

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 SSC2.
- Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Advice

- You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- Where appropriate, you should use local and/or national and/or international examples and/or case studies.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question carries 30 marks.

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

Source adapted from C RAWLINGS and M THRASHER, *Britain Votes 6*, Ashgate, 1997, *General Election Results, 7 June 2001 (Research Paper 01/54)*, House of Commons Library, 2001 and ELECTION 2005 from *bbcnews@bbc.co.uk*, showing General Election results from 1997 to 2005 by Political Party. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

Your answers should refer to the extract as appropriate, but you should also include other relevant information.

- (a) Using the extract, briefly outline **two** trends across the three general election results. *(4 marks)*
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, briefly explain the benefits of the 'First Past The Post' (FPTP) electoral system. *(10 marks)*
- (c) 'Fewer and fewer people are bothering to vote.' Assess some of the proposals that have been put forward to increase voter turnout. *(16 marks)*

EITHER

- 2 (a) Briefly examine, using examples, why some groups are more successful than others when campaigning to influence a political decision. *(10 marks)*
- (b) 'There are virtually no differences between the ideologies of the major political parties in the UK today.' Assess this point of view. *(20 marks)*

OR

- 3 (a) Briefly examine, using examples, the argument that the media is too influential in setting the political agenda. *(10 marks)*
- (b) 'A nice little earner for the semi-retired who have little influence over daily life in local communities.' To what extent is this an accurate description of local government councillors? *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page