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Pearson Edexcel
Level 3 GCE

Centre Number

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Politics

Advanced

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Sample assessment material for first teaching
September 2017

Time: 2 hours

Paper Reference

9PL0/01

**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 **two** sections you must answer **three** questions:
 - in Section A answer **either** 1(a) **or** 1(b) **and then either** 2(a) **or** 2(b)
 - in Section B answer **either** 3(a) **or** 3(b).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
 - *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 84.
- 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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SECTION A: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Answer ONE question from EITHER Question 1(a) on page 2 OR Question 1(b) on page 3 and then answer ONE question from EITHER Question 2(a) OR Question 2(b) on page 11.

EITHER

- 1 (a) *This source is adapted from a report produced in 2014 by The University of London Constitutional unit, called 'Is Britain Facing a Crisis of Democracy?' The report was based on a four-year research project on this issue.*

'On certain measures, Britain does, indeed, appear to be facing something of a participation crisis in its political system. Levels of trust in government and confidence in the political system are lower than they were little more than a decade ago. Electoral turnout has fallen sharply, most noticeably at the 2001 general election. Meanwhile, the introduction of new political institutions since 1997, designed in part to restore people's trust and confidence, appears to have had little impact.

On the other hand, people do not seem more disengaged from the political system. Participation outside the ballot box has increased somewhat over the last fifteen or so years. Levels of political interest have not fallen, and people remain confident in their own ability to engage with the political process and to believe in the importance of voting at elections.

Perhaps the most reassuring evidence from our research is that which suggests the decline in trust and turnout is not due to long-term social forces, but to short-term political ones. The most plausible explanation for the decline in trust is the public reaction to allegations of misconduct and 'sleaze' on the part of politicians.

These conclusions suggest that the remedies for any 'crisis' largely lie in the hands of politicians themselves. Trust is acquired when words and actions accord with one another. And only a closely fought and clear competition between the parties appears to prompt many citizens to cast their vote. Meanwhile constitutional change should not be regarded as a quick fix. However it would be wise to look to measures to both reform and improve democracy in the UK. Hence, British democracy – and especially its politicians – certainly face a 'challenge'. But talk of a 'crisis' is premature.'

(Source: by Catherine Bromley, John Curtice, and Ben Seyd – <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/publications/unit-publications/112.pdf>)

Using the source, evaluate the view that UK democracy is in crisis.

In your response you must:

- *compare and contrast the different opinions in the source*
- *examine and debate these views in a balanced way*
- *analyse and evaluate **only** the information presented in the source.*

(30)

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Do not answer Question 1(b) if you have answered Question 1(a)

OR

- 1 (b) *This source is adapted from information on the Parliament website about the party system and information on the 'Vice magazine' UK website focused on minority parties.*

The party system

Political parties have existed in one form or another since at least the 18th century, they are an essential element of UK politics. Since the Second World War, all the Governments in the UK have been formed by either the Labour Party or the Conservative Party. This did differ in 2010 when the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats formed a coalition government. The major parties capture the main issues of the day and present choice. Furthermore, the current electoral system favours few parties in the race to govern.

Minority parties

'Minority parties' are those that sit outside the traditional big three (Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties) and have had power over Parliament for over a century. A significant shift has taken place in politics in recent years, with more people questioning the 'Establishment of Westminster' and looking to parties like the SNP, Plaid Cymru, the Green Party and UKIP.

In 2015, UKIP and the Greens obtained 5 million votes between them, also the SNP reached 56 seats of the 59 available in Scotland, becoming the third largest party in the House of Commons. Minority parties are enjoying success and recognition. A secure victory is now not the expected norm for either Labour or Conservative Parties, they now have much to fear and much to lose from a range of minority parties who are gaining ground.

The voter has little to choose between when looking to the major parties. In terms of policy, there is little that separates the major parties and all the policy they produce is similar, with battles over style as opposed to substance. By contrast, many of the minority parties present a fresh approach to politics.

(Source: from www.parliament.uk – used under Open Parliament Licence v3.0 and adapted from: The New Wave: Minority Parties – SNP, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party http://www.vice.com/en_uk/video/the-new-wave-minority-parties)

Using the source, evaluate the view that the major parties still remain the dominant force in UK politics.

In your response you must:

- *compare and contrast the different opinions in the source*
- *examine and debate these views in a balanced way*
- *analyse and evaluate **only** the information presented in the source.*

(30)

(Total for Question 1 = 30 marks)

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AND EITHER

- 2** (a) Evaluate the extent to which general elections in the UK are lost by the government rather than won by the opposition.

You must consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way.

(30)

OR

- (b) Evaluate the extent to which social factors determine voting behaviour.

You must consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way.

(30)

(Total for Question 2 = 30 marks)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 60 MARKS

SECTION B: CORE POLITICAL IDEAS

Answer ONE question from EITHER Question 3(a) OR Question 3(b).

EITHER

- 3** (a) To what extent do modern and classical liberals agree over the role of the state?

You must use appropriate thinkers you have studied to support your answer and consider both sides in a balanced way.

(24)

OR

- (b) To what extent are different socialists committed to 'equality of outcome'?

You must use appropriate thinkers you have studied to support your answer and consider both sides in a balanced way.

(24)

(Total for Question 3 = 24 marks)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 24 MARKS

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 84 MARKS