



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2012

Government and Politics

GOVP1

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Wednesday 16 May 2012 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 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.

Televised debates

In an age of *partisan dealignment*, the ability of party leaders to reach out to voters has become increasingly important, as witnessed by the introduction of televised debates at the 2010 General Election. The Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) had always supported such debates, partly because their efforts to campaign on an equal footing with the two main parties were hindered by issues of unequal funding and media access. However, there were also other issues at play. As the Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg remarked on BBC Online in the aftermath of the scandal over MPs' expenses, "After a terrible year for politicians, these debates will be an opportunity to start re-engaging people with politics".

The Lib Dems appeared to be the big 'winners' in the first debate. The ICM poll, four days before the debate, showed the Lib Dems at 20%. Following the first televised debate, however, support for the party rose to 24%, with 51% believing that the Lib Dem leader had 'won' the opening head-to-head and 29% thinking that he would make the best prime minister.

Source: adapted from P FAIRCLOUGH & N MCNAUGHTON, *UK Government and Politics Annual Survey 2011* (Philip Allan Updates)

- 0 1** Explain the term *partisan dealignment* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the extent to which the use of televised debates at the 2010 General Election enhanced political participation. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'The election campaign is now more important than long-term factors in shaping voting behaviour.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 2 Electoral Systems

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

The extract has been removed due to third-party copyright constraints.

- 0 4** Explain the term *representative democracy* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the extent to which the use of referendums since 1997 has strengthened democracy in the UK. (10 marks)
- 0 6** 'There is no such thing as a perfect electoral system.' Discuss, with reference to electoral systems used in the UK. (25 marks)

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Topic 3 Political Parties

Read the extract below and answer questions

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 which follow.

The UK party system

Politics for many people today means purely and simply 'party politics', a specialist and rather unpleasant activity undertaken by party politicians. This very narrow interpretation of politics is misguided, yet it does underline how important parties have become in modern political systems.

Competition for power between political parties has become almost a defining condition of modern western democracy. In most modern democracies, this involves a contest between several parties, with government generally in the hands of a coalition. The UK, however, was traditionally said to operate under a *two-party system*.

In the UK, political parties are the principal means by which voters are given an effective choice between different teams of leaders, and between policy programmes and ideas. Without parties, it would be very difficult for voters as a whole to have much influence on the shape of government to emerge, or the policies to be pursued.

Source: adapted from R LEACH, B COXALL and L ROBINS, *British Politics*, 2006 (Palgrave Macmillan)

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 Explain the term *two-party system* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** roles performed by UK political parties. (10 marks)
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 To what extent would you agree with the view that ideological and policy differences **within** both the Conservative Party **and** the Labour Party are now greater than the differences **between** them? (25 marks)

Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer questions

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 which follow.

Social movements in 2010

Protesters against tax avoidance plan to target Vodafone and Topshop stores in more than 50 towns and cities today in the biggest day of action by the group UK Uncut. The demonstrations are likely to involve sit-ins of the sort that forced several branches of Vodafone and Topshop to close briefly a fortnight ago. UK Uncut, a loose alliance of activists with little formal structure, has spread rapidly – mainly through Facebook and Twitter. It is an example of the kind of internet-based *social movement* that has become more common in recent years.

The action, on what is traditionally the busiest pre-Christmas shopping day, will also be aimed at other stores. The biggest protest is likely to be in London, where UK Uncut aims to emphasise what it says is the link between tax avoidance by companies, and rich individuals, and government spending cuts. The group claims that a clampdown on this kind of tax avoidance could bring the government an extra £25bn a year in revenue, greatly reducing the need for spending cuts.

Source: adapted from P WALKER, *Biggest tax protests target Vodafone and Topshop*,
Guardian, December 18, 2010

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 Explain the term *social movement* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** factors that might explain the rise of social movements in recent years. (10 marks)
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 'A pressure group's chances of success will be shaped largely by the nature of its core aims.' Discuss. (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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