

General Certificate of Education
June 2004
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



SOCIAL SCIENCE: CITIZENSHIP
Unit 2 The Citizen and the Political Process

SSC2

Wednesday 9 June 2004 Morning Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen. Pencil should only be used for drawing.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is SSC2.
- Answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Advice

- Where appropriate you should use local and/or national and/or international examples and/or case studies.

Answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question carries 30 marks.

1 Read **Sources A** and **B** and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Source A

The Use of Referendums in the UK

Although people call for the greater use of referendums, the only national referendum to date was in 1975 regarding the UK's continued membership of the European Union, when voters agreed by a majority of two to one to stay in the EU. However, a referendum is planned if the government proposes that the UK adopts the Euro currency. Opposition parties in Parliament have also called for a referendum on the proposed European Union constitutional changes.

Source B

The Labour Government and Constitutional Changes

The Labour Party's 1997 General Election manifesto contained a number of proposals for constitutional change. Some of these pledges are outlined below and an assessment made of the action taken to implement each of them between May 1997 and September 2002.

1997 PLEDGE	ACTION
To abolish the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords.	The House of Lords Act 1999 removed the right of all but 92 hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords.
To hold a referendum on the voting system for elections to the House of Commons.	Such a referendum has not been held, and the First Past the Post (FPTP) system continues to be used.
To draw up a Freedom of Information Act.	A Freedom of Information Act was passed in 2000, but the government delayed its introduction until 2005.
To hold referendums to set up Assemblies in Scotland and Wales.	Referendums were held in 1997. The Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly are now in operation.
To hold a referendum to set up a strategic authority and a Mayor for London.	The referendum was held in 1998. The Greater London Assembly and the Mayor were elected in May 2000.

Source: adapted from R BENTLEY, P DOREY & D ROBERTS, *British Politics Update 1999–2002* (Causeway Press) 2002

1 (cont.)

Your answers should refer to the sources as appropriate but you should also include other relevant information.

- (a) Explain what is meant by the following terms:
- (i) hereditary peers; *(2 marks)*
 - (ii) the First Past The Post (FPTP) system. *(2 marks)*
- (b) Briefly examine some of the advantages **and** disadvantages of citizens influencing the outcome of important issues by means of referendums. *(10 marks)*
- (c) Assess the arguments for **and** against lowering the voting age in local and parliamentary elections to 16. *(16 marks)*

EITHER

- 2 (a) In recent years there has been a general decline in voter turnout and membership of political parties. Briefly explain why citizens should be concerned about a growth in political apathy. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Referring to a campaign known to you, evaluate the role of the media in contributing to its success or failure. *(20 marks)*

OR

- 3 (a) Although responsible for providing important services costing millions of pounds, local councillors are mostly part-time and paid a small allowance. Briefly examine some of the arguments in favour of full-time, well-paid local councillors. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Assess whether parliamentary or extra-parliamentary action is more effective in achieving political aims. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE