



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2011

## Government and Politics

## GOVP1

### Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Thursday 13 January 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-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 

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 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 

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 which follow.

#### Measuring political participation

Turnout at elections to the Westminster Parliament has been relatively low in the early years of the twenty-first century. Many attributed this to political *apathy*. However, the report of the 'Power Inquiry', published in 2006, saw things rather differently:

'Contrary to much of the public debate around political disengagement, the British public is not apathetic. There is now a great deal of research evidence to show that very large numbers of citizens are engaged in community and charity work outside of politics. There is also clear evidence that involvement in pressure politics – such as signing petitions, supporting consumer boycotts, joining campaign groups – has been growing significantly for many years. In addition, research shows that interest in 'political issues' is high. The area of decline is in *formal politics*: turnout at general elections has declined very significantly since 1997; turnout at other elections has remained stubbornly low for years; party membership and allegiance have declined very severely over the last thirty years.'

Source: adapted from '*Power to the People: the Report of Power: an Independent Inquiry into Britain's Democracy*' (executive summary), York Publishing Distribution, 2006

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 Explain the term *apathy* as used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** factors, other than *apathy*, which might contribute to a decline in participation in *formal politics*. (10 marks)
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 Evaluate the main factors that determined the outcome of the May 2010 General Election. (25 marks)

## Topic 2 Electoral Systems

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 4**, **0 5** and **0 6** which follow.

### Electoral reform

A number of different types of electoral systems are currently used in the UK. First-past-the-post is used in elections to the Westminster Parliament; the supplementary vote system is used in London Mayoral elections; *proportional systems* are used in British elections to the European Parliament, in Scottish local government elections and in many elections in Northern Ireland; and hybrid systems are used in elections to the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Greater London Assembly.

Electoral systems are the subject of intense political debate because they are the vehicle by which citizens' votes are translated into seats in a legislature. However, no single system can satisfy all the desirable goals of a fair election. Indeed, the two central electoral aims – the creation of an effective government on the one hand and the accurate reflection of the popular vote on the other – would often appear to be contradictory. The first-past-the-post system used in elections to the Westminster Parliament certainly addresses the first aim more effectively than the second.

Source: adapted from N GALLOP, *Focus on...UK electoral systems*, Politics Review Vol 19, No 1, Philip Allan Updates, 2009, reproduced by permission of the Publisher

- 0 4** Explain the term *proportional systems* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** criticisms of the first-past-the-post system used in elections to the Westminster Parliament. (10 marks)
- 0 6** Analyse the arguments in favour of the wider use of referendums in the UK. (25 marks)

**Turn over for the next question**

**Turn over ►**

**Topic 3 Political Parties**

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 7**, **0 8** and **0 9** which follow.

**Developing party policy**

The Conservative leader has overall responsibility for policy making. During the 1992 General Election campaign, this point was underlined by John Major, when he confirmed that his *party manifesto* was 'all me' (if anyone doubted this, the front cover was dominated by his photograph). Under the leadership of William Hague, however, the Party introduced a system of policy forums, part of Hague's 'Fresh Future' initiative. These forums gave ordinary party members the chance to air their views on a regular basis. In 2000, for example, the Party's policy of restoring tax incentives for married couples was amended after consultations uncovered a surprising level of opposition among grass-roots members.

The Labour Party traditionally gave more power to those individual members attending conference. However, under Tony Blair's leadership, Labour's policy-making process was heavily influenced by the findings of focus groups, often made up of people who were not party members.

Source: adapted from M GARNETT and P LYNCH, *UK Government & Politics*, Philip Allan Updates, 2005, reproduced by permission of the Publisher

- 0 7** Explain the term *party manifesto* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the influence of ordinary party members within the Labour Party and the Conservative Party. (10 marks)
- 0 9** 'The UK now has a multi-party system rather than a two-party system.' Discuss. (25 marks)

#### Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer questions 

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 which follow.

##### Insider groups and outsider groups

Insider groups possess credibility. That is to say they are recognised by the government as being representative of certain interests and are therefore granted access to decision makers.

Outsider groups normally fall into one of two categories: outsiders by necessity (those groups who are not granted insider status), or outsiders by choice. The latter prefer to remain outside 'the political loop', often for reasons of ideology. They reject co-operation with ministers and civil servants for fear of having their goals compromised by 'the Establishment'.

Most commentators would once have agreed with the view that access equals success. However, the rise of *direct action* and the public attention given to high-profile outsider groups such as the Countryside Alliance and Fathers 4 Justice in recent years suggest that the importance of gaining insider status is not as great as it once was.

Source: adapted from N SMITH, *UK Parties & Pressure Groups*, Philip Allan Updates, 2007, reproduced by permission of the Publisher

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 Explain the term *direct action* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why insider groups were traditionally seen as having a greater influence over policy than outsider groups. (10 marks)
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 'Pressure groups are a vital part of democracy in the UK because they ensure that all citizens have a political voice.' Discuss. (25 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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