

General Certificate of Education
June 2004
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 2 Parties and Pressure Groups

GOV2

Wednesday 9 June 2004 Afternoon 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 GOV2.
- Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.
In Section A answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
In Section B answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

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

- 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 question.

Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.

SECTION A

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

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

- 1 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Conservative Party Leadership in 2002

In 2002 the morale of Conservatives was low and the party remained divided between the “modernisers” and the “traditionalists”. Constant internal feuding and suspicions of plots to remove him resulted in Iain Duncan Smith warning Conservatives that the party must “unite or die”. To initiate a leadership contest at least 15% of the *parliamentary party* must table a no-confidence motion.

Source: adapted from Politics PAL 2003

- (a) Explain the term *parliamentary party* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “It is always difficult to be a successful leader of a party in opposition.” Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

- 2 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Parties: Ideologies and Images

New Labour has borrowed extensively not only from the socialist and social democratic tradition but also from other *ideologies*. There is much in common between New Labour and New Liberal ideas of a century ago. Tony Blair has also drawn on the ideas of “one-nation” Conservatism, and on the pragmatism that was once the characteristic of the Conservative Party.

- (a) Explain the term *ideologies* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) “A positive image is more important to a party’s success than a coherent ideology.” Discuss. (22 marks)

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

Turn over ►

SECTION B

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

- 3 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Pressure Group Influence

In seeking influence, pressure groups may use *access points* at various levels of government. For example, they may approach EU institutions directly or try to influence the national government's stance at Brussels. The indirect route is the more popular. The key Brussels access point is the Commission – not the Commissioners themselves but their officials operating within the dense committee network. Here groups will find an open door and may be invited to participate at very early stages in the policy process.

Source: adapted from J. KINGDOM, Government and Politics in Britain (Polity) 2003

- (a) Explain the term *access points* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) "Groups seeking maximum influence should focus on officials and civil servants, not on elected politicians." Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

- 4** Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Pressure Groups and Democracy

A well-known pressure group campaigner has provided a key justification for the existence of pressure groups. He argued that democracy is a majoritarian form of government which can ignore the views of minorities. However, pressure groups offer a chance for minorities and disadvantaged groups to argue their case. In this way, *political participation through pressure groups* offers a means of involvement other than voting.

- (a) Explain the phrase *political participation through pressure groups* used in the extract.
(8 marks)
- (b) “Pressure groups make already powerful interests even more powerful.” Discuss.
(22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE