

**ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE  
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Elections, Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour in the UK

**FRIDAY 23 MAY 2008**

**2595**

Morning  
Time: 1 hour

**Additional materials (enclosed):** Answer Booklet (8 page)

**Additional materials (required):**  
None



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- 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.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer on the front of the Answer Booklet.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

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

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

## Elections, Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour in the UK

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

### Source A

#### Results of the Northern Ireland Assembly Election of 2003

Party	Share of 1 <sup>st</sup> preference votes in %	Seats won	Share of seats in %
Alliance	4	6	6
Democratic Unionist	26	30	28
Independents	3	1	1
Progressive Unionist	1	1	1
SDLP	17	18	17
Sinn Fein	24	24	22
UK Unionist	1	1	1
Ulster Unionist	23	27	25

### Source B

#### The impact of the mass media on voting behaviour

A major element in the dominant ideology model is that certain key groups in society have a very strong influence on voting behaviour. The most important of these groups is the mass media. The media's ability to set the political agenda and make or break political reputations is well known. However, less well known is the long term 'drip-drip' effect which is said to have been a key reason for the Conservatives losing the elections of 1997, 2001 and 2005.

### Source C

#### Results of the UK General Election of 2005

Party	Seats Won	% of vote	% of seats
Labour	356	35	55
Conservative	198	32	31
Liberal Democrats	62	22	10
Others	29	11	4

## Source D

## Referendums in the UK

Date	Issue	Yes vote	No vote	Turnout
1997	Devolution for Scotland	74%	26%	60%
1997	Devolution for Wales	50.3%	49.7%	50%
1998	The Northern Ireland Peace Settlement	71%	29%	81%
1998	Elected Mayor and Assembly for London	72%	28%	33%
2004	Regional Assembly for the North East	22 %	78%	48%

- 1 Using **Source A** and your own knowledge, describe the main features of the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system of election. [10]
- 2 Using **Source B** and your own knowledge, describe the impact that the mass media might have on voting behaviour. [20]
- 3 Using **Sources A and C** and your own knowledge, make out a case **for** reforming the system used in UK General Elections. [30]
- 4 Using **Source D** and your own knowledge, discuss the case for greater use of referendums in the UK. [40]

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