

Government and Politics Unit 1 – People and Politics - Question Bank

	Political Parties	Pressure Groups	Elections	Democracy & Political Participation
Winter 2009				
(a)	Using an example, define adversary politics.	Using examples, distinguish between sectional and promotional pressure groups.	Outline the workings of the Additional Member System (AMS).	What are the main features of representative democracy?
(b)	What divisions exist within the current Conservative Party over ideas and policies?	Explain the methods used by pressure groups to influence government.	How has the use of AMS affected party representation in the UK?	In what ways has political participation declined in the UK in recent years?
(c)	To what extent are there differences between the Labour and Conservative parties over policies and ideas?	To what extent do pressure groups promote pluralist democracy?	Should proportional representation be introduced for elections to the House of Commons?	Evaluate the effectiveness of the various ways in which participation and democracy could be strengthened in the UK.
Summer 2009				
(a)	Outline two functions of a political party	What is meant by pluralism?	What is the doctrine of the mandate?	Define liberal democracy.
(b)	In what ways has the Conservative Party distanced itself from Thatcherism?	Why is it sometimes difficult to distinguish between pressure groups and political parties?	Explain the workings of three electoral systems used in the UK.	Explain the main features of the UK's democratic system.
(c)	To what extent is the Labour Party still committed to its traditional principles?	To what extent have pressure groups become more important in recent years?	Assess the advantages of the 'first past the post' electoral system.	To what extent is there a 'democratic deficit' in the UK?
Winter 2010				
(a)	Using an example, define consensus politics.	Using examples, distinguish between	Define proportional representation.	Define direct democracy.

		insider and outsider pressure groups.		
(b)	Explain the ideas and policies which link the modern Labour Party to socialism.	Explain the reasons why the success of pressure groups may be limited.	Explain why proportional electoral systems have been more widely used in the UK since 1997.	Explain three forms of democratic participation.
(c)	To what extent is the modern Conservative Party influenced by 'One Nation' principles?	To what extent do pressure groups promote political participation in the UK?	Assess the criticisms of the various electoral systems used in the UK.	Assess the arguments in favour of the greater use of direct democracy in the UK.
Summer 2010				
(a)	Distinguish between left-wing and right-wing political ideas.	Distinguish between elitism and pluralism.	Outline two functions of elections.	What is meant by legitimacy?
(b)	Explain the differences within the Labour Party over ideas and policies	Explain three political functions of pressure groups.	Explain three advantages of the 'first past the post' electoral system.	Explain three strengths of representative democracy.
(c)	To what extent are the ideas and policies of the Labour and Conservative parties similar?	To what extent do pressure groups undermine democracy?	Make out a case in favour of the introduction of proportional representation for Westminster elections.	How democratic is the UK?
Winter 2011				
(a)	Define two functions of a political party.	Outline two differences between pressure groups and political parties.	How do elections promote democracy?	Apart from voting in elections and referendums, describe two ways of participating in politics.
(b)	Explain what is meant by the term Thatcherism.	How and why do some pressure groups use direct action?	Distinguish between majoritarian representation and proportional	Explain the arguments in favour of lowering the voting age.

			representation.	
(c)	To what extent do the UK's major parties accept Thatcherite ideas and policies?	To what extent are the largest pressure groups the most successful ones?	How far does the Westminster electoral system ensure strong and stable government?	To what extent would the wider use of referendums improve democracy in the UK?
Summer 2011				
(a)	What is meant by consensus politics?	Using examples, distinguish between promotional and sectional pressure groups.	Distinguish between a mandate and a manifesto.	Outline the key features of a referendum.
(b)	Has consensus politics become more or less evident in the UK since May 2010?	How and why do pressure groups seek to influence public opinion?	Explain the workings of three electoral systems used in the UK.	Apart from referendums, explain three ways in which democracy in the UK could be improved.
(c)	To what extent are the major UK parties internally united over ideas and policies?	Is pressure group politics in the UK better described as pluralist or as elitist?	Should the Westminster electoral system be reformed?	To what extent does democracy in the UK suffer from a 'participation crisis'?
Winter 2012				
(a)	Outline two ideas associated with liberalism.	How do pressure groups promote functional representation?	Outline the workings of the Party List electoral system	How does a referendum differ from an election?.
(b)	Explain three policies of the modern Labour Party.	Explain three factors which may restrict the influence of a pressure group.	Explain three criticisms of the 'first past the post' electoral system.	Explain the arguments in favour of making voting compulsory.

