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Gmemment and Political Studies

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ADV'ANCED SU'PPLEMENTARY LEVEL

A ' Goivemment and Political Studies Subject Number 071

ORDINARY LEVEL

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The aim of the syllabus is to help towards the kind of understanding of the mail: institutions and practices of British politics that candidates would need in order to make sense of the political events and ideas that they are encountering through othe: subjects and activities in formal education, and from radio, television and newspapers ., 3

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-The Examination

There will be one paper of three hours. Candidates will be advised to spend the EirSt fifteen minutes reading the quesrion paper.

The paper will be divided into two parts: Part A will carry 60% Of the total marks and candidates will be required to anwer three questions, the first of which .will be 2 compulsory question and will require the interpretation of a short passage taken: from a book or newspaper article or a simple table of numerical data concerning 'contemporary British politics. Part B will carry 40% of the total marlG and candidates ,will be required to answer two queStions chosen from any one of the three sections 'given in the syllabus. The first question in each of these sections will be compulsory and will consist of six short answer questions ofwhich four must be answered. The titles of the sections in Part B may be varied from time to time; any changes will be notified to centres at least two academic years in advance.

Syl lab us

Part A

Political parties: aims and ideas, current oh'cies, and the policy-making procedure: of the main political parties; parties in ocal elections.

Parliament and the electorate: elections and the electoral system, including ideas for change; the main functions of Parliament and especially the t6le of the Opposition, _ the work of an individual Member of Parliament; how pressure groups can influence Parliament and the Executive.

The Executive: the constitutional position of the Monarch today; the powers of the Prime MiniSter and of the Call at; the r6le of the Cixil Senice; the independence of the judiciary, the different p.:s of central and of local government: the current structure and purposes of local government .

University of London GCE Examinations. ju'ne 1989.3muary 1990 (Overseas) : E53 5

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I; Part 3

12; Section 1. Local Government

i Aims

To enable candidates to understand the place of local government in the government with the provision of local authority services and the relationships between central and local government.

Syllabus

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g The mandatory and permissive functions of local government (including the education services.)

1 Local government social services. including a consideration of how provisions can vary between different authorities. T a

4 Sources of local government finance and associated controversies. v, Relationships between central and local government and issues of the range and scope of local government administration.

The role of Chief Officers. The role of councillors.

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Political parties in local government

Pressure group activity in local government such as tenants associations, housing associations, residents associations, parent-teacher associations, environmental groups.

Section 2 Law and Order

Aims

To enable candidates to understand legal institutions and ideas in their political context, and legal problems of maintenance of public order-

Syllabus I

Principles and concepts: differences between law and justice; rule of law, separation of powers; supremacy of Parliament; independence of the judiciary'. Civil liberties in the United Kingdom; legal aid; participation of citizens in the local system.

i Institutions: law courts; police; administrative tribunals; the powers of the Home Secretary; the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions; the Lord Chancellor. the jury system. ,5

1 Political issues: how judges and magistrates are appointed; the role of the police. i their powers, procedure and control; law-making by Parliament and by judges; liberties, extent and limitations; demonstrations, civil disobedience and terrorism; sentencing policy and punishment '

Section 3. Social Services and Housing

Aims

To enable candidates to understand the general provisions and issues of the social services and housing in their political context.

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i 1 Syllabus

I National insurance and welfare payments, particularly child benefit, pensions, unemployment benefit, supplementary benefit, family income supplement :he i i work of associated pressure groups such as The Child Poverty Action Group

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(CPAG).

Local authority social services, including why provisions can vary between different authorities.

Health provision: the National Health Service and the private sector.

Housing; types of housing provision (e.g. private ownership, privately rented, local authority, tied housing, housing associations, housing co-operatives, buy-to-let developments) and the work of associated pressure groups.

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of the United Kingdom. Candidates should be aware of the political issues associated with Government and Political Studies - Ordinary level. June 1989/January 1990 (Overseas) B7
Local authority housing: housing lists, direct Labour schemes, rehabilitation and
redevelopment

How legislation affects housing reasons for legislative controls over tenancy
provision for the homeless

Notes for Guidance

Introduction

These notes do not form part of the syllabus but are intended to help you
prepare a curriculum for it. The notes are a combination of explanation and advice.
One intention of the syllabus is to allow teachers a wide choice and some flexibility,
both in what to cover and how to cover it

General intentions of the syllabus

The syllabus tries to relate and extend the knowledge and understanding of points
that candidates acquire from other subjects and activities, their general reading and
the media; it does not attempt to cover every aspect of British government and
politics.

