General Certificate of Education
January 2004
Advanced Level Examination

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS   **GOV8**
Unit 8   Government and Politics – Synoptic Unit

Friday 30 January 2004   9.00 am to 11.00 am

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

Time allowed: 2 hours

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 GOV8.
Σ Answer **both** the questions in **either** Section A **or** Section B **or** Section C **or** Section D.

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.

SECTION A: POWER

If you choose this Section, answer Question A1 **and** Question A2.

When answering the questions that follow, you may wish to refer to the passage below but you do not have to do so. However, your answers must present material drawn from the range of your studies in Government and Politics.

A1 "Politicians may win office, but they do not necessarily win power." Discuss. *(40 marks)*

A2 "Despite reform, and promises of reform, governments are loath to share power with other institutions." Discuss. *(40 marks)*

Text extract from *New Public Administration in Britain*, 3rd edition, Routledge, 2002, p. 178-179 – not reproduced here, due to third-party copyright constraints.

SECTION B: PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

If you choose this Section, answer Question B1 **and** Question B2.

When answering the questions that follow, you may wish to refer to the passage below but you do not have to do so. However, your answers must present material drawn from the range of your studies in Government and Politics.

B1 "There are numerous ways in which people can participate in politics today, but not all are equally effective." Discuss. *(40 marks)*

B2 "Representative democracy does not necessarily require that all sections of society be represented proportionally." Discuss. *(40 marks)*

Text extract from 'Political participation and protest', *Developments in British Politics 6*, MacMillan, 2000, P. 191-193 – not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

TURN OVER FOR SECTION C

Turn over ▶

SECTION C: POLITICAL CULTURE

If you choose this Section, answer Question C1 **and** Question C2.

When answering the questions that follow, you may wish to refer to the passage below but you do not have to do so. However, your answers must present material drawn from the range of your studies in Government and Politics.

C1 "Political systems cannot be fully understood without reference to their political culture." Discuss. *(40 marks)*

C2 "Much political tension arises because the modern state no longer has one single political culture." Discuss. *(40 marks)*

Beliefs, values and politics

When we refer to culture, we are concerned with those aspects of human societies which are learned, rather than inherited. These elements of culture are shared by members of society and allow political co-operation and communication to take place. They form the common context in which individuals in a society live their lives and in which governments operate. A society's political culture comprises both intangible aspects – beliefs, ideas and values which form the content of culture – and tangible aspects – institutions, constitutions and governmental processes.

Traditional studies have tended to see political cultures as homogeneous, paying little attention to political subcultures, social fragmentation and conflict. However, significant changes in society have become increasingly apparent in the post-war era. Processes such as slavery, colonialism, war, migration and contemporary globalisation have led to populations dispersing across borders and settling in new areas. This leads to the emergence of societies which are cultural composites, meaning that the population is made up of a number of groups from diverse cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, with differing attitudes and beliefs concerning institutions, constitutions and the process of government. In modern cities, for example, many subcultural communities live side by side – West Indians, Pakistanis, Indians, Bangladeshis, Italians, Greeks and Chinese can all be found in central London today. In addition, a reassertion of national identity from within the Celtic fringe has resulted in a pattern of devolution.

Culture plays an important role in perpetuating the values and norms of a society, yet it also offers important opportunities for creativity and change. Subcultures and counter-cultures – groups which largely reject the prevailing values and norms of society – can promote views which show alternatives to the dominant culture. Social movements or groups of people sharing common lifestyles are powerful forces of change within societies, which governments cannot afford to ignore.

Source: adapted from ANTHONY GIDDENS, *Sociology* 4th edition (Polity Press) 2001

SECTION D: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

If you choose this Section, answer Question D1 **and** Question D2.

When answering the questions that follow, you may wish to refer to the passage below but you do not have to do so. However, your answers must present material drawn from the range of your studies in Government and Politics.

D1 "The more things change the more they remain the same." How appropriate is this statement to developments in government and politics? *(40 marks)*

D2 "The evolution of a political party is a never-ending battle between traditionalists and modernisers." Discuss. *(40 marks)*

Conservative qualms

There is a fashionable contention that conservatism is in terminal decline because it lacks a coherent social ideal. There are two aspects to the argument. The first is that Thatcherites, in making a radical bid to restore market principles, abandoned conservatism for economic liberalism – though a liberalism expressed in the language of Victorian values. The New Right discarded the conventional conservative aversion to ideology. 'Modernisation', according to this view, was a project driven by dogma.

Secondly, the success of the project undermined those institutions of old Britain which had once sustained conservatism. The respect for tradition and lingering attitudes of deference had supported the Tory claim to government. Market forces disrupted tradition and dissolved social hierarchies, destroying the culture in which conservatism had flourished.

Some Conservatives concur with the judgement that their doctrine now stands on weak foundations. The campaign in 2001 to find a successor to William Hague plunged the party into a civil war in which rival factions accused one another of entering an ideological *cul-de-sac*. Some even suggested that the party might become the third force of British politics trailing behind the Liberal Democrats.

What principally divided Conservatives was the issue of Europe. Should they continue to champion the particular virtues of a plucky island race by resisting attempts to dilute national sovereignty in an expanding European Union (EU)? Or should a party of capital, inspired by the adventurous spirit of previous generations of conservatives which led to the establishment of a great empire, now seize the opportunity for free markets which committed membership of the EU provides?

One side of the debate accused the other of wishing to submerge what is specifically British in a flood of 'Eurocratic' legislation. The other claims that distaste for the EU indicates an attitude that is crudely nationalistic and perhaps somewhat racist. Each side tends to accuse the other of lacking the intellectual equipment for tackling the changes demanded by the new millennium.

Source: adapted from ROBERT ECCLESHALL, 'Conservatism revisited',
Politics Review (Philip Allan Updates) April 2002

END OF QUESTIONS