

General Certificate of Education  
January 2004  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**Unit 1 Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour**

**GOV1**

Friday 9 January 2004 Afternoon Session

**In addition to this paper you will require:**  
a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen. Pencil should only be used for drawing.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV1.
- Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.  
In Section A answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.  
In Section B answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

**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 question.

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Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.

**SECTION A**

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

Each question carries 30 marks.

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**EITHER**

- 1 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

**Additional Member Systems**

Members of the German Bundestag (parliament) are elected by a form of proportional representation – an Additional Member System – which is similar to the system used to elect members of the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament. Although the level of popular support for the German Social Democrats fell by 3% in the 2002 election, they were able to remain in government because support for their Green coalition partners rose by 2%.

In Scotland and Wales, the Liberal Democrats became Labour's *coalition partners* after the 1999 elections.

- (a) Explain the term *coalition partners* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “A major disadvantage of proportional representation is that it can put parties with limited support in power.” Discuss. (22 marks)

**OR**

- 2 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

**Referendums**

The motives of those who call for a referendum might be doubted. Referendums can be called for reasons that have little to do with the merits of democratic consultation or popular participation. Usually, referendums are advocated by those who think that their side will win. If they are in government then the timing and *the wording of the referendum question* is in their hands, allowing them a greater chance to obtain the outcome they desire.

Many who warm to the idea of referendums on constitutional issues are nevertheless often reluctant to see the public vote on issues such as abortion, capital punishment and immigration.

*Source: adapted from D. WATTS, in L. ROBINS & B. JONES (eds),  
Debates in British Politics Today, MUP (2000)*

- (a) Explain the phrase *the wording of the referendum question* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “Referendums are alien to the British tradition of politics.” Discuss. (22 marks)

**TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT QUESTION**

**Turn over ►**

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**SECTION B**

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Each question carries 30 marks.

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**EITHER**

3 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

**The Mass Media and the Electorate**

Declining advertising revenue has placed much of Britain's media industry in financial crisis and this had an impact on coverage of the 2001 general election. Since there was much public apathy towards the election, newspaper editors did not want to provide intense coverage to uninterested readers. During the campaign, only a quarter of the front pages of *tabloid newspapers* referred to the forthcoming election.

- (a) Explain the term *tabloid newspapers* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) To what extent, if any, does the mass media influence voting behaviour? (22 marks)

OR

- 4 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

<b>Gender and Party Choice in the 2001 General Election (%)</b>			
	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
MEN	42	33	18
WOMEN	42	33	20

In the 1960s, women were much more inclined than men to vote Conservative.

Recent analysis confirms that in 2001, as in 1997, the *gender gap* had disappeared from British voting behaviour.

- (a) Explain the term *gender gap* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) To what extent were the images of party leaders a factor in explaining recent voting behaviour? (22 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**