1.4 Pressure Groups, Think Tanks and Lobbyists in UK Politics: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief but must be accurate. Time guidance: 10 minutes for the whole pack.

1 State two differences between sectional and promotional pressure groups in the UK context.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 List three methods used by UK pressure groups to influence government or public opinion, giving a one word label for each method.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Explain briefly how professional lobbying operates in the UK, naming one activity lobbyists perform when representing a client's interests to ministers or civil servants.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.4 Pressure Groups, Think Tanks and Lobbyists in UK Politics: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one accurate difference, e.g. sectional groups represent defined social or occupational interests (trade unions, professional bodies) while promotional groups campaign for a cause	**B1**
a second accurate difference, e.g. sectional groups typically protect member benefits while promotional groups seek broader public policy change or awareness	**B1**

Answer: Sectional groups represent the interests of a specific section of society (for example a trade union or professional body) while promotional groups campaign to promote a cause or value (for example environmental protection); sectional groups typically protect member benefits, whereas promotional groups aim for broader public policy change or awareness.

Question 2

one correct method, e.g. lobbying	**B1**
a second correct method, e.g. direct action	**B1**
a third correct method, e.g. litigation or media campaigns	**B1**

Answer: Any three of: lobbying; direct action; litigation; media campaigns; petitions; research reports; public demonstrations.

Question 3

identifies that professional lobbyists act on behalf of clients to influence policy-makers	**B1**
identifies a concrete activity, e.g. arranging meetings with ministers, drafting briefing notes, or commissioning research	**B1**
explains how the activity works, e.g. briefing notes present client evidence or arguments to civil servants prior to consultations	**B1**
brief development, e.g. lobbyists may use contacts and sustained communication to shape agenda items or regulatory wording	**B1**

Answer: Professional lobbyists act on behalf of clients to influence policy-makers; for example they arrange meetings with ministers or civil servants and provide tailored briefing notes that set out the client's evidence and preferred policy wording, using sustained contact and personal networks to shape consultations or agenda items.

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