

General Certificate of Education
January 2004
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



SOCIAL SCIENCE: CITIZENSHIP
Unit 2 The Citizen and the Political Process

SSC2

Tuesday 13 January 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 SSC2.
- Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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

- Where appropriate you should use local and/or national and/or international examples and/or case studies.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 or Question 3.

Each question carries 30 marks.

1 Read **Sources A** and **B**, and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Source A

The 2000 Local Government Act

Under recent legislation all local councils with a population of over 85 000 have to change the ways in which they make decisions. In the past, council decisions were taken either at full council, involving all councillors, or in committees of up to 20 councillors. They must now choose one of three structures:

- a directly-elected Mayor working with a Cabinet of not more than ten senior councillors, selected by the Mayor;
- a directly-elected Mayor who appoints a council manager to run the council services;
- a Leader elected by the council, working with a Cabinet of not more than ten councillors.

A decision by any local authority to opt for the directly-elected Mayor is subject to a local referendum. It was hoped that having mayors directly elected by, and accountable to, local citizens would increase voters' interest in local government.

Source: adapted from R. BENTLEY, P. DOREY & D. ROBERTS, *British Politics Update 1999-2002* (Causeway Press) 2002

Source B

Turnout still an issue

The local elections in May 2003 appeared to show a continuing lack of voter interest in the work of local councils. Usually, only about one third of the electorate turn out to vote in local government elections. Even in the 2001 General Election the turnout was only about 60%. The government has attempted to increase turnout in local elections by allowing more postal votes and using modern technology such as the internet, email and text messaging.

1 (cont.)

Your answers should refer to the sources as appropriate but you should also include other relevant information.

- (a) Explain what is meant by:
- (i) a referendum; *(2 marks)*
 - (ii) turnout. *(2 marks)*
- (b) Briefly discuss whether or not introducing changes such as a directly-elected Mayor would be likely to increase voters' interest in local government. *(10 marks)*
- (c) In some countries, citizens are required by law to vote in elections. Assess the arguments for **and** against making voting compulsory in the UK. *(16 marks)*

EITHER

- 2 (a) Briefly explain why politicians may be concerned about the way they are portrayed in the media. *(10 marks)*
- (b) To what extent can it be argued that currently there are no ideological differences between the major parties? *(20 marks)*

OR

- 3 (a) Briefly examine why some pressure group campaigns are more successful than others. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Assess the extent to which Members of Parliament (MPs) can influence political decision-making at the national level. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS