1.11 Liberal Democrats, Greens and Reform UK: Minor and Emerging Parties: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be answered in note form. For levels-marked questions write a well-structured extended response in full sentences and support arguments with accurate political knowledge and named examples. Spend about 15 minutes on this paper.

1 This question tests basic factual knowledge of the Liberal Democrats' key policy stance in the 2010 general election campaign. State one key Liberal Democrat policy from that campaign.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Name one way Reform UK (formerly the Brexit Party/UKIP) has sought to influence public debate on immigration since 2015.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State four reasons why UKIP/Reform UK can exert influence on Conservative policy despite winning few Commons seats.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Explain briefly one institutional route, other than winning Commons seats, through which minor parties can influence UK policy.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 This question asks for a short evaluation of whether media visibility is more important than parliamentary seats for minor-party influence. Evaluate whether media visibility is more important than parliamentary seats for minor-party influence.

(Total for Question 5 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.11 Liberal Democrats, Greens and Reform UK: Minor and Emerging Parties: Test Pack

Question 1

one accurate statement of a 2010 Liberal Democrat position, for example, support for electoral reform (replacing First Past the Post with the Single Transferable Vote) cao — **B1**

Answer: They supported electoral reform, campaigning in their 2010 manifesto for First Past the Post to be replaced with the Single Transferable Vote.

Question 2

one accurate method, e.g. campaigning for stricter immigration controls, using high profile media campaigns or tabling policy papers — **B1**

further detail showing a second element of the method, e.g. pressuring major parties to adopt tougher rhetoric on immigration — **B1**

Answer: By campaigning for stricter immigration controls through high profile media campaigns and policy papers, and pressuring major parties to adopt tougher rhetoric.

Question 3

one accurate reason, e.g. they can shift public opinion on a single issue such as EU membership cao — **B1**

a second accurate reason, e.g. they can cause Conservative vote losses prompting policy shifts to recover voters — **B1**

a third accurate reason, e.g. they use media and pressure tactics to frame the debate and force the agenda — **B1**

a fourth accurate reason, e.g. by standing in European or local elections they can show vote share which signals electoral threat to major parties — **B1**

Answer: They shift public opinion on issues like EU membership; they cause Conservative vote losses prompting policy shifts; they use media pressure to frame debate; and they demonstrate vote share in non-Parliamentary elections indicating electoral threat.

Question 4

identifies an institutional route, e.g. influencing major-party manifestos by policymaking pressure and public debate — **B1**

development showing how the route works, e.g. sustained public campaigning leads major parties to adopt similar policies — **B1**

gives an example linked to a minor party, e.g. Green influence on net zero or Lib Dem influence on tuition fees debate in coalition — **B1**

gives a short evaluation or limitation, e.g. influence depends on salience of the issue and media attention — **B1**

Answer: They can influence major-party manifestos and policy via sustained public campaigning and media pressure, for example Greens influencing net zero commitments or Lib Dems shaping debate on electoral reform when in coalition; the effect depends on issue salience and media attention.

Question 5

identifies media visibility as a key factor enabling influence, e.g. shaping public debate and pressuring major parties — **B1**

identifies parliamentary seats as another factor, e.g. formal legislative power and presence in debates — **B1**

develops an argument for media visibility being often more important, with example, e.g. UKIP's media profile before 2016 influenced Conservative policy — **B1**

develops an argument for parliamentary seats being important in certain contexts, with example, e.g. Lib Dem ministers in the 2010-2015 coalition had formal power to shape policy — **B1**

provides a balanced conclusion weighing both sides and giving a reasoned judgement — **B1**

supports judgement with a brief final example or synthesis — **B1**

Answer: Media visibility often matters more because it shapes public opinion and forces major parties to respond, as with UKIP prior to 2016, but parliamentary seats matter where minor parties gain formal influence, as Lib Dem ministers did in the 2010 to 2015 coalition. A balanced judgement is that media visibility usually amplifies influence but parliamentary representation can convert that visibility into concrete policy change in specific circumstances.

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