

General Certificate of Education
June 2004
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 7 Ideas in Contemporary British Politics

GOV7

Tuesday 29 June 2004 Morning Session

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

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

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 GOV7.
- Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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 **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Each question carries 40 marks.

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

Environmental Politics

For much of the 1980s the Thatcher government's lack of interest in environmental issues was all too obvious. This was not surprising given their neo-liberal hostility towards the state intervention and regulation that most environmentalists regard as essential.

Labour had limited opportunity to influence environmental policy in the 1980s and, in any case, showed little interest in the issue. The party's roots in the organised labour movement, and its reliance on support from the urban working class, worked against the adoption of a comprehensive environmental programme. Among Labour's traditional supporters and financiers the environment has been regarded, at best, as irrelevant and, at worst, as a barrier to economic growth and employment.

The environment began to move up the political agenda in the latter part of the 1980s. External events such as Chernobyl, acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming caused public concern which led to Thatcher's 'conversion' to green issues. As a result, the late 1980s and early 1990s witnessed a range of governmental initiatives at both national and international levels.

With Labour's electoral victory in 1997, many assumed that the new government would pay more than lip-service to environmental issues. Yet doubts soon emerged regarding Labour's genuine commitment to environmental protection given the government's preoccupation with economic growth, low levels of taxation, and general personal prosperity and independence.

The degree of influence that national political parties and governments have on environmental policy-making has declined over the past two decades. British governments are increasingly subject to decisions taken at a supra-national level by the EU and international treaties. It now appears that the need for compromise between environmental protection and economic growth sits uneasily with recent Labour governments. In practice, the Labour government has not been prepared to sacrifice the needs of business and the economy when, as in the case of a radical transport policy, they are perceived to be threatened.

Source: adapted from "How Green is Labour?" by ROBERT GARNER, *Politics Review*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (Philip Allan Updates) April 1999

- (a) Using the extract, explain why *the environment began to move up the political agenda in the latter part of the 1980s*.
(8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, explain why the Labour and Conservative parties have found it difficult to promote environmental policies with enthusiasm.
(12 marks)
- (c) "Modern governments are more likely to accept 'light green' than 'dark green' thinking on environmental issues." Discuss in relation to British politics.
(20 marks)

Answer either **Question 2** or **Question 3** or **Question 4**.

- 2** “Ideologically, the Labour Party is not, and never has been, a socialist party.” Discuss. *(40 marks)*
- 3** Who, in contemporary British politics, are the true heirs of Classical Liberalism? *(40 marks)*
- 4** “British politics is largely non-ideological.” Discuss. *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE