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**Pearson Edexcel
Level 3 GCE**

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Politics

Advanced

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Specimen papers for first teaching September 2017

Time: 2 hours

Paper Reference

9PL0/01

You do not need any other materials.

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:
 - 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.*
- Calculators are not permitted.

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 8.

EITHER

- 1 (a) *The source presents two different views of the social media group, 38 Degrees – one from David Babbs who welcomes the group’s activities because it alerts citizens to a current issue and empowers them to express their views and to achieve change and another from Conservative MP, Guy Opperman, who believes that such social-based media platforms may hinder fair and open debate.*

David Babbs states: People are not as apathetic as politicians often claim. 38 Degrees gives people a sense of purpose and ownership and gets them involved. Many people feel that conventional politics doesn’t work: it does not change government policy. 38 Degrees changes all that, it brings politics to life and enables people to interact with politics in a way that has not been possible before. In its numerous campaigns 38 Degrees has shown that politicians change their minds if sufficiently large numbers of people express an alternative view. MPs get angry about 38 Degrees, often claiming our exposures of their activities are inaccurate. MPs have to realise that democracy is about more people participating. Furthermore 38 Degrees sees action move from the digital and social media platforms to face-to-face meetings. There are a lot of issues where ordinary people’s participation makes for better decisions.

Guy Opperman, MP states: Being lobbied by pressure groups is a regular part of an MP’s life. 38 Degrees has set itself up as a critic of the government on a number of issues. There is nothing wrong with this. But it is totally wrong to spin, as matters of fact, claims that are simply not correct. 38 Degrees has an agenda. So they have simply presented the opposite view as fact, ignoring reasoned debate. It is totally irresponsible, when trying to exercise influence as a pressure group, to twist the facts completely. Websites like 38 Degrees are not taking political debate any further, but hindering it by demanding alternative outcomes. Assertions by 38 Degrees are often riddled with errors, overstatement and simple inaccuracies. This is not a constructive way to conduct important debates about reforming and improving life in the UK.

(Sources: adapted from <http://blogs.ft.com/westminster/2016/02/interview-david-babbs-founder-38-degrees/> and <http://www.conservativehome.com/platform/2011/09/from-guyoppermanmp-the-falsehood-of-the-38-degrees-campaign-on-health.html>)

Using the source, evaluate the view that pressure group activity supports democracy and participation.

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.*

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

OR

- (b) *The source involves comments on the 2016 EU referendum from the Constitution Unit of University College, London and statistical information concerning the referendum provided by Parliament.*

In a parliamentary democracy, advisory referendums are potentially destabilising because they generate alternative, competing sources of democratic legitimacy. If a referendum demonstrates that a majority of the public hold the opposite view to elected representatives, which view of democratic legitimacy carries most authority? Some reasonably take the view that a referendum won by a very narrow margin is an insufficient mandate for major change. A 'Leave' vote, if implemented, is effectively irreversible: a 'Remain' vote leaves open the possibility of future referendums on the same issue. For this reason, many constitutional commentators believe that major referendums should require some form of super-majority – 60 per cent of votes cast is the threshold most commonly suggested.

However, there are arguments that support the legitimacy of the EU referendum. It produced a turnout of 33 million voters, more than any other referendum. It was a very rare example of direct democracy for the whole of the UK. Clearly parliament only exists and MPs only function by and for the will of the people. Key factors endorse its legitimacy: holding it was a feature of the Conservative manifesto. World leaders regard the vote as being decisive, as Mrs May has stressed in meetings with EU leaders. In summary – the government is constitutionally mandated to implement this decisive vote by the people.

Proportion of the vote across the UK in the EU Referendum June 2016

	Leave the EU %	Remain in the EU %
England	53.4%	46.6%
Wales	52.5%	47.5%
Scotland	38.0%	62.0%
Northern Ireland	44.2%	55.8%
United Kingdom (overall)	51.9%	48.1%

(Sources: adapted from <https://constitution-unit.com/2016/07/22/the-eu-referendum-and-some-paradoxes-of-democratic-legitimacy/> and <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7639>)

Using the source, evaluate the view that referendums create more problems than solutions.

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.*

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(Total for Question 1 - 30 marks)



EITHER

- 2 (a) Evaluate the view that citizens can no longer feel confident that their rights in the UK are secure and established.

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

(30)

OR

- (b) Evaluate the view that, for the general public, the media is more significant than policy statements and manifestoes from political parties.

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

(30)

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(Total for Question 2 = 30 marks)

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 are the views of One Nation conservatives on the economy consistent with those of the New Right?

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 do conservatives have a common view of human nature?

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

(24)



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(Total for Question 3 = 24 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 24 MARKS

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 84 MARKS

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