

## A-Level Practice Paper Set 1

# Paper 1

## UK Politics & Core Political Ideas

**Time:** 2 hours

In the style of Edexcel

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 84

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in your name** at the top of this page.
- 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).
- Writing space is **not provided**. Answer on lined paper

### 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 long 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.

## SECTION A: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

**Answer ONE question from EITHER Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b) and then answer ONE question from EITHER Question 2(a) OR Question 2(b).**

### **EITHER**

- 1 (a)** *Source A is adapted from an article from a polling website, who believe that many people are using social media to research political opinions and facts, and there may be a correlation between increased social media and political participation in the UK.*

New research conducted by YouGov for the London Press Club and Society of Editors has found that, despite the 2017 general election being dubbed the "biggest social media election to date", traditional news sources such as television and newspapers remain more influential among voters than social media.

The study revealed that 60% of respondents regularly get their political news from the BBC, while 45% get their political news from a newspaper, with The Guardian and The Daily Mail being the most popular papers for political news at 16% and 13% respectively. In contrast, only 15% reported getting their political news from Facebook, 8% from Twitter, and 4% from BuzzFeed.

The results did show that social media was more popular among 18 to 24-year-olds, The research aimed to understand the impact of media and social media on the recent general election, and found that 44% of the general population and almost 60% of 18-24 year olds believed that the election result would have been different had social media not played a role.

(Source: Study Politics' own material)

Using source A, evaluate the view that the changing nature of the media is affecting voting behaviour.

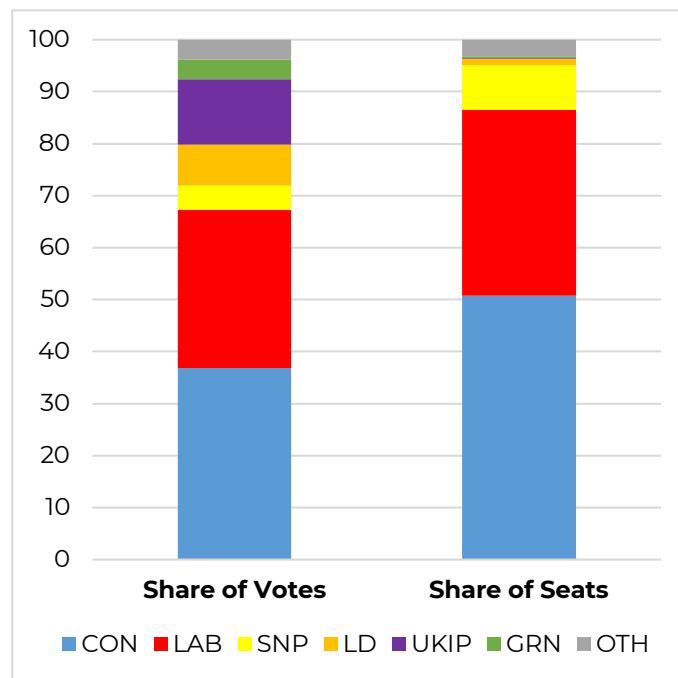
*In your response you must:*

- *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)**

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

OR  
1 (b)



Source B: Graph showing outcomes of the 2015 General Election.

#### Source C: Outline of the features of First Past the Post

With a geographical base, parties that are small UK-wide can still do very well. This tends to mean that Westminster's electoral system benefits nationalist parties. For instance, half of Scottish voters voted for the SNP in 2015, but the SNP won 95 percent of Scotland's seats.

Westminster's First Past the Post voting system usually allows parties to form a government on their own. But, these governments may only have the support of 35 percent (Labour 2015), a record low, or 37 percent (Conservative 2015) of the country.

Westminster's voting system creates two sorts of areas. 'Safe seats', with such a low chance of changing hands that there is no point in campaigning, and 'swing seats', that could change hands.

As parties want to get as many MPs as possible, parties prioritise voters who might change their minds who live in swing seats. Parties design their manifestos to appeal to voters in swing seats, and spend the majority of their funds campaigning in them.

But, policies designed to appeal to voters in these seats may not help voters in the rest of the country. Voters who live in safe seats can feel ignored by politicians.

(Source: <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/voting-systems/types-of-voting-system/first-past-the-post/>)

Using sources B and C, evaluate the view that First Past the Post is no longer fit for purpose at UK General Elections.

*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 the Conservative Party has abandoned Thatcherism.

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

**(30)**

**OR**

- 2 (b)** Evaluate the view that the size of pressure groups is the most important factor affecting their success.

*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 are liberals united over the nature of freedom?

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

**(24)**

**OR**

**3 (b)** To what extent is Conservatism a philosophy of human imperfection?

*You must use appropriate thinkers you have studied to support your answer and consider both sides 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**