

General Certificate of Education  
June 2006  
Advanced Level Examination



**GENERAL STUDIES (SPECIFICATION A)  
Unit 6 Society, Politics and the Economy**

**GSA6**

Thursday 22 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a copy of the Case Study Source Material (enclosed)
- an 8-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**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 GSA6.
- Answer **five** questions.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Use your own words, rather than simply repeating those used in the sources, to show your understanding of the points being made.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60 (35 for Section A and 25 for Section B).
- This paper consists of Section A (four questions based on the Case Study Source Material provided earlier; a new copy is provided as an insert to this question paper) and Section B (four essay questions).
- The marks for Questions 1 to 4 are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

**Advice**

- Where appropriate you may use your own knowledge and ideas to support and enhance your answers to the questions.

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**SECTION A**

Answer **all** questions.

There are 35 marks for this section.

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- 1 Outline briefly what the data in **Extract A (Figures 1 to 4)** tell us about voting patterns and the system of Parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom. *(9 marks)*
  
- 2 Using **Extract B**, discuss the key differences and similarities between the Conservative and Labour parties in the 2005 general election. *(8 marks)*
  
- 3 Using **Extracts C and D** and relevant data from **Extract A (Figure 4)**, suggest reasons why almost 40 per cent of the electorate as a whole chose not to vote in 2005 and why the proportion of younger non-voters was even higher. *(9 marks)*
  
- 4 With reference to **Extracts E and F** and any other of the extracts, discuss to what extent opinion polls and the media influence the way in which people vote. *(9 marks)*

**SECTION B**

Answer **ONE** question.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Write as if you are addressing the intelligent general reader.

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- 5** Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of changing the current system of electing United Kingdom Members of Parliament to one based on proportional representation.
- 6** The fact that the number of men elected to Parliament in 2005 outnumbered women by 4 to 1 might suggest that little progress has been made in equal opportunities for women in the United Kingdom.

To what extent do you think this is the case and what more could or should be done to increase women's role and status in public life?

- 7** By 2011 the number of people in the United Kingdom aged over 65 is expected to be greater than the number under 16. Discuss the implications of this change for the UK economy and society.
- 8** In the 2005 general election, topics like transport and the environment received minimal coverage.

Discuss the reasons why transport and environmental issues are difficult to address and what measures can be taken to improve the United Kingdom's record in these areas.

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**