AQA

ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE

General Certificate of Education

Government and Politics 5151/6151

GOV2   Parties and Pressure Groups

Mark Scheme

2008 examination – January series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Further copies of this Mark Scheme are available to download from the AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk

CRITERIA FOR MARKING AS/A2
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Introduction

AQA's revised Government and Politics specification has been designed to be objectives–led in that questions are set which address the assessment objectives published in the specification. The assessment objectives for A Level and AS are the same, but the weightings are different at AS and A2. Details of the weightings are given in paragraphs 7.2 and 8.4 of the specification.

The schemes of marking reflect these objectives. The mark scheme which follows is of the *levels of response* type showing that candidates are expected to demonstrate their mastery of the skills required in the context of their knowledge and understanding of Government and Politics. Mark schemes provide the necessary framework for examiners but they cannot cover all eventualities. Candidates should be given credit for partially complete answers. Where appropriate, candidates should be given credit for referring to recent and contemporary developments in Government and Politics.

Consistency of marking is of the essence in all public examinations. It is therefore of vital importance that assistant examiners apply the marking scheme as directed by the Principal Examiner in order to facilitate comparability with the marking of other options.

Before scrutinising and applying the detail of the specific mark scheme which follows, assistant examiners are required to familiarise themselves with the general principles of the mark scheme as contained in the Assessment Matrix.

Using a levels of response mark scheme

Good examining is about the **consistent** application of judgement. Mark schemes provide a framework within which examiners exercise their judgement. This is especially so in subjects like Government and Politics which in part rely upon analysis, evaluation, argument and explanation. With this in mind, examiners should use the Assessment Matrix alongside the detailed mark scheme for each question. The Assessment Matrix provides a framework ensuring a consistent, generic source from which the detailed mark schemes are derived. This supporting framework ensures a consistent approach within which candidates' responses are marked according to the level of demand and context of each question.

Examiners should initially make a decision about which Level any given response should be placed in. Having determined the appropriate Level the examiners must then choose the precise mark to be given within that Level. In making a decision about a specific mark to award, it is vitally important to think first of the mid–range within the Level, where that Level covers more than two marks. Comparison with other candidates' responses to the same question might then suggest whether the middle mark is unduly generous or severe.

In making decisions away from the middle of the Level, examiners should ask themselves questions relating to candidate attainment, including the quality of language. The more positive the answers, the higher should be the mark awarded. We want to avoid "bunching" of marks. Levels mark schemes can produce regression to the mean, which should be avoided. A candidate's script should be considered by asking "Is it:–

- precise in its use of factual information?
- appropriately detailed?
- factually accurate?
- appropriately balanced or markedly better in some areas than others?
- generally coherent in expression and cogent in development (as appropriate to the level awarded)?
- well presented as to general quality of language?"

The overall aim is to mark positively, giving credit for what candidates know, understand and can do.

AS GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (GOV1, GOV2, GOV3)

GENERIC MARK SCHEME for part (a) questions (Total: 8 marks)

	Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select & Deploy	**Skills: Analysis & Evaluation**	**Communication**
	AO1	**AO2**	**AO3**
	Levels 3–4 (3–4 marks) The candidate successfully demonstrates accurate or generally accurate knowledge and understanding of political data, concept(s) or term(s). Where appropriate, the candidate is able to illustrate his/her answer with relevant evidence/example(s).	**Levels 3–4 (2 marks)** The candidate provides an appropriate analysis of political data, concept(s) or term(s) showing an awareness of differing viewpoints where appropriate.	**Levels 3–4 (2 marks)** The candidate communicates clearly and effectively using appropriate political vocabulary.
	Levels 1–2 (1–2 marks) The candidate demonstrates slight or basic knowledge and understanding of political data, concept(s) or term(s). The candidate may illustrate his/her answer with evidence/example(s) of limited relevance.	**Levels 1–2 (1 mark)** The candidate provides a superficial or partial analysis of political data, concept(s) or term(s).	**Levels 1–2 (1 mark)** The candidate communicates with limited clarity and effectiveness using a limited political vocabulary.

AS GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (GOV1, GOV2, GOV3)

GENERIC MARK SCHEME for part (b) questions (Total: 22 marks)

	Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select & Deploy	Skills: Analysis & Evaluation	Communication
	AO1	AO2	AO3
	Level 4 **(10–11 marks)** The candidate successfully demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and the relationship between them, producing an answer that deploys relevant knowledge and understanding to address the requirements of the question and that demonstrates significant contextual awareness. The candidate's answer includes relevant evidence and/or examples to substantiate and illustrate points made.	**Level 4** **(7 marks)** The candidate evaluates political institutions, processes and behaviour, applying appropriate concepts and theories. The candidate provides analysis which displays sound awareness of differing viewpoints and a clear recognition of issues. Parallels and connections are identified, together with valid and precise comparisons. The answer includes relevant and convincing interpretations or explanations.	**Level 4** **(4 marks)** The candidate communicates clear arguments and explanations using accurate political vocabulary. The candidate produces answers with a clear sense of direction leading towards a coherent conclusion.
	Level 3 **(7–9 marks)** The candidate demonstrates generally accurate knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and the relationship between them, producing an answer that addresses the requirements of the question and demonstrates adequate contextual awareness. The answer provides evidence backed up by clear examples to illustrate points made.	**Level 3** **(5–6 marks)** The candidate evaluates political institutions, processes and behaviour, applying some concepts or theories. The candidate provides clear arguments and explanations and demonstrates awareness of differing viewpoints and a recognition of issues. Parallels and connections are identified, together with some sound comparison.	**Level 3** **(3 marks)** The candidate communicates arguments and explanations using some political vocabulary. A conclusion is linked to the preceding discussion.

GENERIC MARK SCHEME for part (b) questions (continued)

	Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select & Deploy	Skills: Analysis & Evaluation	Communication
	AO1	**AO2**	**AO3**
	Level 2 **(4–6 marks)** The candidate demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and some awareness of the relationship between them. He/she makes a limited attempt to address the requirements of the question. The candidate may demonstrate contextual awareness covering part of the question, and may produce limited evidence and/or few examples.	**Level 2** **(3–4 marks)** The candidate offers a simplistic evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour and begins to construct arguments which contain basic explanation. The candidate shows some awareness of differing viewpoints. There is recognition of basic parallels or simplistic comparisons.	**Level 2** **(2 marks)** The candidate attempts to develop an argument using basic political vocabulary. Where a conclusion is offered, its relationship to the preceding discussion may be modest or implicit.
	Level 1 **(1–3 marks)** The candidate demonstrates slight and/or incomplete knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and limited awareness of the relationship between them. The candidate makes a very limited attempt to address the requirements of the question. Only superficial awareness of the context of the question is evident and the few examples cited are often inaccurately reported or inappropriately used.	**Level 1** **(1–2 marks)** The candidate makes a partial attempt to evaluate political institutions, processes and behaviour. Arguments offered are superficial. There is very limited awareness of parallels or comparisons.	**Level 1** **(1 mark)** The answer relies upon narrative which is not fully coherent and which is expressed without using political vocabulary. A conclusion is either not offered or it is not related to the preceding material.

1   **Total for this question: 30 marks**

(a)   Explain the term *New Labour* used in the extract.   *(8 marks)*

Candidates are likely to associate New Labour with Blair, Brown and others such as Smith or Mandelson or even Kinnock as a moderate catch–all party created to capture power. Associated with the 'Third Way', communitarianism and stake–holding, it appeared to embrace much of Thatcherism but envisage a major role for the state in modern Britain. In contrast to New Labour, some candidates will discuss the 'old' Labour Party of Foot, Benn, Wilson, Callaghan, etc with weaker candidates exaggerating its left–wing credentials when in office.

(b)   'There is no space for the policies and ideas of third parties in British politics.' Discuss.
                                                                                              (22 marks)

The stimulus provides information on the Liberal Democrats but some candidates may wish to select other third parties for discussion such as the SNP, Plaid Cymru, Green Party, UKIP or the BNP. The shape of the argument will depend in large part on the candidates' case-study or case studies, since some might explore one third party in depth whilst others might consider more than one third party. Some might focus only on policies and ideas championed at general elections: others might include, for example, Lib-Dem success in appealing to local electorates or Green appeal in Euro-elections. The sort of themes that might be included and argued persuasively are (i) that distinctive Lib-Dem policies and ideas (on Iraq, constitutional change, economy and welfare) are distinctive from Labour and Conservative but have only found limited space or minority appeal (ii) that Lib-Dem policies and ideas are frequently 'ahead of their time' and eventually get adopted as their own by the major parties (green policies, UK entry to the EU, and even, maybe, Iraq). In other words, there is space for third party Lib-Dem policies and ideas within the policies and ideas of Labour and Conservative. This argument might be extended into arguing that neo-liberal Thatcherism and New Labour's Third Way were both expressions of essentially Liberal Democrat inspired ingredients (iii) similarly, it might be argued that (light?) Green policies and ideas have been absorbed through the 'greening' of all the parliamentary parties or that there was no space for BNP policies and ideas when the Conservative Party was located more to the political right. Localised BNP successes might be seen as a consequence of parliamentary parties competing in the centre-ground thus leaving space for policies and ideas which are currently at the extreme and attractive to the 'old' working class once attracted by Labour's policies and ideas. Liberal Democrat local electoral losses, suffered after original publication of the extract, might be used to support the thrust of the stimulus quote. Candidates might explore the set question through considering a left-right spectrum of ideas and policies and drawing appropriate conclusions, historically through various government/opposition policies, or through some consideration of Britain's party system and its capability to handle rival ideas and policies.

2   **Total for this question: 30 marks**

(a)   Explain the term *Conservative right wing* used in the passage.   *(8 marks)*

Candidates explain in terms of an ideological faction or tendency within the Conservative Party. They might associate the right wing with neo–liberalism, Thatcherism or the drys in contrast to one–nation Tories or wets. They might explain the ideology in terms of preference for free–market solutions, minimal state intervention, nationalism or other 'Victorian values'. They are likely to identify David Cameron as being outside or opposed to the party's right wing, in contrast to some or all recent leaders.

(b)   'Parties have to change their political images from time to time.' Discuss.   *(22 marks)*

This question provides candidates with an opportunity to analyse the ideological/electoral position of one or more parties. Some candidates might focus on one party as a case-study whilst others might answer thematically and draw examples from more than one party. Some may draw parallels between Labour's years in the political wilderness until modernised into New Labour (red rose, etc) and the three-times rejection of the Conservatives by the electorate until reborn as a centre or right of centre party (green tree, etc). Candidates have ample opportunity to discuss reasons why parties 'have' to change their political images from time to time, such as outdated ideology which does not address contemporary concerns and declining support; changing values of the electorate such as alternative life-styles and family structures; change in society such as declining traditional industries or global issues such as climate change. Some candidates may explore whether a changing political image always reflects genuine political change or whether it is simply presentational. How 'new' was New Labour? Are the Tories really a moderate party of the centre? Are Liberal Democrats capable of forming a government? Are political images no more than 'gimmicks' to win support in the short-term or do they reflect authentic changes in parties? Candidates must reach a conclusion, although it may be qualified, supported by argument and evidence in addressing the demands of the set question.

3   **Total for this question: 30 marks**

(a)   Explain the term *interest group* used in the extract.   *(8 marks)*

A form of pressure group representing stake–holders who have an interest, usually but not always economic, in the outcome of specific decisions. Sometimes also referred to as sectional or defensive groups, they generally represent business, professional or trade union communities. Examples would include the CBI, IoD, NFU, BMA and TUC. Some groups can straddle the interest/cause group divide.

(b)   'To be successful a pressure group needs to be united.' Discuss.   *(22 marks)*

The stimulus extract provides information on various tensions and divisions within the NFU. This case study suggests that pressure groups can be coalitions representing a variety of opinions within a specific domain – such as large agribusinesses and marginal farms within the NFU. Other examples might include the pro and anti-hunting lobbies within the RSPCA, consultants and GPs within the BMA, and light and dark greens within environmental groups, even suffragettes and suffragists. Such divisions might be seen as similar to factions or tendencies within political parties, and give rise to similar problems. Candidates might argue that obvious and open divisions tend to limit the effectiveness of organisations, particularly in pursuing any policy which is opposed by some of the membership. The stimulus extract provides the example of divisions within the NFU resulting in a break-away Welsh Farmers' Union, and candidates might discuss the likely impact of such divisions on the political success of farmers. Were Welsh farmers ignored totally within the NFU and fail to have their needs recognised or met, did they have very limited success and political impact only, did Welsh farmers suffer from invisibility when they left the high-status NFU, or was their new found unity as a Welsh organisation rewarded with success? Some candidates will consider the nature of pressure group unity and offer qualifications, arguing for example that such divisions as discussed above might be seen as evidence of vigorous internal democracy within the agricultural community and therefore a symptom of success. Others might distinguish between successful 'democracy' and damaging 'dissent' whilst others might refer explicitly to pluralism and elitism to structure their answers. Candidates consider the nature of what constitutes pressure group success as well as other factors which contribute to such success. However, better answers focus on the set question and discuss related issues and arguments; and not merely list factors contributing to pressure group success in which unity is one factor which receives a similar consideration as others in the list.

4   **Total for this question: 30 marks**

(a)   Explain the term *access to decision makers used* in the extract.   *(8 marks)*

Candidates are likely to refer to access points as being or providing the channels through which pressure groups contact or influence decision makers or policy makers. Access to decision makers may be at local level (officials and councillors), Westminster and Whitehall, as well as at devolved and EU levels. Pressure groups seek those with power to make decisions in their favour and some candidates are likely to include access to the media within their explanations.

(b)   'Pressure group politics favours those with superior resources.' Discuss.   *(22 marks)*

Candidates are likely to consider the main resources available to those participating in pressure group politics, such as specialised knowledge or advice required by government, membership size and type, financial resources, leadership and quality of organisation, density and unity of membership, sanctions available and access to media. Some candidates might employ the insider/outsider structure to consider these factors and relate them to access to decision-makers at all levels, other candidates might employ the pluralist/elitist structure set out in the stimulus extract. There may be reference to groups wielding successful influence within policy communities or policy networks. Examples should be provided to illustrate the arguments made and credit should be given to candidates who use material provided elsewhere in the paper. Some might cite new social movements as examples of groups which may or may not be successful in a pressure-group like context, and credit should be given to valid points or arguments. The thrust of the stimulus in the set question might find agreement with many candidates who will argue that a group's legitimacy in representing others, the reasonableness of its demands, the quality of its advice, its familiarity with government procedures and its economic leverage add up to having superior resources which are likely to be rewarded with greater success. Groups not having such resources – such as those representing small and unpopular causes or those involved with contentious causes – enjoy little if any success in the world of pressure group politics. A the same time, however, some candidates might challenge the set question and cite examples which contradict the apparent conventional wisdom – such as small groups such as Snowdrop having great influence over gun control and large groups such as the CBI failing to stop the minimum wage.