

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 7 Ideas in Contemporary British Politics

GOV7

Wednesday 18 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- 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.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to 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 question.

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

Each question carries 40 marks.

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

Environmentalism

Although environmentalism is usually seen as a new ideology that is linked to the emergence of the ecological or Green movement in the late twentieth century, its roots can be traced back to the nineteenth century revolt against industrialisation. Environmentalism therefore reflects concern about the damage done to the natural world by the increasing pace of economic development. This has been made worse in the second half of the twentieth century by the advent of nuclear technology, acid rain, ozone depletion and global warming. There is also anxiety about the declining quality of human existence and, ultimately, the survival of the human species. Such concerns are sometimes expressed through the vehicle of conventional ideologies. For instance, eco-socialism explains environmental destruction in terms of capitalism's desire for profit. Eco-conservatism links the cause of conservation to the desire to preserve traditional values and established institutions.

However, what gives environmentalism its radical edge is the fact that it offers an alternative to the *anthropocentric* stance adopted by all other ideologies; it does not see the natural world simply as a convenient resource to satisfy human needs. Instead ecologists portray the planet Earth as a living organism, a view further developed by James Lovelock into his Gaia hypothesis of 1979. Here he argued that no matter how simply man lived, man would impinge on or interact with the rest of the world. This is essentially the holistic position which claims that the planet as a whole eco-system has absolute and intrinsic value. This sentiment is at the heart of Rachel Carson's seminal work 'Silent Spring' written in 1962 in which she declared that 'in nature nothing exists alone', and herein lies the fundamental axiom of Green political thought, a principle which has led many ecologists to a 'one earth theory'.

Source: adapted from ANDREW HEYWOOD, *Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, 1997

- (a) Explain the term *anthropocentric* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, consider the diversity of green ideas which exist within environmentalism. (12 marks)
- (c) 'Despite their manifesto claims, none of the major political parties is really "green".' Discuss. (20 marks)

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

- 2 'New Labour has pursued a broadly neo-liberal economic agenda and a broadly authoritarian social agenda.' Discuss. *(40 marks)*
- 3 'Modern conservatism owes more to New Labour than it does to Thatcherism.' Discuss. *(40 marks)*
- 4 Assess the view that liberalism has triumphed to become the dominant ideology in contemporary British politics. *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page