

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2595

Elections, Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour in the UK

Tuesday

7 JUNE 2005

Afternoon

1 hour

Additional materials:
8-page Answer Booklet

TIME 1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- Answers should be written in continuous prose.
- You must use your own knowledge and the source material in your answers.
- Answer **all** questions.
- If you need to use additional answer sheets, fasten these securely to the answer booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The maximum number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each part question.
- You will be awarded marks for quality of written communication including clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

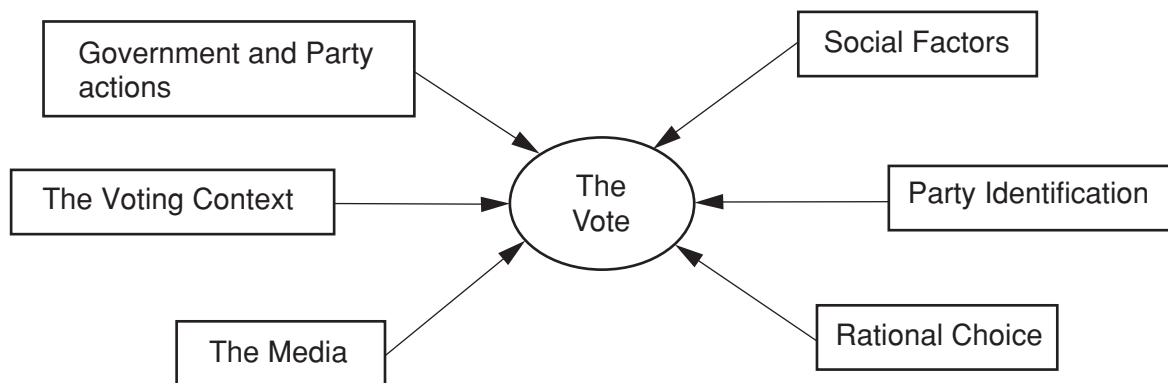
This question paper consists of 4 printed pages.

ELECTIONS, ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR IN THE UK

Read Sources A–D and answer **all** questions which follow.

SOURCE A**Campaigns and Manifestos**

There is an ongoing debate by experts on just how important party manifestos and election campaigns are. Some argue that manifestos are not read and only serve to give the winners a mandate for their policies when it is convenient. Others argue that campaigns are essential given that a significant number of voters have not made up their mind before the campaign starts and may well be influenced by the campaign itself. Incidents during a campaign, like the famous ‘Prescott punch’ in 2001, when the Deputy Prime Minister punched an egg thrower, have to be managed with exceptional care or they can really damage a party’s election chances.

SOURCE B**The Principal Factors Behind Voting Behaviour**

SOURCE C

Results of the EU Parliamentary Elections of 2003 in the East Midlands Constituency

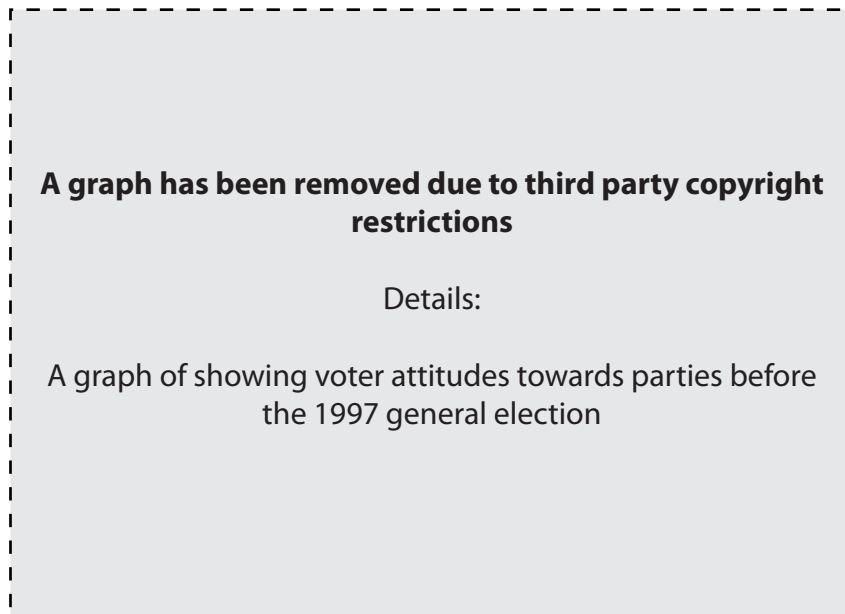
Pa rty	Vote	% of vote	Seats won
Con	285 662	39	3
Lab	206 756	29	2
LibDem	92 398	13	1
UK Ind	54 800	8	
Green	38 974	5	
Alt Lab	17 409	2	
ProEuroCon	11 359	2	
BNP	9 342	1	
Soc Lab	5 528	0.7	
NatLaw	1 525	0.2	

Results of Elections to the Scottish Parliament of 2003

Pa rty	Constituency seats	% vote	Regional seats	% vote	Total seats
Lab	46	35	4	30	50
SNP	9	24	1 8	22	27
Cons	3	17	15	16	18
LibDems	13	15	4	12	17
SNP	0	6	6	6	6
Green	0	0	7	6	7
Senior Citizens	0	0	1	1.5	1
Others	2	3	2	7.2	4

SOURCE D

Voter attitudes towards Parties before the 1997 General Election



Base: c. 1100 British public

Source: MORI/Times

- 1 (a) Explain what is meant by a 'manifesto' and a 'mandate'. [4]
(b) Using Source A and your own knowledge, describe the impact that campaigns can have on general elections. [6]
- 2 Using Source B and your own knowledge, describe the principal factors behind voting behaviour in the UK. [20]
- 3 Using Source C and your own knowledge, make out a case for UK general elections using similar methods to those used for Scottish and European Parliamentary elections. [30]
- 4 Using all four sources and your own knowledge, explain why Labour won the general elections of 1997 and 2001. [40]