



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2160U20-1



S23-2160U20-1

THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2023 – MORNING

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – AS unit 2

Living and participating in a democracy

1 hour 30 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

Section A: Answer **both** questions.

Section B: Answer **one** question from either question 3 **or** 4.

Section C: Answer **two** questions from either questions 5, 6 **or** 7.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The quality of your written communication, including appropriate use of punctuation and grammar, will be assessed in questions 5, 6 and 7.

Section A

In Section A, you must answer **both** questions 1 and 2.

In your answer credit will be given for accurate knowledge and understanding.

1. Using examples, describe the main features of pluralism. [6]

2. Using examples, outline the main features of the rights of minorities. [6]

Section B

In Section B, you must answer **one** question.

In your answer credit will be given for accurate knowledge and understanding, and also your ability to interpret and apply political information.

Either,

3. Read the extract below and answer the question that follows.

Extract A

Referendums

Britain is resorting to an increasing use of referendums. They have been used regarding the relationship between the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. They have also been used regarding Britain's relationship with the European Union. Britain's referendums have focused on seeking legitimacy for constitutional change, but in other countries they have been used to resolve moral issues. Some people support referendums as a means of achieving direct democracy. Opponents of referendums argue that they undermine democracy by creating two opposing polarised camps which prevents compromise. Also, many argue that the turnout at referendums tends to be lower than at elections, meaning that major decisions could be based on a narrow view.

[Extract adapted from Bill Coxall and Lynton Robins (3rd edition 1998)
Contemporary British Politics P. 145-6]

Using Extract A as well as your own knowledge, explain the differences between a referendum and an election. [24]

Or,

4. Read the extract below and answer the question that follows.

Extract B

The appeal of smaller parties

The range of political parties keen to enter the political fray and hold political office add a richness and depth to politics that has an impact on democracy and representation. This goes beyond the limited success they achieve at the ballot box – locally and nationally.

The existence and activities of smaller parties at Westminster and outside Westminster do offer alternative opportunities for citizen engagement and participation, despite lack of success in UK Parliament elections. Smaller parties can act to stimulate political opinion and activity that may be focused on a more precise set of political objectives than those of larger UK parties (Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats). Smaller parties are often recognised for their focus on a specific political agenda and set of objectives.

[Extract adapted from Colin Copus, Alistair Clark, Herwig Reynaert, Kristof Steyvers, *Minor Party and Independent Politics beyond the Mainstream: Fluctuating Fortunes but a Permanent Presence*, *Parliamentary Affairs*, Volume 62, Issue 1, January 2009, Pages 4–18, <https://doi.org/10.1093/pa/gsn035>]

Using Extract B as well as your own knowledge, compare and contrast the ideologies and platforms of smaller political parties with the main political parties in Wales and the UK. [24]

Section C

In Section C, you must answer **two** questions.

In your answer credit will be given for accurate knowledge and understanding, and also your ability to analyse and evaluate.

5. Assess whether the influence of the media is more important than other factors in explaining voting behaviour in the UK. [22]
6. ‘Global social movements are effective drivers of political change.’ How far do you agree with this view? [22]
7. ‘Human rights are not sufficiently protected in the UK.’ Discuss. [22]

END OF PAPER