

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2595

Elections, Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour in the UK

Wednesday

11 JANUARY 2006

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.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten the sheets to the answer booklet.
- Answers should be written in continuous prose.
- You must use your own knowledge and the source material in your answers.

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 question or 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

**A table has been removed due to third party
copyright restrictions**

Details:

A table showing the count of votes for the election
for Mayor of Hartlepool in 2002. Taken from:

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/localgovelections/story/0,,709245,00.html>

**A table has been removed due to third party
copyright restrictions**

Details:

Results of a local election in 2003 taken from:

[http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/
council--government-and-democracy/elections/](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/council--government-and-democracy/elections/)

SOURCE B

A table has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions

Details:

A table of data from <http://www.electionguide.org/results.php?ID=958>
showing election results for Northern Ireland

SOURCE C

A table has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions

Details:

A table showing Class Based Voting in the General Elections of 1997 and 2001

SOURCE D

An extract has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions

Details:

An article titled 'The Influence of Newspapers and Other Media on Voting Behaviour' about the importance of the media in the political climate.

- 1 Using Source A and your own knowledge:
 - (a) Describe the purpose of these two elections. [2]
 - (b) Describe the main features of the two electoral systems used. [8]
- 2 Using Source B and your own knowledge, describe the main differences between the electoral system used for the Northern Ireland Assembly and that used for general elections in the UK. [20]
- 3 Using Source C and your own knowledge, discuss the view that the main trend in recent voting behaviour is the decline of class based voting. [30]
- 4 Using Source D and your own knowledge, discuss the view that the newspapers and other mass media have a significant role in influencing voting behaviour. [40]