(c)	To what extent have the parties involved in the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition remained faithful, since 2010, to their traditional principles and ideas?	Are pressure groups becoming more powerful, or less powerful?	Make out a case in favour of retaining the 'first past the post' electoral system for the House of Commons	How effectively does democracy operate in the UK?
Summer 2012				
(a)	Define adversary politics, using an example.	What is the link between pluralism and pressure groups?	Describe three different elections regularly held in the UK.	Define democratic legitimacy, and outline one way in which it is achieved.
(b)	Explain the divisions that exist within the Conservative Party over ideas and policies.	Explain why different pressure groups use different methods to achieve their aims.	Explain three strengths of "first-past-the-post" electoral system.	In what circumstances are referendums held in the UK?
(c)	To what extent is the Labour Party still committed to its traditional principles?	To what extent do pressure groups strengthen pluralist democracy?	To what extent do different electoral systems produce different outcomes?	Should referendums be more widely used in the UK?
January 2013				
(a)	Describe two political ideas that are considered to be right wing.	Describe two ways in which pressure groups promote political participation	What is meant by the term party system?	Outline two features of the UK's system of parliamentary democracy
(b)	Explain three ways in which any one of the major political parties is internally divided	Explain three reasons why pressure group activity may undermine democracy.	Explain how and why party representation may be affected by any three different electoral systems.	Explain how and why the use of digital democracy could make the UK more democratic
(c)	To what extent do the major parties differ over policies and ideas?	To what extent is the success of pressure groups a reflection of	Assess the advantages of using proportional representation electoral	Should direct democracy be more widely used in the UK?

		their level of public support?	systems.	
June 2013				
(a)	How does factionalism apply to political parties?	What is the link between elitism and pressure groups?	Outline the workings of the single transferable vote electoral system.	Using an example, define direct democracy.
(b)	Explain three functions of political parties.	Explain three ways in which pressure groups exert influence.	Using examples, distinguish between a two-party system and a multi-party system.	Explain three criticisms of representative democracy.
(c)	To what extent has the Conservative Party abandoned Thatcherism?	To what extent is pressure group power in decline?	Should 'first past the post' continue to be used for elections to the House of Commons?	Assess the various measures, other than electoral reform, that have been suggested to improve democracy in the UK.
June 2014				
(a)	Outline two ways in which political parties differ from pressure groups	What is pluralist democracy?	Outline two ways, other than voting in elections, in which people can participate in politics	Outline two functions of elections
(b)	Using examples, explain the difference between left wing and right wing political ideas	Using examples, explain three reasons why pressure groups may fail to achieve their objectives	Explain three criticisms that have been made of referendums	Explain the workings of three electoral systems used in the UK
(c)	To what extent are the major parties internally divided over policies and ideas?	To what extent do pressure groups undermine democracy?	Assess the strengths of representative democracy as it operates in the UK	Assess the advantages of various electoral systems used in the UK
June 2015				
(a)	Define consensus politics, using an example	Outline two differences proportional and sectional pressure groups	Outline the working of regional list electoral system	Define democratic legitimacy and two ways in which it is achieved

(b)	Explain three similarities between political parties and pressure groups	Using examples, explain three methods used by pressure groups to achieve their objectives	Explain three advantages of proportional representation	Explain three ways in which representative democracy in the UK could be improved
(c)	To what extent do the major political parties agree over policies and ideas?	Do pressure groups distribute or concentrate power?	Make out a case in favour of electoral reform in Westminster elections	To what extent is there a democratic deficit in the UK
June 2016				
(a)	Outline two functions performed by political parties.	Using examples, identify two functions of pressure groups.	Outline two differences between elections and referendums.	Outline two features of parliamentary democracy.
(b)	Explain how ideological traditions have influenced policies within the Conservative Party.	Explain why some pressure groups choose to use illegal methods.	Explain three ways in which elections promote democracy.	Explain three reasons why voting in the UK should be made compulsory.
(c)	To what extent has Labour moved away from its traditional principles?	To what extent has the power and influence of pressure groups changed in recent years?	Assess the merits of the different electoral systems operating in the UK	To what extent have devolution and membership of the EU affected representative democracy?