



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2015

Government and Politics

GOVP1

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Monday 1 June 2015 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 **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.

The Mass Media and Political Participation

One of the most obvious ways in which an individual can participate in a political system is to vote. Therefore, levels of turnout are one important measure of political participation. Low turnout is a problem because it brings into question the government's legitimacy and the strength of its electoral mandate.

General election turnout, 1992–2010

Year	Turnout (%)
1992	77.7
1997	71.4
2001	59.4
2005	61.4
2010	65.1

It is clear that voters are more likely to turn out to vote when they value the institutions to which individuals are hoping to be elected. This may explain the relatively low levels of turnout at local elections. In some cases, intense coverage in the 'mass media' can encourage people to turn out in a particular election or constituency, especially when published opinion poll results seem to suggest that the contest is close and every vote might be important.

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Source: adapted from P Lynch and P Fairclough, AS UK Government & Politics, reproduced in adapted form by permission of Philip Allan (for Hodder Education), 2013

0 1 Explain the term 'mass media' used in the extract (line 8).

[5 marks]

0 2 Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** reasons for the low levels of turnout seen at some UK elections.

[10 marks]

0 3 'Social class remains the main determinant of voting behaviour in the UK.' Discuss.

[25 marks]

Topic 2 Electoral Systems

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

The Additional Member System (AMS)	
<p>Scottish Parliament elections are conducted under the Additional Member System (AMS). Voters are given two ballots: one to elect 73 constituency Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) under the first-past-the-post system; the other to elect 56 additional MSPs under a 'party list' system (seven MSPs for each of eight regions). These 'top-up' members are elected so that the total representation from each electoral region, including those Members elected under first-past-the-post, more closely matches the share of votes cast for each party in the electoral region.</p>	5
<p>In 2011 the Scottish National Party (SNP) won an overall majority of seats (69 of 129) with 44.7% of the vote. Labour polled 29.0% nationally (winning 37 seats), the Conservatives 13.1% (15 seats) and the Liberal Democrats 6.6% (5 seats). Three MSPs outside the four main parties were elected: the independent MSP Margo MacDonald and two Green Party MSPs. The number of women elected as MSPs rose by two (from 43 to 45) and two ethnic minority MSPs were elected (Humza Yousaf and Hanzala Malik in Glasgow).</p>	10 15

Source: adapted from M Sandford and J Hardacre, Scottish Parliament Elections: 2011, House of Commons Library, 2011. Contains Parliamentary information licensed under the Open Parliament Licence v1.0

- 0 4** Explain the term 'party list' as used in the extract (line 4). **[5 marks]**
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** likely outcomes of adopting AMS in elections to the Westminster Parliament. **[10 marks]**
- 0 6** 'The UK is no longer a representative democracy.' Discuss. **[25 marks]**

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic 3 Political Parties

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

Candidate Selection

Probably the most politically significant act undertaken by constituency parties is the selection (and sometimes ‘de-selection’) of parliamentary candidates. However, the process of candidate selection has increasingly been influenced by the central party machines.

At first, Labour’s central machine wanted more influence over candidate selection than the Conservative Party’s Central Office. Many of Labour’s leading figures at the time of the 2010 General Election had been ‘parachuted’ in: the party leader, Ed Miliband, descended into the South Yorkshire constituency of Doncaster North just in time for the 2005 General Election.	5
In an effort to change the Conservative Party’s image, David Cameron attempted to reduce the power of local Conservative associations over candidate selection – in part through the use of A-Lists, hustings and primary elections. Although the Liberal Democrats have tended to give constituency parties more control over candidate selection, the party leader Nick Clegg arrived in the safe Sheffield Hallam seat by the same route as the Labour leader arrived in Doncaster North.	10 15

Source: adapted from J Kingdom and P Fairclough, *Government and Politics in Britain*, Polity Press, 2014

- 0 7** Explain the term ‘de-selection’ as used in the extract (line 2). **[5 marks]**
- 0 8** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** criticisms of the process by which the main UK parties select candidates for election to the Westminster Parliament. **[10 marks]**
- 0 9** Evaluate the view that UK political parties are becoming increasingly ideological. **[25 marks]**

Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

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

Direct Action

Direct action is rooted in a belief that more visible and direct tactics offer a greater chance of success than more conventional means. Put simply, pressure groups need publicity, and it has long been recognised that 'propaganda by action' is often a more valuable way of commanding attention than 'propaganda by word'. Greenpeace has been very good at raising green issues by giving television companies exciting pictures, often involving a speed boat and activists chaining themselves to a source of pollution in an act of 'civil disobedience'.

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In 2000, direct action was also seen in an anti-environmentalist direction, when a combination of farmers, hauliers and motorists blockaded petrol distribution yards and, as a result, cut off supplies of fuel to petrol stations. The result was that many people ran out of petrol and were unable to get to work, and students were unable to get to school or college. In order to appease the demonstrators, the government eventually agreed to reduce taxes on petrol.

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Source: adapted from P Holmes, *Introducing Politics for AS level*, Polity Press, 2008

- 1 0** Explain the term 'civil disobedience' used in the extract (line 7). **[5 marks]**
- 1 1** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider why direct action could be said to undermine UK democracy. **[10 marks]**
- 1 2** 'Although the pluralist model of democracy suggests that all groups are equal, some are more equal than others.' Discuss. **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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