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Other names

Pearson Edexcel
Level 3 GCE

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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Politics

Advanced Subsidiary
Paper 1: UK Politics

Thursday 24 May 2018 – Afternoon
Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper Reference

8PL0/01

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 **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.*
- Calculators are not permitted.

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 direct democracy. (10)

OR

(b) Describe the main functions of a General Election. (10)

(Total for Question 1 = 10 marks)

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Chosen question number: Question 1(a) Question 1(b)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer BOTH Question 2 AND Question 3.

- 2 Source 1 is adapted from a report by Dr. Mike McCarthy; he reflects on the impact of the Human Rights Act and the response and reaction of governments to its introduction, including some of the criticisms that the Act has faced.

Source 1

The Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) has not worked well for everyone in the UK. High profile cases involving terrorists and prisoners have been lost by UK governments, fostering the notion that it gave rights to the wrong type of people. These cases often made tabloid 'Europe bashing' headlines and the Conservatives promised in their 2015 manifesto to replace the HRA with a British-based Bill of Rights, firstly to satisfy Eurosceptics in their party and then secondly to symbolically kill off a key piece of New Labour's legislation. The HRA has caused controversy not only between parties but within them. Furthermore, many feel that rights outlined in the HRA such as the right to privacy, family life and education are all too vague and sometimes contradictory.

Crucially the problem with the HRA is that it fundamentally stresses rights and it should also acknowledge that being a member of a democratic society also entails responsibilities. There are limits to a rights-based culture which the HRA does not address; but how strong is the demand from the public for change?

(Source: adapted from: <http://www.civitas.org.uk/pdf/TheProblemwithHumanRightsLaw>.)

Using the source, explain why the Human Rights Act has been controversial.

(10)

*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.*

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(Total for Question 2 = 10 marks)



- 3 Source 2 is adapted from two sets of opinions published by Yougov, the polling organisation, after it asked members of the public whether 18 is the correct minimum voting age or whether the age should be lowered to 16 or perhaps raised to 21.

Source 2

YES – THE VOTING AGE SHOULD BE LOWERED TO 16

At 16, you are mature enough to marry, pay taxes, and leave home. You can legally have sex and become a parent. If you are old enough to become a parent, get married and contribute to the treasury, then you are surely old enough to decide who makes the policies that so greatly affect your life.

Voting at 16, as in Scotland, gives young adults more of a stake in what's happening and the decisions that will affect their future, like Brexit. That is probably why the idea is supported by most UK political parties. They realise the importance of participation in a democracy. Given the educational focus on citizenship and politics courses, many 16 and 17-year-olds are just as equipped to vote as their parents, if not more so.

NO – THE VOTING AGE SHOULD BE RAISED OR KEPT AT 18

At 18, young adults can be too easily swayed by manipulative politicians. By 21, everyone can use their own experience to decide. Actually extending the period where the person is unable to vote may increase their desire to eventually vote when they hit 21. Education is important but age delivers maturity. Though 18-year-olds are getting more informed, that extra three years at work, training or university would be beneficial in making a well-informed decision.

The best reason to keep the voting age at 18 is 'If it's not broken, don't fix it'. Only legal adults should have the vote. Should people who are still at school be able to vote? Participation is important but it has to be informed and enlightened involvement.

(Source: <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2012/02/15/and-against-lowering-voting-age/>)

Using the source, assess whether the voting age should be changed.

(10)

*In your response you must compare and contrast **similarities** and **differences** and consider competing points by analysing and evaluating them; **only** knowledge which supports this analysis and evaluation will gain credit.*

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(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS



SECTION C

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

EITHER

- 4 (a) 'Media support is the most important factor for a political party to achieve success.'

How far do you agree with the view that the success of a political party depends on the treatment it receives from the media?

*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.*

(30)

OR

- (b) 'The performance of various electoral systems used in the UK at present has not made the case for replacing the first past the post system for Westminster elections.'

How far do you agree with this view concerning electoral change in the UK?

*In your answer you must refer to **at least two** electoral systems used in the UK and consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way.*

(30)

(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



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