

General Certificate of Education
January 2003
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 7 Ideas in Contemporary British Politics

GOV7

Tuesday 28 January 2003 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Σ Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen. Pencil should only be used for drawing.
- Σ Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV7.
- Σ Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- Σ The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Σ Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- Σ 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

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

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

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

Total for this question: 40 marks

The Evolution of Liberalism

Classical liberalism

The spirit of self-help is the root of all genuine growth in the individual. Help from others is often weakening whilst self-help is strengthening. Whatever is done for men or groups takes away the incentive (encouragement) and necessity of doing it themselves. And where people are over-guided and over-governed, the inevitable tendency is for them to become comparatively helpless.

(From Samuel Smiles, *Self Help*, 1859)

Progressive New liberalism

The working classes have done their best during the past fifty years to make provision without the aid of the state. But, it is insufficient. The old man has to bear his own burden while in the case of a young man who is broken down and who has a wife and family to maintain, the suffering is increased and multiplied to that extent. These problems of the sick, of the men who cannot find means of earning a living, are problems with which it is the business of the state to deal. They are problems which the state has neglected for too long.

(David Lloyd George, part of a speech to Parliament, 1908)

The Liberal Democrats and liberalism

We believe in a society in which every citizen shares rights and responsibilities. But we recognise that a strong country is built from the bottom, not the top; and that conformity quickly becomes the enemy of diversity. Above all, Liberal Democracy is about *liberty*. That does not just mean freedom from oppressive government. It means providing all citizens with the opportunity to build worthwhile lives for themselves and their families, and helping to recognise their responsibilities to the wider community. Liberal Democrats believe the role of democratic government is to protect and strengthen *liberty*, to redress the balance between the powerful and the weak, between rich and poor, and between immediate gains and long-term environmental costs.

(Paddy Ashdown, *Liberal Democrat* 1997)

Source: adapted from DAVID ROBERTS (Ed.), *British Politics in Focus* (Causeway Press) 1999

- (a) Explain what is meant by *liberty* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract as well as your own knowledge, explain the main differences between classical and progressive (New) liberalism. (12 marks)
- (c) “Classical liberalism has more in common with Thatcherism than with the ideas of the Liberal Democrats.” Discuss. (20 marks)

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

2 “More pragmatic than ideological.”

Discuss this view of British politics today.

(40 marks)

3 “Traditional socialist ideas have rarely been reflected in Labour’s policies in government.”

Discuss.

(40 marks)

4 “There is no coherent ‘green’ ideology in Britain.”

Discuss.

(40 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS