

Examiners' Report
June 2016

GCE Government & Politics 1 6GP01 01

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.



Giving you insight to inform next steps

ResultsPlus is Pearson's free online service giving instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam results.

- See students' scores for every exam question.
- Understand how your students' performance compares with class and national averages.
- Identify potential topics, skills and types of question where students may need to develop their learning further.

For more information on ResultsPlus, or to log in, visit www.edexcel.com/resultsplus. Your exams officer will be able to set up your ResultsPlus account in minutes via Edexcel Online.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk.

June 2016

Publications Code 6GP01_01_1606_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright
© Pearson Education Ltd 2016

Introduction

Assistant Examiners on the summer 2016 examination for 6GP01 collectively agreed that the paper was accessible and provided a degree of challenge and opportunity which allowed for discrimination between candidates of differing ability. It was clear to see a mark paradigm change with candidates (and indeed the centres and their cohort) that had prepared well and were equipped with broad based knowledge informed by contemporary events. It was a common thread that some candidates fared better on the (a) and (b) sections only to then fail to maintain this momentum and level on the (c) section where higher order skills are required to excel.

In terms of popularity we witnessed a considerable rise in candidates doing the question on political parties, and although not as popular as the other three questions (which had a similar range of take up) the quality overall of the standard was impressive and it was here that we saw some of the best answers on the paper.

Question 1

Q1a) Outline two functions performed by political parties.

Assistant examiners noted very few problems with this answer. A significant majority of candidates were able to identify two functions of political parties (the main ones being representation, recruitment and education) with key examples.

Q1b) Explain how ideological traditions have influenced policies within the Conservative Party.

For a good many candidates this was the 'Achilles heel' for this question and they failed to fully connect with its requirements.

Many candidates struggled with the concept of ideological traditions. The ideological traditions of One Nation, Thatcherism and the New Right were absent – and this denied candidates the framework which this question relied upon. However, many candidates were able to get to the top of Level 2 on AO1 as they had a good grasp of the broad ideas and policies that underpinned those traditions. Many candidates mentioned the free market and privatisation without linking it to Thatcherism or neo-Liberalism. Better candidates not only had a good grasp of Thatcherism, they also had an excellent grasp of One Nation conservatism. There were considerable mentions of Disraeli and noblesse oblige put into a contemporary context, often mentioning the Big Society.

Q1c) To what extent has the Labour Party moved away from its traditional principles?

There were some outstanding answers to this question. These demonstrated the differences between Corbyn and Blair on nationalisation (the railways were mentioned frequently), taxation, foreign policy, while also showing the similarities with regard to social policy. A good majority of these answers were very good at demonstrating the current tensions within the party. Some candidates really stood out where they examined the current factions within the party, comparing the positions of Kendall and Ummunna on one side with Corbyn and McDonnell on the other. Candidates of all abilities were able to bring Corbyn into their argument somewhere. This was clearly hitting a topical nerve and there was a marked improvement in quality seen in the increased marks obtained for this section.

This response fails to enter the top levels for award, it is at times brief and under-developed.

Chosen question number: **Question 1** **Question 2**

Question 3 **Question 4**

(a) A function performed by political parties is that they compete for seats in the legislature. People with similar political ideologies gather together as a party to try to win enough seats in the General Election to form a government.

Another function is to draft a manifesto. In order to win an election, a party would list their political beliefs and the promises that they would do if they win, which would appeal to the voters and help them to gain seats in the legislature. SNP is an example of a political party.

(b) One of the ideological traditions which has significant influence in Conservative policy is minimum state intervention. The Conservatives are as they are called because they do not believe in radical revolutions, unlike the socialists and liberals. They prefer small changes at a time. Given that the ~~set~~ socialists believe in state intervention strongly, the Tory believes people should have the freedom in choices and lifestyles. "Rolling back the government frontiers", a low tax policy and allow them to spend more wisely than the government is an example.

A less significant tradition is the conserve of traditional social values. The Tories represent old-fashioned ideas, the monarch, the church etc. They believe traditions remain because they are better than others. However the current Tory party and especially David Cameron is socially progressive. Hence it is clear that the current party is open to gay marriages and more alternative lifestyles is a contribution to the traditional ideas.

(c) Labour was formed as a representation of socialism, fairness, equality. It could be argued that during Tony Blair's time as prime Minister, the New Labour had a significant change to the traditional Labour principles, moving Labour to the centre, while Jeremy Corbyn and Ed Miliband has now moved Labour further back to the left, in order to pursue traditional Labour principles.

The New Labour under Blair had moved away significantly from traditions in some aspects. Old Labour disapproves complete free market. Hence when Blair shows acceptance to the free market and shared similar economic policies with the Tories it can be argued it was the time when Labour had been the furthest away from the traditions. An example was when the government wanted to join the Euro zone and to use Euros instead of pounds. They didn't go through at the end, showing the idea of Tories' national sovereignty and identity outweighed Labour's collection.

However after terms under Ed Miliband and ^{now} Jeremy Corbyn. It began to show that traditional Labour had reemerged. For example, ^{promise of} re-nationalization of the railways and Royal Mail showed that current Labour still believed that in some circumstances, state intervention is necessary. They believe in certain services, the public should take over.

((c) continued) to ensure services are run efficiently. This kind of state intervention and belief in a positive role of the state is traditional Labour principle.

Jeremy Corbyn had also showed his view on the tax system. He said, "the rich should more tax and the richer to pay even more." This is the idea of income redistribution via the welfare state and that ~~is~~ is the traditional idea of social equality, instead of New Labour's equality in opportunity.

Even though it was under Labour which introduced the first charged prescription in NHS NHS remained to be the most important social establishment in Britain. NHS represented the universalism which Labour believes that it would not be fair if the poor could not afford healthcare which the rich could.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response gains marks on part (a) and displays little conceptual awareness; there is not the precision and clarity to obtain full marks. The knowledge and understanding is 'clouded'.

b) Here again we have superficial AO1 and minimal AO2. It fails to identify ideological traditions as required by the question.

c) This is a level 2 response. It fails to fully merit and explain the facts which are raised. It is also quite brief and fails to develop issues sufficiently.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

For each of the major parties an overview of the main ideological traditions in the political parties is crucial. On this series it appears that traditional Labour principles are better known than those of the Conservatives.

If the prior example was a good indicator of level 2 this is a superb illustration of level 3

Chosen question number: **Question 1** **Question 2**

Question 3 **Question 4**

(a) One function of political parties is to seek to govern, and therefore develop a wide range of policies ~~to~~ in order to form a manifesto, or set of policies which they plan to implement in government. By doing this political parties give voters a clear idea of what kind of party they are voting for and allow them to make an informed choice. For example those ^{who} voted conservative in the 2015 general election will have known they were voting for a party that endorses austerity by the manifesto promise to make £12 billion of cuts.

A second function is to increase political participation. Political parties allow this by being mass membership organisations, for example the Labour party has over about 380,000 members who can attend party conferences and vote in leadership elections, both forms of political participation.

(b) The current conservative party has two sets of ^{overlapping} ideological traditions which it is influenced by; those of traditional Conservatism, and those of Thatcherism or the New Right.

A return to more traditionally Conservative ideas under David Cameron led to his style of Conservatism being branded 'Retro Conservatism' by Jesse Norman MP. This influence can be seen in Cameron's willingness to retain extensive public services and his championing of the National Health Service. Cameron once said that 'for me, politics is about 3 letters; NHS'. A willingness to retain a welfare state is a sign of influence from the benevolently patrician attitude of Traditional Conservatism, as is Cameron's pro-European stance and pragmatism. This can be seen by his willingness to work with the leadership of the Green and Liberal Democrat parties to campaign for ~~or~~ 'remain' vote, as well as his U-turns on tax credit cuts ^{and disability benefit cuts} in the face of strong opposition, something clearly influenced

((b) continued) by the Traditional Conservative idea of 'As times change, so must our policies'. However Cameron's influence from Thatcherite ideology is also clear from his 'right help to buy' scheme getting first time house buyers state help with their mortgage clearly influenced by Thatcher's 'right to buy' scheme, as well as his plans to reintroduce the Marriage Tax Allowance brought in by Thatcher showing he shares her ideology of ~~strong~~ traditional family morality.

The £26 billion of assets privatised in 2012 also shows an influence from Thatcherite ideology as she was also keen to privatise public assets.

(c) The Labour Party was originally founded by Trade Unions in 1900 and ~~was~~ has its roots in the ideas of pressure groups and protest movements. It held a strong belief in Nationalisation and public ownership (Clause 4), ~~and~~ and was strongly aligned with the white, industrial working class and socialism.

Although New Labour under Tony Blair was considered by many to have abandoned the ideas of traditional 'Old Labour', with the election of Jeremy Corbyn as party leader the Labour party seems to have moved back towards its original principles to a large extent.

One of Corbyn's first ^{policy} announcements was, for example, plans to nationalise the rail service, something that many believed to be a sign of the return of Clause 4 economics ^{and socialist values}. This is an idea that was extended by his and John McDonnell's 'People's Quantitative Easing', which showed plans to revive the economy through printing more money and making it easier to borrow in order to create an artificial stimulation rather than

((c) continued) making cuts and reducing spending. This, along with McDonnell's comments about plotting the overthrow of capitalism, in his own time present a view of a labor party that is moving away from the economic liberalism of New Labor and back to the socialist roots of the party. Plans to revise the 50% ^{top rate of} tax continue the socialist trend of Corbyn's Labour, as do the shadow chancellor's comments about 'coming after' big businesses who don't pay their tax; the rather hostile attitude towards capitalism being shown by the Labour leadership suggests that the traditional principles of the Labour party are being returned to.

This idea is extended by the leadership views on defence and questionable commitment to office, old Labour opposed Trident when it was first introduced and Corbyn wants to see universal nuclear disarmament, and his ties to trade unions such as Unite (with Len McCluskey becoming a prominent figure in the party) and Momentum also showing a return to Labour's origins with trade union and pressure groups.

((c) continued) However, many within the Labour party disagree with the leadership, the faction of Purple Labour, featuring MPs such as Liz Kendall, Chuka Umunna and Hilary Benn remain staunchly Blairite and show none of Corbyn and McDonnell's socialist trends, instead retaining the values of New Labour and economic liberalism that go completely against the traditional economic values of Labour.

As well as this rather than targeting the white industrial working class Corbyn seeks to form a 'coalition of the ^{marginalised} ~~marginalised~~ out of LGBT, BAME, green and working class whites, which moves away from the traditional Labour support.

This would suggest that while the Labour leadership has returned to the traditional ^{or economic} values of the party, much of the party sticks with the New Labour abandonment of these principles, and due to class disillusionment the ^{targeted} ~~area~~ support from the party has also moved away from its traditional base.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Nearly full marks throughout here. 5/5 on part (a) which uses examples particularly well to illustrate the functions. On (b) just short of full marks but aware of the differing elements or traditions in the current Conservative Party. Although (c) is not overly expansive it is packed with insight and shows a real breadth of understanding.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

There are two things to be instantly gleaned from this response as good practice to follow.

1. Good use of examples to show knowledge and understanding.
2. Excellent links to contemporary events; this is up to date and awareness of this sort is often the hallmark of excellence.

Question 2

2a) Outline two features of parliamentary democracy.

This produced a wide range of responses, and in overview it was the weakest (a) section completed on the paper. At its core this was a conceptual question asking for a definition of a type of democracy. There were a lot of candidates who failed to explicitly make the link but were able to pick up a mark or two through tangential points. Many candidates mixed up parliamentary democracy with parliamentary sovereignty. There were others, not so many, who mixed it up with parliamentary government. The default position of many candidates was to describe the parliamentary system in the UK and dependent on how this was linked to the concept determined if they could gain any marks.

2b) Explain three reasons why voting in the UK should be made compulsory.

This was answered very well.

A significant majority of candidates were able to identify three key reasons why voting should be made compulsory. They were also able to provide key examples. Excellent answers also identified a variety of statistics to support their point relating to things such as participation crisis and turnout levels.

Many candidates mentioned that it works in Australia. There were a pleasing number of answers who put forward civic duty or a way of engaging young people and that this would be good for the body politic.

2c) To what extent has devolution and membership of the EU affected representative democracy in the UK?

This question caught out a lot of candidates. The better ones were the ones who identified what the question was asking and were able to identify reasons why things have remained the same or changed.

A lot of these candidates were able to correctly identify what policy areas have remained at Westminster and what ones have moved elsewhere. In relation to the latter, Factortame and Scottish tuition fees were the most prominent examples. An incredibly high number of candidates spent a lot of time discussing the ECHR, even though it produced hardly any credit. A significant number of candidates approached this question to tell us about the good and bad things associated with devolution and the EU – possibly gaining some credit but this was marginal as it did not strike to the core of the question. There were also a lot of candidates who seemed to think that the 56 SNP MPs were also MSPs and then tried to relate this to the West Lothian Question. On the whole candidates were better able to answer the devolution side of the question than the EU, which was odd given the contemporary events around exam time with the EU being in the national spotlight.

As with the examples taken from Question 1, here is an improved response to the question which is placed in a higher level for (c).

Chosen question number: **Question 1** **Question 2**
Question 3 **Question 4**

(a) Parliamentary democracy is the type of democracy found in the UK and it is one form of representative democracy. In the UK, parliament any democracy secures representation at every level for the people. For the country as a whole, people vote and select candidates to fill ^{representa} seats in the House of Commons, while for local and devolved areas people can also vote and select candidates for local ~~gov~~ councils and devolved parliam. Parliamentary democracy means that parliament is the centre of politics, especially featured with parliamentary sovereignty where parliament is sovereign that it can make or unmake any law.

(b) Voting in the UK is not yet compulsory as it is in Australia and Belgium. However, it can be an effective method to increase turnout level. As we can see from the past elections, turnout in the UK General Elections has declined overall, ^{turnout for local elections can be even lower.} The highest turnout was only found in the last century at around 79%, but the average for recent years has fallen to around 60%. By putting a fine on those who refuse or fail to vote, people are more inclined to vote at the fear of financial cost. For example, Australia imposes a \$180 charge on those who do not vote in federal elections. This successfully secured a high 93% turnout in the last election.

Compulsory voting also serves to provide greater legitimacy for the government. As turnout is ~~low~~ relatively low in general elections, it is suggested that the current government has questionable mandates. For example, the current Conservative government won the election with 33% of the votes. However, turnout was at roughly 65%, meaning that actually only 22% of the potential voters have endorsed the current government. Nevertheless, if turnout was to ~~be~~ be made higher through compulsory voting, the government can have clearer mandate and become more efficient in legislations.

Compulsory voting also educates the public with political issues. Many who do not vote usually miss the opportunities to get better understanding of social issues, such as the Brexit and the ~~the~~ refugee crisis. By making voting compulsory, thus compulsory participation, people can be more informed about issues concerning the general public and become more mobilised to engage in political life.

(c) After a series of constitutional reforms, devolution and the EU membership have become parts of the major features of the British representative democracy. Devolution in the UK ~~is~~ the decentralisation of power, which was devolved to regional parliaments such as the Welsh Assembly. The issues of EU membership have been under the spotlight recently, highlighted by the upcoming EU referendum. These two changes to the UK democracy have undoubtedly transformed the UK representative democracy ~~to~~ for several reasons, although some suggest otherwise.

It is true that these changes have their limitations. The problem with devolution is that power is not equally devolved to each devolved regions and even if the region has significantly more power, it is still subject to parliamentary sovereignty. As we can see, the Scottish Parliament clearly ~~has~~ has greater power than the other 2 devolved bodies. Yet some suggest that the Parliament still lack sufficient power. Although some policy areas like agriculture and environment are reserved, parliamentary sovereignty means that parliament can still overturn legislations in Scotland.

The same issue is found with EU membership. Although a strong EU political body does have considerable power in legislations, it still has its limitations. As suggested by the doctrine of supremacy, any domestic law that conflicts with the EU law should be abolished. However, policy areas for the EU are usually confined to economic issues like fishing and trading, while a wide range of topics such as security and healthcare are determined by domestic power. Furthermore, if the UK wants

((c) continued) to get rid of the influence of the EU, it can opt to leave the EU ultimately, as shown by the upcoming EU referendum.

However, it is clear that the two changes to the UK democracy have made a significant difference. Devolution in the UK has created more thorough and broader representation, which is an improvement of the UK representative democracy. People in the devolved regions can now be represented at a ~~more~~ relatively local level, which can ~~be~~ exclusively deal with local issues like environment and agriculture policies. This has altered the way ^{how} people in these regions engage in politics. At the same time, devolution has shown respect to the cultural difference among these regions.

The EU membership ^{also} has great influence on judiciary in the UK. The EU membership has directly and indirectly led to the improvements of judiciary in the UK, for example, ~~the Human Right~~ people or organisations who seek legislative measures to protect the rule of law can now access the court under the doctrine of supremacy. If they manage to prove ^{that} a certain law conflicts with the EU law, the law would be overturned. As a result, the EU membership actually secures a better scrutiny over legislations in the UK.

Finally, these two issues have more or less improved the ^{political} participation in the UK. Devolution offered a broader choice for people, so that people can engage in decision-making at different levels. At the same time,

((c) continued) these two issues have enjoyed great media cover recently with the Scottish Independence Referendum and the EU Referendum. As people are more exposed to issues like these, they are more likely to participate in the debate and ultimately get better understanding of the political life of their own country.

To conclude, although we can see several limitations of the influence of devolution and the EU membership on the UK democracy, they have profoundly affected representative democracy in the UK and eventually brought significant improvements. What we should do is to enhance the two to optimise their uses to achieve greater advancement of the UK democracy. Representative democracy in the UK is evolving over time while these issues certainly act as a catalyst of the evolution.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

There is no connection in (a) to the concept of parliamentary democracy; however the response picks up after this and obtains level 3 marks for both (b) and (c).



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

What this response does well is to keep the focus of the question continually within sight; from reading the response we know what the question is. Time taken to read and think on the question will pay off.

Question 3

Q3a) Outline two differences between elections and referendums.

Very few problems were cited by Assistant Examiners with this answer. A significant majority of candidates were able to identify two key differences between elections and referendums. An overwhelming amount of candidates were able to competently cite key referendums such as the AV, Scottish and the EU referendum.

Conversely, candidates were able to cite key elections beyond the general election of 2015 in their answers.

Excellent answers also identified a variety of key terminologies to support their point relating to things such as legitimacy and mandate.

Q3b) Explain three ways in which elections promote democracy.

This answer was largely well done. A significant majority of candidates were able to identify three key reasons why elections promote democracy. They were also able to provide key examples of elections where democracy exists. Excellent answers also identified a variety of statistics to support their point relating to things such as legitimacy.

Q3c) Assess the merits of the different electoral systems operating in the UK.

Some candidates clearly struggled with part (c). Weak responses focused on First Past the Post, leaving them unable to meet the criteria for Level 2, by focusing on at least 2 systems. Better responses were able to explain the workings of multiple systems, but listed off advantages and disadvantages, with little analytical content. The strongest responses provided in-depth analysis of the merits of multiple electoral systems, demonstrating a clear understanding of the difficulty in striking a balance between the competing goals of simplicity, representation and proportionality. Some candidates showed impressive knowledge about the historical development of electoral systems, commenting, for example, on the judgements of the Jenkins commission, or the suitability of STV in stabilising community tensions in Northern Ireland. The major fault line was the many candidates who spent time fruitlessly on describing the disadvantages of electoral systems as used in the UK.

This is another example of a level 2 response. It is hampered by a lack of content, especially on part (c).

Chosen question number: **Question 1** **Question 2**

Question 3 **Question 4**

(a) One difference between an election and a referendum is that normally referendums only have two available options (yes or no). This is different to elections where there are multiple choices for voters to choose from. Another difference is that elections return the people's choice of who they feel should run the country whereas a referendum is normally used to gain public insight on a specific matter.

(b) One way in which elections promote democracy is by upholding legitimacy. Legitimacy is the rightfulness to be in power, and so a rightful, legitimate government will be supported more ~~an~~ by the people and so they will be more willing to follow laws made by them.

Another way elections promote democracy is through the use of Universal Suffrage. Universal Suffrage means that every adult (however that country defines adulthood), has the right to vote. This promotes democracy as it increases the ~~mass~~ fairness of the result as everyone's preferences are reflected. Back when women didn't have the vote, their preferences were not being represented, and so the introduction of Universal Suffrage has promoted democracy by ensuring all groups are ~~a~~ represented.

Lastly, a third way in which elections promote democracy is by giving a voice to the people.

Democracy is all about making sure as many citizens are satisfied and have equal status. This is promoting democracy by giving citizens a chance to change the way in which the country is run. By giving power to the people it promotes democracy.

(c) One electoral system which operates within the UK is the ~~first-past-the-post~~ first-past-the-post system. This is used in the UK's general elections. The benefits of using such a system are that you get what you vote for. It's a relatively clear system as ~~no calculations are used~~ complicated calculations are used. It also gives a strong link between the constituents and the MP meaning the MP will have better understanding of what ~~from~~ their constituency want from them. However problems do arise especially due to it being a dis-proportional system. This means the overall view of the public is distorted as the votes cast to chairs gained (from the 650 constituencies) ratio is not proportional.

Another system used in the UK is the alternative vote or AV. With the alternative vote few votes are wasted compared to first-past-the-post due to the use of voting preferentially. On the other hand AV ~~is~~ can provide a winner that has only one on the basis of second or third preferences making them only the least unpopular candidate.

The Supplementary Vote is used in the London Mayoral elections and is similar to the alternative vote. It's considered to be simpler than AV and so voters can more easily understand how the system works. However

((c) continued) More votes are wasted in ~~the~~ the Supplementary Vote than with the alternative vote because second preferences may have been previously ~~than~~ eliminated.

~~The Additional Membership System is a mixed system. The first percentage is filled using the first past the post and then the rest is~~
Whilst all electoral systems in the UK hold a certain degree of merit the first past the post system is still used in the most important election in the UK, the general election.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (a) Here, on a straightforward topic, the response fails to make two clear and distinct points.
- (b) The issue here is that the three ways elections promote democracy are not fully spelt out and vague terms such as 'giving a voice' is too generic to hit the top level.
- (c) This lacks detail and depth; more than one system is noted but there is not enough here to gain a high reward.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This question caught many out - and it was not designed to do so, asking simply to assess the good points of the different electoral systems in use in the UK. It did not ask to provide the demerits (or disadvantages). The term 'assess' means to consider and weigh up a certain view, to analyse a particular slant or aspect.

Question 4

Q4a) Using examples, identify two functions of pressure groups.

A significant majority of candidates were able to identify two functions of pressure groups with key examples. Excellent ideas identified a variety of concepts, including pluralism and democracy. Some described the functions of pressure groups but without giving examples. A few candidates were confused as to the meaning of functions and described types of pressure groups, i.e. sectional and promotional.

Q4b) Explain why some pressure groups choose to use illegal methods.

Answers to the question were in the main good with many candidates accessing level 3 with ease. The fault lines occurred where some candidates made the point that illegal methods could be used for media coverage, and then repeated this point several times, without showing a broader AO1 understanding. There seemed to be some confusion about the legality of strikes and marches – some candidates seemed to think that all demonstration and strikes are illegal and the Junior Doctors strike (BMA) often was cited as illegal. A few still used terrorist groups such as the IRA and ISIS as pressure groups, and this was off track. Better responses identified illegal action as a last resort or the only available route. A significant number of candidates struggled to find a third reason. Many covered publicity and the circumstances of the group requiring alternative methods.

Q4c) To what extent has the power and influence of pressure groups changed in recent years?

Better candidates read the question accurately and compared the contemporary position of pressure groups with its recent past. Answers which were less robust treated this as 'how important are pressure groups', gaining marks but not advancing to higher levels. Another common failure was to address one side of the response only. The strongest responses to this question contrasted the numerical power of pressure groups with the passive participation of 'cheque-book members', and furnished their answers with specific examples of pressure groups being ignored by the government. Some of the most impressive responses made perceptive points about the relationship between pressure group influence and the government's agenda, and how pressure group power relied on the character and ideology of the government of the day.

Paper Summary

Based on the performance of this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Read and re-read the question - more so than ever on part (c) where the bulk of the marks are stored. A short thinking time before committing to write ensures that the nuances contained in the question can be judged.
- Figures impress and they gain marks. The candidate who knows the data on elections, turnouts and various other up-to-the-minute details will always have the opportunity to display this knowledge and earn reward from that industry.
- Alongside the request for up-to date-data and political figures, there is the need to cite current examples. Politics is a live subject and what happens in the real political world in the next twelve months will always have scope for reward.
- Asking for the definition of the key terms on the specification has often arisen - but there are some candidates who fail to grasp this important demand of the examination.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

Ofqual
.....



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL.