



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2010

Government and Politics

GOVP1

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Friday 21 May 2010 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 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 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.

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1

Participation and Voting Behaviour

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

Ethnicity and Voting Behaviour

Though ethnic minorities only make up around 8% of the UK *electorate*, such voters are often concentrated in urban areas. In the 1990s, it was estimated that there were around 49 UK parliamentary constituencies where the winning margin was smaller than the total number of registered ethnic minority voters.

The Labour Party has traditionally fared well amongst ethnic minority voters. This may be due to tradition or to the kinds of policies that the party offers. However, the decision to go to war in Iraq had a significant impact on Labour's support in constituencies with large Muslim populations in the 2005 General Election:

2005 General Election performance in constituencies with the largest Muslim populations

Constituency	% Muslim	Change in % share (2001-2005)		
		Con	Lab	LD
Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath	48.8	-1.7	-21.4	+7.0
Bethnal Green & Bow	39.2	-10.1	-16.4	-4.3
Bradford West	37.6	-5.4	-7.9	+11.9
East Ham	29.7	-3.5	-19.2	+3.9
Birmingham, Ladywood	29.5	-0.7	-17.0	+23.3

Source: table adapted from House of Commons Library Research Paper 05/33, 'General Election 2005'

- 0 1** Explain the term *electorate* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the link between ethnicity and voting behaviour. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'Political participation cannot simply be measured in terms of electoral turnout.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 2**Electoral Systems**

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

UK Referendums and the Lisbon Treaty

In the 1940s, Clement Attlee described referendums as devices 'alien to our traditions'. Since then, of course, Parliament has approved a number of referendums and UK parties have become accustomed to promising such popular votes in their election manifestos. Although the lack of a codified constitution means that the UK has no formal list of circumstances in which referendums are legally required, it has long been accepted that such votes can help to provide a clear *mandate* for change.

UK voters were promised a referendum on the EU Constitution and many had expected there to be one on the Lisbon Treaty (2007) that replaced it. However, the UK Government judged that the ratification of this new treaty did not require such a vote. Of the 27 EU member states only Ireland offered its citizens a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, with 53.4% of voters rejecting it in June 2008.

Source: adapted from P FAIRCLOUGH, R KELLY and E MAGEE, *UK Government and Politics Annual Survey 2008*, Philip Allan Updates

- 0 4** Explain the term *mandate* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the circumstances in which UK governments have chosen to hold referendums. (10 marks)
- 0 6** 'Proportional electoral systems create as many problems as they solve.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic 3

Political Parties

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

David Cameron's 'New Tories'

David Cameron's main aim as Conservative leader is to make the Party more electable by modernising its image; to shake off the legacy of the 1980s and 1990s and turn the Conservatives into more of a *catch-all party*. Cameron's politics represent a new 'third way', distinct from Tony Blair's version of the mid-1990s. Whilst Cameron's 2007 policy statement 'Our Society, Your Life' rejected Margaret Thatcher's view that there was 'no such thing as society', he maintained the Thatcherite position in other areas by insisting that social problems are rarely solved by greater state intervention. He also echoed Thatcher's call to 'roll back the frontiers of the state'.

One interpretation of Blair's 'third way' was that it was simply a product of Labour's attempts to adapt to the changes in the political landscape that had taken place during the Thatcher years. Just as Blair's 'third way' might have been the natural sequel to Thatcher, so Cameron's might be the natural successor to Blair.

Source: adapted from R KELLY (2008), Conservatism under Cameron: The new 'third way', *Politics Review* Vol 17 No 3 (2008), Philip Allan Updates

- 0 7** Explain the term *catch-all party* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, outline the ways in which Conservative Party policy has changed since the 1990s. (10 marks)
- 0 9** Evaluate the roles and functions performed by parties within the UK political system. (25 marks)

Topic 4**Pressure Groups and Protest Movements**

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

Pressure Groups and the Media

The ability of pressure groups to use the *mass media* in order to arouse public interest has been particularly significant over emotive issues such as the export of live animals, the trials of genetically modified foods, the ban on fox hunting and the war in Iraq. In 2004 and 2005, the Make Poverty History campaign made extensive use of the media in order to draw attention to the plight of the world's poor.

However, it is not only the larger groups and social movements who benefit from media exposure. Smaller, less well-resourced groups such as Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) have been able to increase their impact by staging eye-catching stunts, producing regular press releases and maintaining a presence on the internet. In 1995, Baggott noted that SAS's activities 'attracted the attention of the media and even resulted in a television documentary about the issue of sewage pollution which examined the activities of the group'.

Source: adapted in part from D WATTS, *AQA Government and Politics AS*, Nelson Thornes (2008)

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 Explain the term *mass media* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the passage, identify **and** explain **two** ways in which pressure groups make use of the media. (10 marks)
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 'Despite widespread interest in their activities, pressure groups rarely have any significant influence over government policy.' Discuss. (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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