



GCE AS/A level

1401/01



S15-1401-01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP1

People, Politics and Participation

A.M. MONDAY, 1 June 2015

1 hour 30 minutes

1401
010001

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer any **TWO** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The maximum mark for this paper is 80.

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

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that credit will be given for reference to concepts and examples, where relevant, from the politics and government of Wales.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in answers that involve extended writing (part (c) questions).

Answer two questions.

Each question is worth 40 marks.

1. Participation and Voting Behaviour

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

5	<p>Declining partisan identification</p> <p>The number of voters who strongly identify with either Labour or the Conservatives has declined. In 1964, 43% of voters were ‘very strong’ supporters of one of the two main parties, but by 2005 only 13% were. The <i>core vote</i> for the two main parties is therefore smaller – parties have to work harder to win over a volatile electorate. The decline in membership of the two main parties also suggests that partisan dealignment is taking place.</p>
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*Extract adapted from UK Government and Politics,
Lynch and Fairclough 2010*

- (a) What is meant by the term ‘core vote’ (line 3)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain the evidence that suggests a decline in partisan identification. [10]
- (c) ‘Issues influence voting behaviour more than other factors.’ Discuss. [25]

2. Electoral Systems

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

The value of elections

5 Elections are central to democracy. The existence of free, competitive elections in which there is a meaningful choice of candidates is an essential criterion for any state claiming to be an *indirect democracy*. It is only a government that is elected that has a claim to legitimacy. Elections in established democracies are generally free and fair, in that they enable the will of the majority of voters to be expressed, freely, clearly, knowledgeably and in secret.

Extract adapted from AQA Government and Politics, Duncan Watts, 2008

- (a) What is meant by the term '*indirect democracy*' (line 3)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain the roles of elections in a democracy. [10]
- (c) Assess whether electoral systems that produce a strong, majoritarian government are the best systems for the UK. [25]

3. Political Parties in Wales and the UK

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

The end of the party?

5 Party conferences have evolved into lobbyists' trade shows. There will be no genuine discussion of policy. Ministers will make presentations of policies which have been decided by a small group of close aides in London, and a very large number of lobbyists will compete for ministerial attention. Regular party members are not significant and their number is declining. However, it is possible to increase membership of a political party in the modern age. Blair achieved it in the mid-1990s. *UKIP* manages it today; at the current rate it will have more members than the Conservative party within five years.

Extract adapted from www.spectator.co.uk, September 2013

- (a) What is meant by the term '*UKIP*' (line 6)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain the functions of party conferences. [10]
- (c) Evaluate the importance of campaigning compared with the other roles and functions of political parties in the UK. [25]

4. Pressure groups and Protest Movements

Read the extract below and answer parts (a), (b) and (c) which follow.

Lobbying the public

In contrast to the traditional view of pressure groups as lobbyists of the state, such groups now increasingly *lobby* the public. Their objective is to mobilise public opinion to embarrass or force the state into action. In raising their interest or cause, associational and promotional groups strive to capture the attention of both the public and policy makers.

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*Extract adapted from Pressure Groups by Richard Heffernan,
Politics Review, September 2012*

- (a) What is meant by the term '*lobby*' (line 2)? [5]
- (b) Using your own knowledge, as well as the extract, explain why pressure groups try to influence public opinion. [10]
- (c) 'Pressure groups are fundamentally undemocratic.' Discuss. [25]

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