

General Certificate of Education
June 2003
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 1 Electoral Systems and Voting Behaviour

GOV1

Tuesday 3 June 2003 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
a 12-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 GOV1.
- Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.
In Section A answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
In Section B answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

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

- You are advised to spend approximately 10 minutes reading the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each question.

Answer **one** question from Section A **and one** question from Section B.

SECTION A

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

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

- 1** Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Ethnic Minority Voting in the 2001 General Election (%)

	Black	Asian	Whole electorate
Conservative	10	13	33
Labour	84	80	42
Lib-Dem	5	5	19
Other	1	2	6

According to an opinion poll taken just before the 2001 general election, voting intentions by ethnic minorities remained much the same as in 1997, indicating stability rather than *volatility*.

Statistics courtesy of *Operation Black Vote*

- (a) Explain the term *volatility*. (8 marks)
- (b) To what extent does voting by ethnic minorities reflect the voting behaviour of the whole electorate? (22 marks)

OR

- 2 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Voters and Issues

The 'supermarket' model attempts to explain voting behaviour in terms of the electorate 'shopping around' for policies which most suit their own opinions and voting accordingly. If a voter's supermarket trolley is filled mostly with Tory policies which he or she has picked off the shelves then it can be expected that that person will vote Conservative. In the 2001 general election, the Conservative campaign focused on the issues of asylum seekers and the Euro. Although these issues were important to Conservative *core voters*, they were not seen as top priority issues by the wider electorate.

Source: Adapted from *Politics PAL 2002*

- (a) Explain the term *core voters*. (8 marks)
- (b) "Voting behaviour is influenced more by political issues than by social factors such as class, age or gender." Discuss. (22 marks)

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION

SECTION B

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Each question carries 30 marks.

EITHER

- 3 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

Votes and Seats in the 2001 General Election

As in previous general elections, the relationship between votes cast and seats won remained distorted. Labour's 42% share of the popular vote won the party 64% of seats in the Commons, whereas the Conservatives' 33% of the popular vote delivered only 26% of Commons seats. Despite improving on their 1997 position, the Liberal Democrats' 19% share of the vote gave them only 8% of Commons seats.

The First Past The Post (FPTP) electoral system continued to encourage *tactical voting*, but not on the widespread scale that some political scientists had predicted. Where it occurred, it was again directed against Conservative candidates.

- (a) Explain what is meant by *tactical voting*. (8 marks)
- (b) "Despite appearing to be unfair, First Past The Post produces strong and popular governments." Discuss. (22 marks)

OR

- 4 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

The text extract, adapted from 'Comparing Electoral Systems' by D. Farrell, □
Macmillan (1997), is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright □
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- (a) Explain what is meant by *party-based rather than candidate-based* systems. (8 marks)
- (b) “List systems display all the disadvantages of proportional representation.” Discuss. (22 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS