1.10 Party Funding, Internal Factions and Political Consensus in the UK: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short questions require concise sentences. Levels-marked extended questions should be answered as developed paragraphs with relevant named examples and a clear judgement where required.

1 This question tests knowledge of UK regulatory institutions for political finance: identify the independent body primarily responsible for regulating party donations and campaign finance in the UK.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 This question concerns internal Labour factions and their policy tendencies: identify two named Labour factions (post-war to present) and give one policy tendency or belief for each faction.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 This question asks for application: explain two ways in which large private donations can influence party policy or behaviour in the UK, and illustrate one way with a contemporary or recent example.

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.10 Party Funding, Internal Factions and Political Consensus in the UK: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

names the Electoral Commission cao	**B1**

Answer: The Electoral Commission.

Question 2

names Old Labour or its equivalent and gives one correct tendency, e.g. strong trade union links and support for nationalisation	**B1**
names New Labour or its equivalent and gives one correct tendency, e.g. more market-friendly reforms and emphasis on third way public service modernisation	**B1**
names Corbynism or hard-left current and gives one correct tendency, e.g. renationalisation, high public spending and grassroots democracy	**B1**
names another distinct Labour faction correctly or awards full marks for any two complete faction+belief pairs	**B1**

Answer: Examples: Old Labour, historically close to trade unions and supportive of nationalisation; New Labour, associated with market-friendly reforms and public service modernisation; Corbynism, associated with renationalisation, high public spending and emphasis on grassroots participation.

Question 3

identifies one mechanism of influence, e.g. direct access to leaders or policy makers	**B1**
develops that mechanism, e.g. donors may gain meetings, influence appointments or input into policy drafts	**B1**
identifies a second mechanism, e.g. agenda shaping through targeted funding for campaigns or media	**B1**
develops that mechanism, e.g. funding can support specific policy research, advertising or think tanks aligned to donor interests	**B1**
gives one contemporary or recent illustrative example with some accurate detail, e.g. high profile donations to the Conservative Party in the 2010s and 2020s linked to access or association, with approximate timing	**B1**
explains how the example illustrates the mechanism identified	**B1**

Answer: Large private donations can buy influence by creating direct access to party leaders and policy makers, for example via private meetings or hospitality that allow donors to press priorities, and by shaping the agenda through targeted funding for campaign materials, research or favourable media. An illustration is high profile donations to the Conservative Party in the 2010s and early 2020s which critics argued increased access for certain business figures and funded campaign adverts and events; this example shows how funds can translate into opportunities to present policy preferences to decision makers.

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