Teachers are reminded of the aims of the syllabus: candidates should be able to have
an understanding of the main political institutions and practices of British society,
within which framework they can study political events and issues then
encountered in the media. The framework of political institutions and practices is the
central element of Part A which specifies the main institutions of central government
in Britain, grouped under three areas. It is the intention that these be studied in their
current form with only a recent historical background to enable candidates
to explain that form. The study of some political issues is an important element of
sections specified in Part B. Candidates will study only one of these sections but
teachers should have sufficient time to be able to cover this section in some detail.
Candidates may show the relationships, where appropriate, between the issues
studied for Part B and the main institutions of central government in Part A.
The sections in Part B are designed to allow the study of contemporary political
issues within a framework of certain principles and institutions. Where necessary in
institutional knowledge will be expected, and specific questions will be set to test
that knowledge, the curriculum should concentrate on the issues involved.
It is hoped that the syllabus will allow teachers to adopt a wide variety of teaching
strategies and be able to make considerable use of contemporary material. Candidates
should collect press clippings, manifestoes and cheap or free political
literature in addition to using the more traditional textbook approach.
Contemporary references -

It is a specific aim of the syllabus that candidates should show a
awareness and understanding of recent current events and that a study of British
government and politics cannot rely solely on text-books for either information or
examples. It will be difficult for a candidate to do well in this examination if he or she
has no general knowledge of what is happening in British politics and cannot refer to
relevant examples currently in the media. It is hoped that teachers will be able to
provide up-to-date examples by reference to the various media which are mentioned
in the last paragraph of these notes. Up-to-date examples will complement the
details of institutions which are found in various text-books at this level. Candidates
are likely to do better in the examination if they follow current affairs and have
experience of discussing these in the classroom.

The Examination

Although the examination paper will be three hours in length, candidates:

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t .strongly advised to spend the first fifteen minutes in carefully wading the questions
and making rough notes so that the time spent in actually wrfzing the responses-
should be a proximJtel'y 2% hours.

In Part A of the paper there will be a compulsory question which will be based upon a
short passage taken from a book or newspaper article or on simple numerical data. It
cannot be emphasized too strongly that this question is not simply a comprehension
bly able candidate could i hout liming Studied the

subject One or two of the attendant questions will test whether candidates have
understood what they have read, but other questions will require the use of
knowledge that has been aimed from a wide study of the syllabus. i ,

Part B of the paper covers eloptional sections of the syllabus. The first quation in
31 sections will be compulsory and will require four short answers
lines each. The main purpose of this question is to :5: coverage
of the syllabus for the section chosEn. In allowing greater depth of Study of a
particular aspect of government and politics; 'candidat6 should cover as wide an area
ble and not confine themselves to a narrow part of the syllabus.

The purpose of the essay quesrions in Parts A and B is to allow candidates :0 deploy
their knowledge of a substandal and important bodyofinformacion, to demonsmte
their ability to employ this informatiqn relevantly in response to the question set and
to show their ability to develop a simple and coherent argument based on the
selection of relevant facts. They will also be required to show their grasp of the
i d conflicting arguments that political issues generate according to a
party's or group's Viewpoint, but they will not be expected to resch any conclusions
on the validity of particular viewpoints. Candidates will not be penalized for holdin g
strgng o inions; they will be assessed by their eahility to present an argument by
mans Vo illustrations from-reievanf contempor-aryevents. Therefore, candidates
should be positively encouraged, as part of the course, to obtain up-to-date
information from political parties, pressure groups and public authoritioi Candi-
dates are reminded of the importance of writing their essay answers in traditional
asay form and that candidates who revert to note form in their answers will be
penalized _ t " - x5 "

Conclusion ' V, V . . , ,

The purpose of these notes is not'to give detailed interpretation of each part of the
syllabus but to inform teachers of the broad parameters'within which the syllabus
has been drawn up and to give general guidelines as to the examiners' expectationis-
It is hoped that the framework is clear enough for teachers to _be able to construct it
curriculum and scheme of work that will enable them to deploy a wide variety of
teaching strategies ' t

Additional note

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) The attention ofoverseas centres is drawn to the aims of the sylhbus which specify an
understanding of the main political institutions and practics of BRITISH politics.

Though Part A of the syllabus is conlined mainly to central government, overseas
centres may End some of the sections in Part B demanding and may well face
difficulties in obtaining up-to-date information and examples relevant to Section L
(Local Government) and Section 3 (Soeial Services and Housing). Therefore
overseas centres are strongly recommended to study Section 2 (law and Order) for
which information and contemporaneous examples may be easier to obtain._ '

Candidates at overseas centres are equally encouraged not to rely solely on
text-books, and teachers may find it easier to prepare a suitable teaching Strategy by
the regular use of current affairs discussions on the BBC. External and World
Services and regular reading of the overseas edition of a quality British newspaper.

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Aims aka: at thejune exammadan only

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3. to ensourae .' :

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