



**GCE AS/A level**

1401/01

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GPI**  
**People, Politics and Participation**

P.M. MONDAY, 14 January 2013

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.

**2010: A Presidential Style General Election?**

An IPSOS MORI opinion poll question before the 2010 General Election:

5 ‘What is it that most attracted you to the party you have chosen to vote for? If you had a total of 100 points to share between factors how many points would you give to the policies of the party you intend voting for, how many to its leaders, and how many to the party as a whole (*party identification*)?’

**Responses:** Average (mean) scores are shown

	<b>General Election 2005</b>	<b>General Election 2010</b>
<b>Policies</b>	46	38
<b>Leaders</b>	31	38
<b>Party as a whole</b>	24	22

- (a) What is meant by ‘*party identification*’ (line 5)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain recent changes in voting behaviour. [10]
- (c) ‘The main reason for non-participation in UK politics is apathy.’ Discuss. [25]

## 2. Electoral Systems

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

### Welsh Referendum 2011

Wales has voted “Yes” in a referendum to give its assembly more law-making powers.

5 However, supporters of the “No” campaign dismissed the referendum result as “pathetic”. David Bevan from UKIP claimed the “extremely low turnout” gave no mandate for historic changes to take place in the principality. ‘We pushed to have the referendum held on the same day as the *Assembly elections*, which would have ensured a higher turnout and cost £5m less. This was a referendum where two thirds of the voters in Wales ... did not vote. They did not think that it was important enough,” he added.

10 At least 2.2m people were eligible to vote, but in the end only 815,597 voted.

- (a) What is meant by ‘*Assembly elections*’ (lines 6-7)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why referendums can be criticised. [10]
- (c) Assess whether UK politics can still be described as a ‘two-party system’. [25]

### 3. Political Parties in Wales and the UK

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

#### The End of Ideology?

5 The ideological movements that had taken root and flourished in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, such as liberalism and *socialism*, had lost their power to mobilise and inspire the masses by the 1950s. The post-war period after 1945 saw the rise of a new consensus with all political parties offering incremental, piecemeal changes to a system they all basically supported, as opposed to a more fundamental re-ordering of society along ideological lines.

10 In recent years, political parties have changed their traditional ideological positions as part of an effort to appeal to as wide a range of voters as possible. These modern 'catch-all' parties are criticised as being little more than election-winning machines.

- (a) What is meant by '*socialism*' (line 2)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why ideological differences between political parties seem to have disappeared. [10]
- (c) Evaluate whether party members are still important to political parties in Wales and the UK. [25]

#### 4. Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

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

##### Pressure Groups

5 A pressure group is an organised group of people that aims to influence the policies or actions of government, typically having a narrow issue focus and being united by either shared interests or a common cause. However, the distinction between pressure groups and political parties is blurred by the fact that many small parties also have a narrow issue focus and by the tendency of some pressure groups to use elections as a tactical weapon. Pressure groups use a range of methods, from behind-the-scenes negotiation to *civil disobedience*.

- (a) What is meant by '*civil disobedience*' (lines 7-8)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between pressure groups and political parties. [10]
- (c) 'Direct action is the most effective way for pressure groups to influence government policy today.' Discuss. [25]

**END OF PAPER**

**Extracts adapted from**

1. General Election 2010, an Overview, [www.ipsosmori.com](http://www.ipsosmori.com)
2. [www.news.sky.com](http://www.news.sky.com)
3. *UK Government and Politics* by Lynch and Fairclough, 2010
4. *Essentials of UK Politics* by Andrew Heywood, 2008

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