



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2012

Government and Politics

GOVP1

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Friday 13 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

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 on each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Use continuous prose.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- In Questions

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 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 on each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1 Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer questions **0 1**, **0 2** and **0 3** which follow.

Social class and voting behaviour

In the 1960s, Peter Pulzer concluded that, 'class is the basis of British party politics; all else is embellishment and detail'. Since that time, many political commentators have spoken of *class dealignment*. Students of voting behaviour can learn a great deal about the relationship between social class and voting behaviour by studying voting at the 2010 General Election.

Class	2010 (%)			% change (2005–2010)		
	Con	Lab	LD	Con	Lab	LD
AB	39	26	29	+2	-2	0
C1	39	28	24	+2	-4	+1
C2	37	29	22	+4	-11	+3
DE	31	40	17	+6	-8	-1

Source: table adapted from R CRACKNELL, *General Election 2010*, House of Commons Research Paper 10/36, 2010

- 0 1** Explain the term *class dealignment* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the link between social class and voting behaviour. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'Low levels of turnout at recent general elections to the Westminster Parliament result from political apathy alone.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 2 Electoral Systems

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

Elections to the European Parliament

After the Labour Party's victory at the 1997 General Election, the Blair government introduced changes to the way in which British members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are elected. These changes saw MEPs representing regions in England, Scotland and Wales elected under a closed regional party list system from 1999.

The ballot paper in European elections now contains the names of all the political parties competing in the region, as well as the names of any independent candidates that are standing. The number of seats that a party wins in a region should be broadly proportional to the number of votes cast for it in that region. However, even without the kind of *threshold* used in similar elections elsewhere, smaller parties still struggle to win seats. Despite this, supporters of the regional party list system argue that, if adopted for elections to the Westminster Parliament, it would result in fairer outcomes than the Alternative Vote (AV) system offered as part of the 2010 coalition agreement.

Source: adapted from C ROBINSON, *Electoral Systems and Voting in the United Kingdom*, Edinburgh University Press, 2010

- 0 4** Explain the term *threshold* as used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, outline the likely consequences of adopting the closed regional party list system in elections to the Westminster Parliament. (10 marks)
- 0 6** 'The wider use of referendums would pose a threat to the form of representative democracy traditionally practised in the UK.' Discuss. (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.

The 2010 Labour leadership election

Elections for the post of Labour leader are distinctive in that they operate using an *electoral college* and a preferential voting system. Those Labour MPs wishing to stand for the post must first gain the support of 12.5% of the party's MPs. At the time of the 2010 leadership contest, this meant that those wishing to stand needed the support of 33 Labour MPs. Five candidates met this requirement: Diane Abbott (with 33 nominations); Ed Balls (with 33); Andy Burnham (with 33); David Miliband (with 81); and Ed Miliband (with 63). Ed Miliband ultimately emerged victorious after four rounds.

Candidate	First round %	Second round %	Third round %	Fourth round %
Diane Abbott	7.42	–	–	–
Andy Burnham	8.68	10.41	–	–
Ed Balls	11.79	13.23	16.02	–
David Miliband	37.78	38.89	42.72	49.35
Ed Miliband	34.33	37.47	41.26	50.65 (elected)

Source: adapted from R KELLY, P LESTER and M DURKIN, *Leadership Elections: Labour Party*, House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/3938, 2010

- 0 7** Explain the term *electoral college* as used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** criticisms of the way in which the Labour Party elects its leaders. (10 marks)
- 0 9** 'UK political parties are now little more than election-winning machines.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer questions

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 which follow.

Pressure group pluralism

Pressure groups are said to help to enhance *pluralism*, not least because they provide avenues for representation and participation. However, many membership groups are themselves not internally democratic because they offer little real power to individual members or supporters.

The growth of passive, 'cheque-book' group membership in recent years clearly has implications for the quality of participation provided for by pressure groups. More important, however, is the extent to which the level of internal democracy present in a group may have a bearing on its legitimacy.

As Wyn Grant notes, "we need to be able to ask questions about whom groups represent and how their policies are arrived at". While some groups are clearly engaged in intense internal debate (eg the RSPCA over fox hunting), others, such as Greenpeace, have tended to be far more centralised, despite having large individual memberships.

Source: adapted from P LYNCH and P FAIRCLOUGH *UK Government and Politics (3rd ed)*, Philip Allan Updates, 2010

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 Explain the term *pluralism* as used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider why issues of internal democracy can affect a pressure group's legitimacy. (10 marks)
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 'Serpents that strangle efficient government.' To what extent is this an accurate view of pressure groups in the UK? (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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