AQA

AS
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Unit 1   People, Politics and Participation

Monday 5 June 2017   Morning   Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials
For this paper you must have:
- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is GOVP1.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions on each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Questions **02** and **03**, **05** and **06**, **08** and **09**, **11** and **12** should be answered in continuous prose.
  For those questions you will be marked on your ability to:
  – use good English
  – organise information clearly
  – 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 topic.

Choose **two** topics and answer **all** questions on each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1   Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer questions **01**, **02** and **03** which follow.

Differential turnout at the 2015 General Election

Although the media generally tends to focus on the national turnout figure, we should remember that this headline figure masks massive regional variations. For example, although the national turnout at the 2015 General Election was 66.2%, there was a significant gulf between the highest constituency turnout (81.9% in East Dunbartonshire) and the lowest (51.3% in Stoke-on-Trent Central). This variation is referred to as differential turnout. Some argue that turnout is likely to be lower in **safe seats**, where the outcome of the election in such a constituency might be a foregone conclusion, so voters stay at home. Some offer other explanations.

Top three turnouts

Constituency	% Turnout	Turnout rank	Majority
East Dunbartonshire	81.9%	1	2167 votes
East Renfrewshire	81.1%	2	3718 votes
Stirling	77.5%	3	10480 votes

Bottom three turnouts

Constituency	% Turnout	Turnout rank	Majority
East Londonderry	51.9%	648	7804 votes
Blackley and Broughton	51.6%	649	16874 votes
Stoke-on-Trent Central	51.3%	650	5179 votes

Adapted from P Lynch & P Fairclough, AS UK Government & Politics, Philip Allan, 2013 and Oliver Hawkins *et al*, General Election 2015, House of Commons Research Paper Number CBP7186

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0 1   Explain the term '**safe seats**' used in the extract.

[5 marks]

0 2   Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, consider reasons why turnout may differ significantly between different constituencies at general elections to the Westminster Parliament.

[10 marks]

0 3   'Voting behaviour at UK general elections is shaped more by the personalities of those seeking office than it is by their policies.' Discuss.

[25 marks]

Topic 2   Electoral Systems

Read the extract below and answer questions **04**, **05** and **06** which follow.

The 2016 referendum on UK membership of the European Union

In January 2013 the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, promised that he would call a national 'in/out' referendum on European Union (EU) membership if the Conservatives won the next general election. In line with this pledge, the referendum was later authorised by Parliament under the European Union Referendum Act (2015), with the referendum itself being held in June 2016.

Some felt that David Cameron's original promise of a referendum was made for the wrong reasons. They argued that he had been trying to deal with divisions in his own party over the issue of Europe, rather than doing what was best for the country. Moreover, critics argued that such a decision was too important to be left to the people; that referendums only serve to undermine **representative democracy**. Despite these concerns, 51.9% voted to leave the EU, and the 72.2% turnout at the referendum was higher than the 66.2% seen at the 2015 General Election.

Adapted in part from Elise Uberoi (2016), European Union Referendum 2016, House of Commons Briefing
Paper Number CBP 7639

| 0 | 4 |

Explain the term '**representative democracy**' used in the extract.

[5 marks]

| 0 | 5 |

Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** reasons why the UK government may have decided to hold the June 2016 referendum on UK membership of the EU.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 6 |

'The use of referendums in the UK since 1975 has done little to enhance democracy.' Discuss.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic 3   Political Parties

Read the extract below and answer questions **07**, **08** and **09** which follow.

Labour Party leadership elections

Since 2014, the rules under which a Labour Leader is elected have involved a two-stage process:

- First, candidates must gain the nomination of a predetermined proportion of members of the Commons Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) and European Parliamentary Labour Party (EPLP).

- Second, Labour Party members, affiliated supporters and registered supporters are then able to vote in the election. Votes are cast by individual members and are counted on the basis of **one person one vote**.

In June 2016 the Leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, lost a vote of no confidence from members of the Parliamentary Labour Party; 172 votes to 40. However, there is no provision for the removal of a Labour Leader through a no confidence vote within the Labour Party rules. There followed a leadership challenge by Labour MP Owen Smith, who managed to secure the nominations of 70% of Labour's 231 MPs and half of the Party's 20 MEPs.

Adapted from Neil Johnston and Lucinda Maer (2016), Leadership Elections: Labour Party, House of Commons Briefing Paper Number 03938

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0 7   Explain the term '**one person one vote**' used in the extract.

[5 marks]

0 8   Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, identify **and** explain **two** criticisms of the process by which the leader of the Labour Party is chosen.

[10 marks]

0 9   Evaluate the extent to which modern UK parties are shaped by ongoing political debates.

[25 marks]

Topic 4   Pressure Groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer questions **10**, **11** and **12** which follow.

Classifying pressure groups

The insider/outsider typology developed by Wyn Grant provides one theoretical framework for considering pressure group activity. This model argues that groups regarded as respectable and legitimate are likely to be more successful as they will be granted insider status. Those groups who do not find such a sympathetic ear, in contrast, are denied access to the corridors of power. These outsider groups may feel forced to engage in noisy demonstrations or direct action.

In practice, however, the insider/outsider split is not clear cut. Although new groups often start as outsiders, using more direct tactics, insider status may well be the ultimate goal for these 'potential insiders'. In the early 1990s, for example, the failure of the government of the day to listen to their concerns saw protesters against road development plans becoming involved in disruptive direct action. By the end of the 1990s, however, the anti-roads lobby was beginning to gain recognition – as gridlocked motorways fulfilled its prophecies. Moreover, **ideological outsiders** may have other reasons for remaining on the outside.

Adapted from J Kingdom with P Fairclough, Government and Politics in Britain, Polity, 2014

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1 0   Explain the term '**ideological outsiders**' used in the extract.

[5 marks]

1 1   Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, consider reasons why some pressure groups may have a closer working relationship with government than others.

[10 marks]

1 2   Evaluate the role of UK pressure groups and protest movements in influencing policy and changing values.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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