



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2013

Government and Politics

GOVP1

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Monday 14 January 2013 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.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions [0 2] and [0 3], [0 5] and [0 6], [0 8] and [0 9], [1 1] and [1 2] 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 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.

A participation crisis?

Recent years have witnessed a move away from traditional forms of participation, such as voting and party membership, towards membership of mainstream pressure groups and involvement in protest movements, consumer campaigns and direct action. These changes in participation were recognised by the 2006 POWER inquiry.

Although such changes were already well under way by 2000, they gathered pace after this, with low turnouts at the 2001, 2005 and 2010 general elections, and with the emergence of a new 'politics of protest' over issues as diverse as fuel duty, fox-hunting, globalisation and the war in Iraq.

The sharp decline in individual party membership in the last 30 years has been matched by the steep rise in pressure group membership. In 2009, for example, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) had more than twice as many members as the three main UK political parties combined. Such changes represent a significant shift in UK *democracy*.

Source: P FAIRCLOUGH and P LYNCH (2010), *UK Government & Politics (3rd ed)*, reproduced in adapted form, by permission of Philip Allan Updates

- 0 1** Explain the term *democracy* as used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** factors that might help to account for the decline in traditional forms of participation. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'Voting behaviour at UK elections is determined more by issues of personality and image than on the basis of policies or performance in office.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 2 Electoral Systems

Read the extract below and answer questions

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 and

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 which follow.

The Alternative Vote (AV) referendum

Liberal Democrat Chris Huhne, the Energy Secretary, has accused his Conservative Cabinet colleague Lady Warsi of descending to Goebbels-like propaganda after she claimed that the Alternative Vote system on offer would benefit extremists such as the British National Party (BNP).

“If Baroness Warsi thinks that AV will benefit fascism, she has to explain why the BNP wants to stick with what we have whilst Operation Black Vote supports AV. The BNP knows the present system is its only chance of election. This is another example of the increasingly Goebbels-like campaign from the anti-AV people, for whom no lie is too idiotic. AV makes lazy MPs work harder and reach out beyond their tribe. It is what Britain needs to clean up politics.”

Earlier in the week, Huhne had exposed the tensions inside the Cabinet over the AV *referendum* when he accused Warsi, the Tory party chairman, of gutter politics over her claim that the introduction of AV would cost more than £250m – so leading to the closure of hospitals.

Source: adapted from P WINTOUR, *Chris Huhne accuses cabinet colleague of Nazi tactics over AV referendum*, Copyright Guardian News & Media Ltd 2011

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 Explain the term *referendum* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the circumstances in which the UK government might choose to call a referendum. (10 marks)
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 ‘The first-past-the-post system used in elections to the Westminster Parliament should be replaced with a more proportional system.’ 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.

Party ideology

An understanding of *ideology* is central to any study of political parties. In Britain and other parts of democratic Europe, the Left-Right battle over ideas and policies has been between socialism and conservatism. However, liberal thinking has spread through the attitudes and approaches of all three main parties because they share a commitment to representative democracy and its core values.

When people talk about party politics in Britain, they still often speak of the Left, Right and Centre. Parties and their leading members are often described as left-wing or right-wing, although these labels can be misleading and confusing.

In recent years, the broad Left-Right ideological divide of the past has become less clear-cut. The Labour Party shed its left-wing socialism and positioned itself firmly in the political centre, seeking to maximise its appeal to moderates on the Left and the Right as part of a 'catch-all' approach. Nonetheless, the terms Left and Right remain convenient shorthand by which to summarise different attitudes on important political, economic and social questions.

Source: adapted with the permission of Nelson Thornes Ltd from *AQA AS Government and Politics* by Duncan Watts, 978-0-7487-9821, first published in 2008

- 0 7** Explain the term *ideology* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the extent to which the main UK parties are still divided along ideological lines on economic policy. (10 marks)
- 0 9** 'Individual members of the main British political parties have little influence or control over party policy.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer questions

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 which follow.

Policy networks and communities

Pressure groups often use a combination of targets but the most well-known insider groups normally work smoothly behind the scenes. *Outsider groups* have to use noisier methods of public campaigns. It has often been said that, the quieter the group, the greater its influence; the more noisy and obstructive its tactics, the less influential it is likely to be.

In some cases, contacts between pressure groups and the government are so tight that they form what is known as a policy community. These are small, stable groups of pressure group representatives and public officials who are in close contact, and who agree on many of the main issues in their particular policy area. The biggest and most powerful policy community in Britain centres on the financial interests of the City of London, which extends into government through the Treasury and the Bank of England. Policy networks, in contrast, are larger, more loosely knit, and have more conflicting sets of interests formed around particular policy areas.

Source: *The New British Politics*, I BUDGE et al, © Pearson Education Limited 2001

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 Explain the term *outsider groups* used in the extract. (5 marks)
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the reasons why some UK pressure groups are able to achieve insider status, whilst others are not. (10 marks)
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 'Pressure group action poses a threat to the form of representative democracy practised in Britain.' Discuss. (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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