

General Certificate of Education
January 2004
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 7 Ideas in Contemporary British Politics

GOV7

Tuesday 27 January 2004 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 read through 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.

Each question carries 40 marks.

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

Conservatism

After the 2001 general election, political commentators argued that William Hague had not learned from the experience of the Conservatives in 1945. Then, after a bruising election defeat by Labour, the Conservative Party modernised itself and adopted a social reformist agenda which stressed the inclusive message of One Nation Conservatism. The Conservatives won back power again in 1951. Following the defeat of 1997, William Hague began re-thinking the nature of modern Conservatism, at first by defining the Conservatives as an inclusive party. However, this new thinking was abandoned in favour of a return to Thatcherite and *populist values*. During the 2001 election campaign this resulted in unrealistic pledges to reduce taxes, an emphasis on political asylum reforms and opposition to the Euro. Steven Norris, who came second in the London mayoral elections as the Conservative candidate, described his party as “nasty, exclusive, angry and backward looking”. Others argued it was racist, homophobic and anti-women.

Iain Duncan Smith replaced Hague as party leader in the wake of the 2001 defeat. His election to the leadership was seen by some political commentators as a move to the Right. Yet his leadership has not always reflected his right-wing values. Initially he attempted to purge the party of right-wing extremists and in spite of his commitment to economic liberalism, he made strong statements supporting the public services, especially health and education. He has even argued that Britain must have services “which match those of our European neighbours”. These were hardly the sentiments one would have associated with Margaret Thatcher, to whom Iain Duncan Smith so often appears indebted.

Source: adapted from Politics PAL 2002

- (a) Using the extract, explain what is meant by *populist values*. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, explain what is meant by One Nation Conservatism. (12 marks)
- (c) To what extent does contemporary Conservatism lack direction and a clear set of values and principles? (20 marks)

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

- 2 “Green ideology rejects the traditional values of democratic socialism, conservatism and liberalism.” Discuss. *(40 marks)*

- 3 “A combination of Old Labour and Thatcherite values.” Discuss this view of Labour’s Third Way. *(40 marks)*

- 4 To what extent are the ideas of liberalism evident in British politics? *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS