

A-level POLITICS

Paper 1 Government and Politics of the UK

Monday 3 June 2019

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **7152/1**.
- Answer **all** questions from Section **A** and Section **B**.
- Answer **one** question from Section **C**.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.
- Do **not** tear out any part of the book. All work must be handed in.
- If you use more than one book, check that you have written the information required on each book.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 77.

Section A - Short Questions

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3

0	1
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Explain and analyse three ways in which the cabinet can limit the power of the Prime Minister.

[9 marks]

0	2
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Explain and analyse three ways in which minor parties can have an impact upon the political agenda in the UK.

[9 marks]

0	3
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Explain and analyse three factors that can lead to some UK pressure groups being more successful than others.

[9 marks]

Section B - Extract Question

Read the extract below and answer question 4 that follows.

Contributions to the Westminster Debate regarding electoral reform

Caroline Lucas of the Green Party has said that “it is selfish and immoral to oppose voting reform just because it has traditionally handed you power”. She was speaking in a Westminster debate that was prompted by more than 100,000 people signing a petition calling for voting change. The government says the 2011 AV referendum shows the public do not want to change first-past-the-post.

Under first-past-the-post, the candidate who receives the most votes in a constituency wins a seat in the House of Commons. This means the number of seats each political party wins does not necessarily reflect its share of the vote nationally. In 2015 UKIP gained 3.9 million votes but only won one seat. Under proportional representation, parties' seats in Parliament would be allocated in proportion to the number of votes cast for them.

Ms Lucas admitted she had a "vested interest" in the debate. “As a country, we pride ourselves on our strong commitment to democracy yet the vast majority of votes cast don't make an impact on the overall result.”

However, Steve Double, Conservative MP, argued “First-past-the-post has consistently produced majority governments that can govern. It is easy to understand and allows a direct link between an MP and their constituency.”

Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office, Chris Skidmore, argued that the government had no plans to change the voting system in general elections. The 2011 referendum on voting reform was an overwhelming vote for the status quo. However, the Electoral Reform Society says the 2011 referendum should not be seen as a rejection of proportional representation.

Extract adapted from an article from the BBC News website

0	4
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Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments reported in the above extract regarding the issue of electoral reform.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Section C - Essay Question

Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6.

In your answer you should draw on material from across the whole range of your course of study in Politics.

Either

0	5
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'There have been few significant changes to the British constitution since 1997.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

or

0	6
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'Parliament is not an effective check on the executive.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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