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**Pearson Edexcel**  
**Level 3 GCE**

Centre Number

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# Politics

**Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Paper 1: UK Politics**

Sample assessment material for first teaching  
September 2017  
**Time: 1 hour 45 minutes**

Paper Reference

**8PL0/01**

**You do not need any other materials (including calculators which are not permitted).**

Total Marks

## Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- There are **three** sections and you must answer **four** questions:
  - in Section A answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** 1(b)
  - in Section B answer **both** Question 2 **and** Question 3
  - in Section C answer **either** Question 4(a) **or** 4(b).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided  
– *there may be more space than you need.*

## Information

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets  
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

## Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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**Pearson**

## SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b).

**EITHER**

- 1 (a) Describe the main features of representative democracy in the UK today.

**OR**

- (b) Describe the main functions of political parties in the UK today.

(Total for Question 1 = 10 marks)

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**Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ~~☒~~ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.**

Chosen question number: **Question 1(a)** ☒ **Question 1(b)** ☐

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS**

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## SECTION B

### Answer BOTH Question 2 AND Question 3.

- 2 Source 1 is adapted from a report published by the Electoral Reform Society – an independent campaigning organisation working to champion the rights of voters and build a better democracy in Britain. The report reflects on the outcomes of the 2015 General Election.

#### Source 1

The first past the post (FPTP) system is out of date and unfit for purpose. The system cannot cope with the choices voters are making in this multi-party era. People are choosing to vote for a wider range of parties and our electoral system should be able to reflect that in the composition of Parliament.

Millions of voters are angry with a system that marginalises their views. Nearly half a million people signed petitions calling for electoral reform in the fortnight after the election – petitions which were handed in to 10 Downing Street by representatives from five political parties. 2015 must be the last General Election under our broken voting system, a system which is artificially dividing the UK by exaggerating political differences and leaving millions of voters without representation; in effect their votes are wasted.

Multi-party politics looks firmly established in the UK and yet we continue to use an electoral system designed for a time when just two political parties shared nearly all the votes; a situation that has not existed in the UK for decades. We need a system where everyone's vote can count, and which ensures MPs are returned to Parliament with the backing of their constituents.

(Source: adapted from The 2015 General Election: A voting system in crisis, Jess Garland & Chris Terry)

Using the source, explain the problems which arise from using the first past the post system for General Elections.

*In your response you must use knowledge and understanding to analyse points that are only in the source. You will **not** be rewarded for introducing any additional points that are not in the source.*

(10)

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**(Total for Question 2 = 10 marks)**

- 3 Source 2 is adapted from a House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution report from 2009–2010 called 'Referendums in the United Kingdom'. It is taken from a section called 'Memorandum by Unlock Democracy'. This is an organisation that supports referendums and exists to put power in the hands of the people, as they believe a vibrant, inclusive democracy makes everyone's lives better.

#### Source 2

Referendums strengthen popular sovereignty by giving people a voice. A change endorsed in a referendum is hard to repeal.

Referendums are ideal for constitutional issues by ensuring that constitutional changes, such as devolution, have time to establish themselves rather than being subject to immediate repeal by a change of government. They create a public space for political discourse so there is often a degree of consensus about the outcome.

Referendums are popular with the public as they are seen as a fair way of resolving difficult or significant decisions. There is a widespread support that governments should make greater use of referendums. Referendums trigger public education campaigns and help to counteract the prevailing sense of cynicism and powerlessness.

Source 3 is compiled from adapted information from the same report and other information sources and gives data for a range of UK referendums.

#### Source 3

| Referendum   | Yes   | No    | Turnout |
|--|-------|-------|---------|
| 1975<br>Should the UK remain in the EEC (later termed the EU)? | 67.2% | 32.8% | 64%     |
| 1997<br>Devolution for Scotland                                | 74.3% | 25.7% | 60.2%   |
| 1997<br>Devolution for Wales                                   | 50.3% | 49.7% | 50.1%   |
| 2011<br>Should AV replace first past the post?                 | 32.1% | 67.9% | 42.2%   |
| 2016<br>Should the UK remain in the EU?                        | 48.1% | 51.9% | 72.2%   |

(Source 2 and 3: from [www.publications.parliament.uk](http://www.publications.parliament.uk) – used under Open Parliament Licence v3.0.)



Using the sources, assess whether the use of referendums can be contested.

*In your response you must compare both sources by analysing and evaluating them. You will not gain credit for use of knowledge and understanding alone. Any knowledge and understanding used in your response must support your analysis and evaluation of both sources in order to gain credit.*

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(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS**

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## SECTION C

Answer EITHER Question 4(a) OR Question 4(b).

### EITHER

- 4 (a) 'Various types of media simply reinforce political choice, they do not alter it.'

How far do you agree with this view of media influence in UK politics?

*In your answer you must refer to **at least** two types of media and consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way.*

### OR

- (b) 'Party leaders are the crucial factor in whether or not a political party is successful.'

How far do you agree with this view of what determines the success of a political party?

*In your answer you must refer to **at least** two political parties and consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way.*

**(Total for Question 4 = 30 marks)**

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**Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ~~☒~~ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.**

Chosen question number: **Question 4(a)** ☒ **Question 4(b)** ☐

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS**

**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS**