

AS GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Unit 1 People, Politics and Participation

Monday 6 June 2016

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is GOVP1.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions on each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions **02** and **03**, **05** and **06**, **08** and **09**, **11** and **12** should be answered in continuous prose. For those questions you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each topic.

Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions on each topic.

Each topic is worth 40 marks.

Topic 1 Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer questions **01**, **02** and **03** which follow.

By-elections to the Westminster Parliament in 2014

By-election results rarely provide an accurate indication of the outcome of the next UK general election, not least due to variable **turnout** and the large scale of protest voting at such contests. However, the five by-elections held in England in 2014 would certainly have given the main UK parties food for thought as the 2015 General Election approached. The Conservatives, who had won three of the seats in question at the 2010 General Election, lost Clacton, and Rochester & Strood to UKIP. Although this was due, in part, to the defection of the incumbent Conservative MPs, it was notable that UKIP also increased its share of the vote in Wythenshawe & Sale East (+14.5%), Newark (+22.1%), and Heywood & Middleton (+36.1%).

Constituency	Date	Outcome	UKIP vote (2010)	% Turnout
Wythenshawe & Sale East	13 February	Lab hold	18% (3.4%)	28.2%
Newark	5 June	Con hold	25.9% (3.8%)	52.7%
Clacton	9 October	UKIP gain	59.7% (N/A)	51.1%
Heywood & Middleton	9 October	Lab hold	38.7% (2.6%)	36.0%
Rochester & Strood	20 November	UKIP gain	42.1% (N/A)	50.6%

Figures taken from S Ayres and O Hawkins, By-elections since 2010, House of Commons Library SN/SG/5833, 2014

- 0 1** Explain the term '**turnout**' used in the extract (line 2). **[5 marks]**
- 0 2** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** reasons why by-election results are a poor indicator of general election outcomes. **[10 marks]**
- 0 3** 'Voting at elections should only be seen as one way of measuring political participation.' Discuss. **[25 marks]**

Topic 2 Electoral Systems

Read the extract below and answer questions **04**, **05** and **06** which follow.

The 'referendum' on Scottish independence

In the Scottish Independence Referendum held on 18 September 2014, the proposition 'Should Scotland be an independent country?' was rejected by 55.3% to 44.7%.

There was a majority for 'No' in 28 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas, including the capital, Edinburgh. There was a majority for 'Yes' in Scotland's largest city, Glasgow. The turnout at the referendum was 84.6%. This was the highest turnout at a nationwide referendum or parliamentary election in Scotland since the franchise was extended in 1918. For the first time, 16–17-year-olds were eligible to vote. 109,533 people in this age group had registered to vote by polling day.

Turnout at UK referendums held 2010–2015				
Focus	Electorate	Date	Result	Turnout
Extension of Welsh Assembly's law-making powers	Wales	March 2011	'Yes'	35.6%
AV to replace FPTP for elections to the Westminster Parliament	UK	May 2011	'No'	42.2%
Independence for Scotland	Scotland	September 2014	'No'	84.6%

Adapted from R McInnes, S Ayres & O Hawkins, Scottish Independence Referendum 2014, House of Commons Library Research Paper 14/50, 2014

- 0 4** Explain the term '**referendum**' used in the title of the extract. **[5 marks]**
- 0 5** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider why referendums could be said to undermine representative democracy. **[10 marks]**
- 0 6** 'The UK should adopt the Additional Member System (AMS) for elections to the Westminster Parliament.' Discuss. **[25 marks]**

Turn over for the next topic

Topic 3 Political Parties

Read the extract below and answer questions **07**, **08** and **09** which follow.

The evolving UK party system	
<p>Some have argued that the UK has evolved from a two-party system into a multi-party system. Even at the 2010 General Election, the national vote was shared fairly evenly between the three main parties: 36% for the Conservatives; 29% for Labour; and 23% for the Liberal Democrats. However, that fragmentation has extended beyond the main three parties to a range of significant minority players.</p>	5
<p>The BNP achieved electoral breakthrough at the 2009 European Parliament Elections, with two of the party's candidates being returned as MEPs. The Green Party won a first Commons seat at the 2010 General Election. At the same election, the SNP and Plaid Cymru won nine seats between them and Northern Ireland parties gained a total of 18 seats. Perhaps most significantly, UKIP has broadened its appeal, gaining 13 seats at the 2009 European Parliament Elections, and making dramatic advances at both local elections and parliamentary by-elections as the 2015 General Election drew near. Some saw such gains for minority parties as evidence that mainstream UK parties had become too ideologically similar.</p>	10 15
<p>Adapted from J Kingdom with P Fairclough, Government and Politics in Britain, Polity, 2014</p>	

- 07** Explain the term '**multi-party system**' used in the extract (line 2). **[5 marks]**
- 08** Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, consider the role that minority parties perform within the UK system. **[10 marks]**
- 09** 'Individual members of the Conservative Party and the Labour Party have little or no say in the organisation or policy of those parties.' Discuss. **[25 marks]**

Topic 4 Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer questions 10, 11 and 12 which follow.

‘Insider groups’ and outsider groups

Groups that work outside of the political loop are referred to as outsider groups. Those outsiders that might one day gain insider status, but have not yet established a good working relationship with those in government, are referred to as potential insiders. Governments may initially be reluctant to grant such groups insider status because they regard them as lacking legitimacy. Outsiders by necessity are those groups that are forced to operate as outsider groups as a result of there being no realistic prospect of regular consultation with government, whether because of a group’s core aims or its chosen methods. The term ideological outsiders refers to those groups that prefer to distance themselves from the government for reasons of ideology.

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In the absence of regular behind-the-scenes consultation with government, outsider groups such as Fathers 4 Justice and Plane Stupid have often engaged in high-profile publicity stunts as a means of moving their cause or interest up the political agenda.

Adapted from P Lynch & P Fairclough, AS UK Government & Politics, Philip Allan, 2013

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| <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">1</td><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">0</td></tr></table> | 1 | 0 | Explain the term ‘ insider groups ’ used in the title of the extract. | [5 marks] |
| 1 | 0 | | | |
| <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">1</td><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">1</td></tr></table> | 1 | 1 | Using your own knowledge as well as the extract, explain why insider groups have been seen to have more influence over policy than outsider groups. | [10 marks] |
| 1 | 1 | | | |
| <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">1</td><td style="padding: 2px 5px;">2</td></tr></table> | 1 | 2 | ‘A pressure group’s chances of success will be shaped largely by the tactics it adopts in pursuit of its goals.’ Discuss. | [25 marks] |
| 1 | 2 | | | |

END OF QUESTIONS

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