



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2013

Government and Politics

GOVP1

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Friday 17 May 2013 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.

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.

English by-elections to the Westminster Parliament in 2011

By-election results occurring in the year immediately following a general election rarely provide an accurate indication of the outcome of the next UK-wide poll. However, the four contests held in England in 2011 would certainly have given the two parties in office at Westminster food for thought. Labour would have expected to emerge victorious in these contests, having won all four seats at the 2010 General Election. Even so, the average swings in favour of the Labour Party and against both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats in 2011 were surprising, given the relative fortunes of the main UK parties just a year earlier.

| Constituency | Date | Outcome | % Swing (from/to) |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Oldham East and Saddleworth | 13 January | Labour hold | 5.0% (LibDem to Labour) |
| Barnsley Central | 3 March | Labour hold | 13.3% (LibDem to Labour) |
| Leicester South | 5 May | Labour hold | 8.4% (LibDem to Labour) |
| Feltham and Heston | 15 December | Labour hold | 8.6% (Conservative to Labour) |

Source: adapted from P. FAIRCLOUGH, N. MCNAUGHTON and E. MAGEE,
UK Government & Politics Annual Update 2012.
 Reproduced in adapted form by permission of Philip Allan Updates

- 0 1** Explain the term *by-election* as used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider why voting behaviour at by-elections to the Westminster Parliament is often unpredictable. (10 marks)
- 0 3** 'Stability, rather than volatility, now characterises voting behaviour at UK general elections.' Discuss. (25 marks)

Topic 2 Electoral Systems

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

Majority and coalition governments

Although it is generally accepted that elections play a crucial part in *representation*, different electoral systems represent the views of voters in different ways. Whereas some systems seek to translate votes into seats with a high degree of proportionality, often leading to multi-party coalition government, others tend to result in single-party majority government.

Those arguing against the introduction of the Alternative Vote system (AV) in elections to the Westminster Parliament at the time of the 2011 referendum argued that it would be more likely to result in coalition government than First-Past-The-Post. In 1998, however, the Jenkins Commission had concluded that 'there is not the slightest reason to think that AV would reduce the stability of government; it might lead to larger parliamentary majorities'. Indeed, detailed research on the 1997 General Election suggested that Labour's landslide majority would have been even larger had AV been employed in that contest. Plurality and majoritarian systems tend to favour larger, more established parties over those whose support is smaller or more evenly spread.

- 0 4** Explain the term *representation* as used in the passage. (5 marks)
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the passage, explain why the First-Past-the-Post system has rarely resulted in coalition government at Westminster. (10 marks)
- 0 6** 'The UK would benefit greatly from the wider use of referendums.' 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.

Labour Party organisation

The Labour Party originated outside of Parliament. It developed out of the wish of trade unions, early socialist societies and others to get working people elected into Parliament. Its 1918 Constitution placed control of the party in the hands of elements beyond Parliament. In other words, the party in Parliament was made responsible to the party outside. Labour was therefore keen to avoid a focus on the figure of the party leader. The *Constituency Labour Parties* (CLPs), the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) and the affiliated organisations are all important elements in what is a federal structure. In the European Parliament, Labour MEPs sit in a transnational group called the Party of European Socialists.

Critics of the modern Labour Party argue that it has become increasingly centralised. Changes made to the party's constitution and organisation since the mid-1990s have seen the influence of individual grass-roots members diminished. The party conference, for example, is no longer as powerful as it once was.

Source: adapted from D. WATTS, *AQA AS Government and Politics*, Nelson Thornes 2008

- 0 7** Explain the term *Constituency Labour Parties* (CLPs) as used in the extract. (5 marks)
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the extent to which the influence of individual grass-roots members within the Labour Party has diminished since the mid-1990s. (10 marks)
- 0 9** Evaluate the main roles and functions performed by political parties within the UK political system. (25 marks)

Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer questions

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 which follow.

Sectional groups and cause groups

The sectional group/cause group typology classifies pressure groups according to their aims. Cause groups are different from *sectional groups* in that they promote a general cause or idea. Membership is not limited to particular occupations, and can cover a very broad range of people and activities, relating to religion, education, culture, leisure, sport, charity and welfare, community, social, youth and science. Major examples include the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Amnesty International.

Critics of this typology argue that not all groups can be easily classified in this way. It is also said that focusing on group aims alone does little to help us to understand how likely a given group is to achieve its stated aims. For these reasons, Wyn Grant and others have preferred instead to focus on the strength of the relationship between individual pressure groups and government, dividing groups into 'insiders' and 'outsiders'.

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

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 Explain the term *sectional groups* used in the extract. (5 marks)
- | | |
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 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** criticisms of the sectional group/cause group typology. (10 marks)
- | | |
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 Evaluate the factors that can result in some pressure groups being more successful than others. (25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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