

General Certificate of Education
June 2003
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 7 Ideas in Contemporary British Politics

GOV7

Monday 23 June 2003 Morning Session

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

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

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 GOV7.
- Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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 **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.

Labour: Old and New

All of the policy positions presented by Labour in its 1983 manifesto have since been reversed, suggesting the betrayal of the party's former socialism. Yet it is the Labour Party of the early 1980s, dominated by *left-wing ideas*, which is untypical of Labour over much of its history, not the Labour Party of today. Blair's pragmatic, moderate leadership has much in common with that of past leaders such as Callaghan, Wilson, Gaitskell and Attlee. The ideology of the party he has unofficially re-christened 'New Labour' is, in most respects, highly consistent with the ideas of Labour, old or new, over most of its history.

Blair has embraced the notion of a 'Third Way' to describe Labour's ideology. This is essentially a form of modernised *social democracy* which recognises the revived free market, and the realities of global communication and global markets, but which also draws upon the language of social justice, community, responsibility and stakeholding. The latter are certainly within Labour's socialist tradition. However, the 'Third Way' can also be related back to the New-Liberal goal of a middle way between laissez faire and state control. Overall, it appears to owe little to the party's old trade-unionist and labourist attitudes at a time when the old working class is smaller and more fragmented than it used to be. Electoral success increasingly lies in appealing to 'Middle England' rather than the party's traditional core constituency.

Source: adapted from ROBERT LEACH, 'From Old Labour to the Third Way', in 'Talking Politics' January 2002

- (a) Using the extract, explain the term *left-wing ideas*. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, explain how *social democracy* differs from democratic socialism. (12 marks)
- (c) Discuss the claim that New Labour's ideas have little in common with the party's old trade-unionist and labourist values. (20 marks)
- 2 "The Centre Party." How accurate is this as a description of the Liberal Democrats' position within the range of mainstream political ideas in Britain? (40 marks)
- 3 "A struggle between free-market, neo-liberal values and traditional One Nation Toryism." Discuss this view of contemporary Conservatism. (40 marks)
- 4 "The environment is off the political agenda." Discuss the impact of 'green' ideas on politics in Britain. (40 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS