1.10 Party Funding, Internal Factions and Political Consensus in the UK: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 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 asks for a factual date related to public funding: state the year in which Short Money was first introduced for opposition parties in the UK Parliament.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 This question tests basic knowledge of party funding sources in the UK context: name two common sources of funds for UK political parties.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 This question concerns Labour party finance and trade unions: explain two reasons why trade union affiliation fees have been important to the Labour Party historically.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 This question concerns regulatory recommendations: state three specific reforms recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life or similar reviews concerning party finance in the UK.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

5 This question concerns Conservative party factions and their positions: identify two named Conservative factions and state one policy preference or belief associated with each, including any EU stance if relevant.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 This question asks about the likely effects of a policy reform in party funding: explain two potential impacts of imposing a strict cap on individual donations to political parties in the UK.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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

Question 1

Short Money introduced in 1975 cao **B1**

Answer: 1975.

Question 2

one correct source of party funding, e.g. membership subscriptions **B1**

a second correct source of party funding, distinct from the first, e.g. individual donations or trade union affiliation fees **B1**

Answer: Any two distinct examples such as: membership subscriptions; individual donations; corporate donations; trade union affiliation fees; Short Money/Policy Development Grants; revenue from fundraising events.

Question 3

identifies one reason, e.g. a significant predictable income stream funding party activity **B1**

identifies a second reason, e.g. organisational link between unions and Labour that strengthens mobilisation and policy influence **B1**

Answer: Trade union affiliation fees have provided a substantial and relatively predictable income stream for Labour, and they have reinforced organisational links giving unions formal influence over party structures, candidate selection and policy formation.

Question 4

one accurate reform recommendation, e.g. stricter transparency and reporting of donations **B1**

a second accurate recommendation, e.g. lower or more comprehensive donation caps **B1**

a third accurate recommendation, e.g. consideration of some form of state funding for parties or expenditure limits **B1**

Answer: Examples include: improved transparency and quicker public reporting of donations; stricter or lower donation caps; and consideration of state funding for parties or limits on campaign expenditure to reduce donor influence.

Question 5

names One Nation conservatism and states one correct preference, e.g. support for some state intervention to preserve social cohesion **B1**

names Thatcherite New Right and states one correct preference, e.g. preference for free markets, privatisation and lower taxation **B1**

names a pro-EU or Europhile wing and states one correct belief, e.g. support for close ties to the EU or pragmatic cooperation **B1**

names an anti-EU or Eurosceptic wing and states one correct belief, e.g. support for sovereignty and restrictions on EU integration **B1**

Answer: Examples: One Nation conservatives prefer pragmatic state action to preserve social cohesion; Thatcherite New Right favour free markets, privatisation and lower taxation; a pro-EU wing supports close ties and pragmatic cooperation with the EU; an anti-EU Eurosceptic wing prioritises national sovereignty and limits on EU integration.

Question 6

identifies one impact, e.g. reduction in the influence of wealthy donors on party policy **B1**

develops that impact, e.g. parties may be less likely to tailor policy to specific donors **B1**

identifies a second impact, e.g. parties may face funding shortfalls and seek alternative revenue such as increased membership fees or state funding **B1**

develops that impact, e.g. smaller parties might benefit or suffer depending on their existing donor base and access to alternative income **B1**

Answer: A strict cap on individual donations could reduce the direct influence of wealthy donors on policy, making parties less beholden to a few funders, but it could also create funding shortfalls that force parties to seek alternative revenue sources such as higher membership subscriptions, more grassroots fundraising, or calls for state funding. The effects would vary by party depending on existing donor structures, potentially benefiting parties with broad small-donor bases and disadvantaging those reliant on a few large donors.

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