



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2009

## Government and Politics

## GOVP1

### Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

**Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards**

**This question paper uses the new numbering system and new AQA answer book**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 8-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 that 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 02 and 03, 05 and 06, 08 and 09, 11 and 12, 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.

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

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### Topic 1 Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer Questions 01, 02 and 03 which follow.

#### The Party Leader and the Campaign

During the era of class and *partisan alignment*, the impact of the party leader on the campaign was regarded as less significant than today. The reason for this was that the long-term forces of social class and socialisation would have overridden the temporary consideration of who was in charge of a party. In short, the factors that led the voter to identify with a party would remain constant, irrespective of who the leader was.

However, supporters of dealignment theory argue that the importance of the party leadership has increased significantly to the extent that, as one commentator argued, public dissatisfaction with Tony Blair could have cost the party up to 12 percentage points in the 2005 General Election. This would fit in with the idea that there has been an Americanisation of election campaigns. Party political broadcasts focused on party leaders, the greater use of their partners and new-born babies in the media, and the relegation of other senior party members to minor roles in the campaign have all become commonplace.

Source: adapted from N SMITH, *UK Elections and Electoral Reform*, Philip Allan Updates, 2006

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 Explain the term *partisan alignment* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain how party leaders have become more central to the election campaign. (10 marks)
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 Consider the extent to which short-term factors are now far more important than long-term factors in shaping voting behaviour. (25 marks)

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**Topic 2 Electoral Systems**

Read the extract below and answer Questions 04, 05 and 06 which follow.

Extract is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

Source: adapted from J KINGDOM, *Government and Politics in Britain* (3rd edition), Polity, 2003

- 0 4** Explain the term *direct democracy* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** advantages of the form of representative democracy found in the UK. (10 marks)
- 0 6** 'The UK would benefit greatly from the wider use of referendums.' Discuss. (25 marks)

**Turn over for the next topic**

**Turn over ►**

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**Topic 3 Political Parties**

Read the extract below and answer Questions 07, 08 and 09 which follow.

**Party Conferences**

The style of the Conservative Party Conference has, to some extent, been changing. The leadership has frequently found itself embarrassed by the tone of the debates, especially when such matters as immigration and capital punishment are discussed. Topics chosen by *constituency parties* are a regular cause for concern, especially since party factions can, through clever organisation, ensure that their motion gets on the agenda. There has also been an increased tendency for votes to be demanded and for fringe activities to generate considerable controversy in the press, resulting in subsequent embarrassment. None of this, of course, turns the Conservative Party Conference into a sovereign policy-making body comparable to the Labour Party Conference or generates the tensions seen there. But it does mean that the Conservative Party Conference is not an event which the party leadership can entirely control or dismiss.

Source: adapted from G PEELE, *Governing the UK* (3rd edition), Blackwell, 1995

- 0 7** Explain the term *constituency parties* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, outline the different roles performed by the annual party conferences held by major UK parties. (10 marks)
- 0 9** 'Individual party members have little or no power within the main UK political parties.'  
Assess the accuracy of this view. (25 marks)

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**Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements**

Read the extract below and answer Questions 10, 11 and 12 which follow.

**Pressure Groups and the EU**

Though there are numerous *access points* within the UK system of government, many domestic pressure groups also lobby at a European level; particularly where they are faced with a national government that is unsympathetic to their cause, or where the group's sectional interest or cause is 'supranational'.

Like-minded pressure groups from different European Union (EU) member states often join together to form 'Eurogroups'. Such groups possess the resources and support necessary to make their views heard on the European stage. For example, although the National Farmers' Union (NFU) has a permanent office in Brussels, it is also a member of COPA-COGECA, a 'Eurogroup' which had 69 member organisations and represented around 11 million farmers across the EU in 2005.

Source: adapted in part from P FAIRCLOUGH, *AS & A Level Government and Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2006

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 Explain the term *access points* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** reasons why pressure groups might wish to lobby at the European level. (10 marks)
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 'Pressure group activity in the UK presents a major threat to democracy.' Evaluate the arguments in favour of this view. (25 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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