



GCE AS/A level

1401/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

UNIT GP1

PEOPLE, POLITICS AND PARTICIPATION

P.M. FRIDAY, 13 January 2012

1½ hours

1401
010001

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer any **TWO** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The maximum mark for this paper is 80.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that credit will be given for reference to concepts and examples, where relevant, from the politics and government of Wales.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in answers that involve extended writing (part *(c)* questions).

Answer two questions.

Each question is worth 40 marks.

1. Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Survey of voting behaviour 2010 General Election

A significant number of voters will change their minds when they enter the polling booth. So what accounts for this apparent voter volatility?

We haven't looked in depth at this issue since the 1960s. In those days, party political allegiances were more entrenched. Increasingly nowadays, people don't vote for the same party throughout their electoral life. They change their minds from one election to the next.

Maybe the reason is simple – voters are disillusioned with political parties and do not feel loyalty to them. It is not just a question of floating voters, *tactical voting* is part of it, and there's also the protest vote – voting for a party they don't really like to send a signal to their usual party.

Extract adapted (with permission) from the website of the *Guardian* newspaper, 4 May 2010

- (a) What is meant by the term '*tactical voting*' (line 8)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why voting behaviour has become more volatile. [10]
- (c) Assess whether short-term factors are more important in determining voting behaviour than long-term factors. [25]

2. Electoral Systems

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Consensus-building

5 The shift from single-party majority government to coalition government leads to a different style of policy-making and to the adoption of different policies. In particular, First Past the Post generally results in single-party governments that are able to drive their policies through the House of Commons, but other voting systems lead to a policy process that emphasises the need for compromise, negotiation and the development of a cross-party consensus. Coalitions can embark on radical programmes, more radical than any one party alone would have attempted in government.

10 The accepted principles of adversarial and tribal British politics do not play out in the traditional way. Coalition partners seek new ways of making government work, a new *consensus politics*.

Extract adapted from *Essentials of UK Politics*, Andrew Heywood, 2008

- (a) What is meant by '*consensus politics*' (line 11)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the strengths of coalition governments. [10]
- (c) 'Referendums should be used more frequently in the UK.' Discuss. [25]

3. Political Parties in Wales and the UK

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Minor Parties

5 The *Liberal Democrats* are a political force to be reckoned with, but the other UK-wide third and minority parties have much less popular support, much less money, and rarely gain representation in Westminster. They are often ‘single issue’ parties that do not offer a broad programme, yet they do articulate the thinking of sections of the voters.

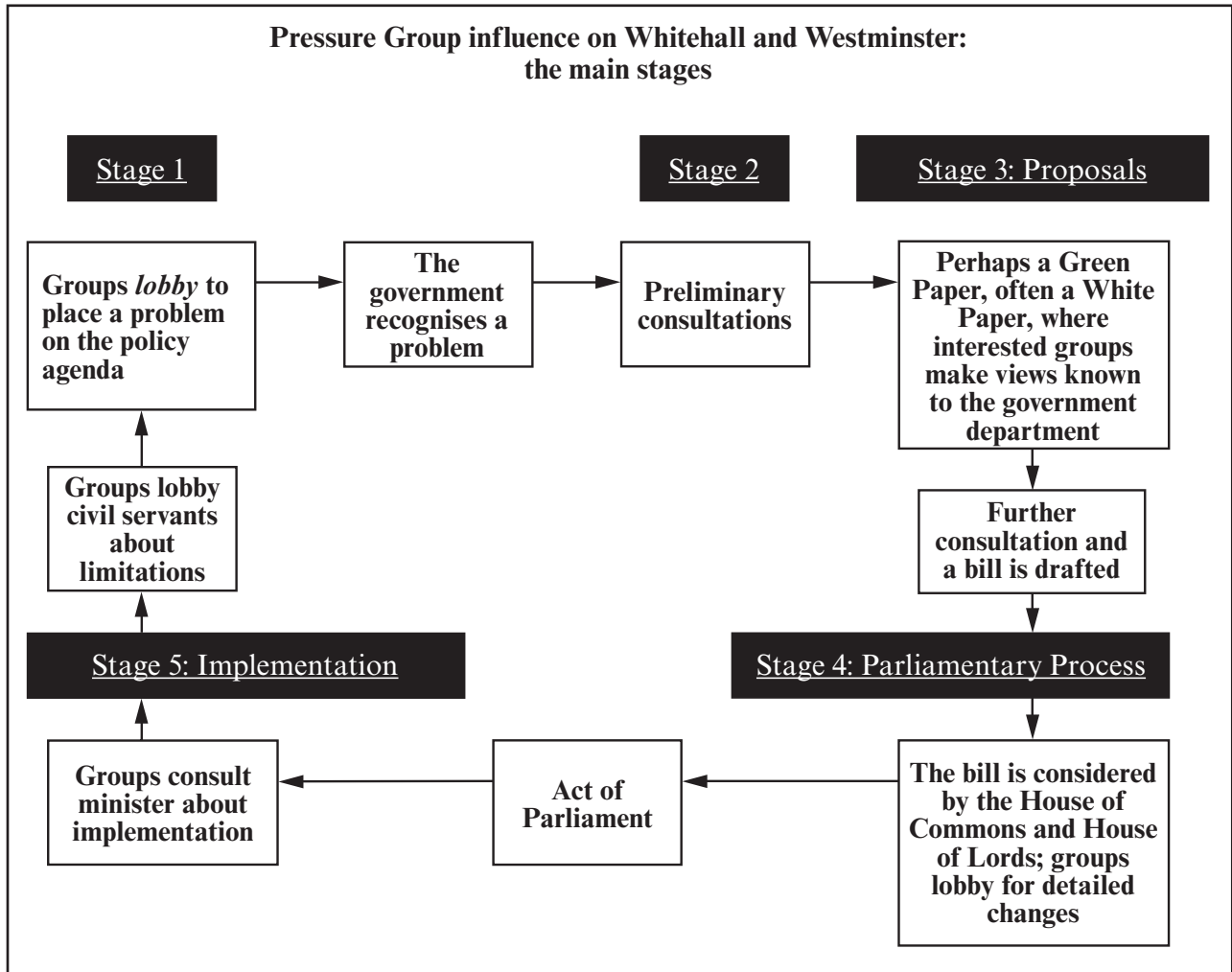
10 One of the fastest-growing parties in Britain is the UK Independence Party (UKIP) which campaigns mainly on a platform of British withdrawal from the European Union. The Green Party is primarily an ecological party, concerned with the promotion of a sustainable way of life. In recent years they have tried to broaden their appeal by taking up other policy issues, but maintaining a credible identity in the minds of voters has proved difficult when the main parties also have policies in these areas.

Extract adapted from *AQA Government and Politics*, Duncan Watts, 2008

- (a) What is meant by ‘*Liberal Democrats*’ (line 1)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why third and minority parties find it difficult to get candidates elected. [10]
- (c) Analyse whether political parties still have any useful role to play in British politics. [25]

4. Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.



Extract adapted from *British Politics*, Leach, Coxall and Robins, 2006

- (a) What is meant by the term 'lobby' (Stage 1)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why links with government are important to pressure groups. [10]
- (c) Evaluate the importance of membership and resources as factors affecting the political influence of pressure groups and social movements. [25]