

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Contemporary Politics of the UK

F851

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

- 8 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:

None

Thursday 14 January 2010
Morning

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **both** questions from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- You must use your own knowledge and the source material to answer Question 1.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer on the front of your Answer Booklet.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten these securely to your Answer Booklet.
- Do not write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- You are advised to spend 65 minutes on Section A and 25 minutes on Section B.
- You will be awarded marks in questions 1(b) and 2–5 for the quality of written communication including legibility, clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A**Sources for Question 1**

Read **all** the sources below and use them when answering Question 1.

SOURCE A: Democracy

The main pillars of democracy include:

- government based upon consent of the governed
- majority rule
- free and fair elections
- equality before the law
- the values of tolerance, cooperation, and compromise

Source: Adapted from the *US Department of State* website

SOURCE B: Parties in the 21st Century

An inquiry into democracy in the UK in 2006 concluded that political parties were widely held in contempt. According to the Inquiry's report, many people felt that parties offered no real choice and were lacking in principle.

The report also stated that, "For millions of citizens ... voting is simply regarded as a waste of time because the candidate or party you favour is either not standing or has no chance of victory."

According to the Inquiry, there was widespread concern about the health of democracy in the UK and that this was apparent in the "popular view across the country that our political institutions and their politicians are failing, untrustworthy, and disconnected from the great mass of the British people."

However, drawing attention to the fact that people continued to volunteer to raise money for charity, join protest marches, undertake voluntary work within their communities and sign petitions, the Inquiry's chair asserted that political apathy was actually a myth, it was just that people no longer wanted to join a party or get involved in formal politics.

Source: Power to the People: the report of POWER:
an Independent Inquiry into Britain's Democracy, March 2006, © The POWER Inquiry

Section A

Answer **all** the questions in this section.

- 1 (a)** Using the sources and your own knowledge, explain what is meant by 'democracy'. [12]
- (b)** Using the sources and your own knowledge, assess the contribution made by political parties to democracy in the UK today. [28]
- 2** Discuss the reasons why pressure groups are sometimes criticised. [30]

Section A Total: [70]

Section B

Answer **one** question in this section.

- 3** Discuss the view that we should use proportional representation to elect members of the Westminster Parliament. [30]
- 4** Compare and contrast the differences between general elections and by-elections. [30]
- 5** To what extent does the 'rational choice' model explain the way people vote? [30]

Section B Total: [30]

Paper Total: [100]

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