



GCE AS/A level

1401/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP1
People, Politics and Participation

A.M. THURSDAY, 9 January 2014

1 hour 30 minutes

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.

Falling turnout in elections

A quick examination of turnout levels reveals an alarming fall in the numbers of people voting in *UK general elections*. A combination of theoretical and practical explanations can be put forward to explain this phenomenon. Most of the survey data suggests that a tiny number of people are serial abstainers, while the majority of respondents in all surveys attribute their failure to vote to practical reasons such as 'forgetting'.

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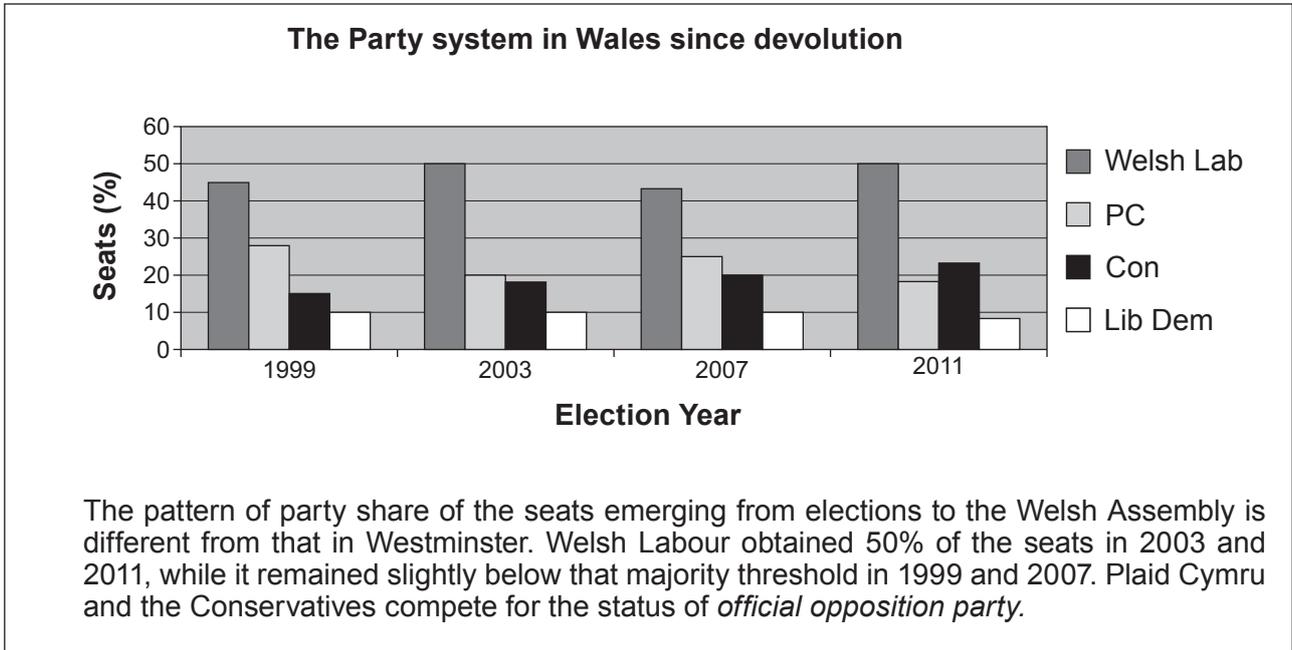
Rational Choice Theory assumes that individuals calculate the costs and benefits of voting, and determine whether or not it is worth their effort to turn out on election day.

Extract adapted from *UK Elections and Electoral Reform*, Neil Smith, 2006

- (a) What is meant by '*UK general elections*' (line 2)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the reasons why some people do not participate in elections. [10]
- (c) Critically assess the importance of the campaign, compared to other factors, in determining how electors cast their votes. [25]

2. Electoral Systems

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



Extract adapted from *The Scottish and Welsh Party System Ten Years after Devolution*, Emanuele Massetti
{University of Sussex paper, SEI Working Paper No 107}

- (a) What is meant by '*official opposition party*' (line 4)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the effects that the Additional Member System of voting has had on party politics in Wales. [10]
- (c) 'Proportionality is more important than other features when deciding the effectiveness of UK electoral systems.' Discuss. [25]

3. Political Parties

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

Manifestos and coalition government

Vince Cable has denied that the Liberal Democrats have broken promises on university fees. Mr Cable told BBC One's Politics Show, "We didn't break a promise. We made a commitment in our manifesto, but we didn't win the election. We then entered into a coalition agreement, and it's the coalition agreement that is binding upon us, not pre-election manifesto pledges."

- 5 "We made a whole series of commitments in our election manifesto, as did *the Conservative Party* in theirs. Neither party has been able to carry all of them through, partly because we have a coalition and have had to make compromises, and partly because we're still in the middle of this appalling financial situation."

Extract adapted from *www.bbc.co.uk* 21 November 2010

- (a) What is meant by '*the Conservative Party*' (lines 5-6)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain the importance of party manifestos. [10]
- (c) Assess whether ideology is still important to political parties in the UK. [25]

4. Pressure Groups

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

Pressure groups and policy formulation

5 Although pressure groups are, by definition, not policy-makers, this does not prevent many of them from participating in the policy-making process. In particular, pressure groups are a vital source of information and advice to governments. Many groups are therefore regularly consulted in the process of policy formulation, with government policy increasingly being developed through *policy networks*.

Extract adapted from *Essentials of UK Politics* by Andrew Heywood

- (a) What is meant by '*policy networks*' (line 5)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why pressure groups are important to policy-making in UK politics. [10]
- (c) 'Insider status is the most important factor that determines whether a pressure group will achieve success.' Discuss. [25]

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