1.5 First Past the Post: Operation and Impact on UK General Elections: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write full sentences for extended responses (questions worth 6 marks or more). Spend approximately 10 minutes on this pack.

1 This question asks for an example of a type of seat under First Past the Post in the context of UK general elections.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 This question asks about the term 'disproportionality' in the context of national UK general election results under First Past the Post.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State what tactical voting means in UK general elections under First Past the Post, and give one brief consequence.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 This question asks for two real-world examples from recent UK general elections illustrating FPTP disproportionality, using the 2015, 2017 and 2019 election outcomes.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.5 First Past the Post: Operation and Impact on UK General Elections: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

names either a 'safe seat' or a 'marginal seat' cao **B1**

Answer: Safe seat or marginal seat.

Question 2

identifies that disproportionality means a mismatch between national vote share and number of seats won **B1**

gives an example effect, e.g. a party winning a larger share of seats than its vote share or vice versa **B1**

Answer: Disproportionality is the mismatch between national vote share and the percentage of seats a party wins in Parliament, for example a party gaining a large share of seats with a smaller share of votes or winning many votes but few seats.

Question 3

states that tactical voting involves casting a vote for a less preferred but more viable candidate to prevent another candidate winning **B1**

gives a brief consequence, e.g. it can affect marginal seats and national outcomes **B1**

Answer: Tactical voting is when voters support a less preferred but more viable candidate to stop an undesired candidate winning; it tends to be concentrated in marginal seats and can affect overall seat totals under FPTP.

Question 4

one correct example, e.g. Conservatives 2015: 36.9% vote share, 50.8% of seats **B1**

second correct example, e.g. UKIP 2015: 12.6% vote share but 1 seat (0.15% of seats) or Liberal Democrats 2015: 7.9% vote and 8 seats **B1**

examples correctly dated and linked to the stated election year **B1**

Answer: Examples include: Conservatives in 2015 won 36.9% of the UK vote but 50.8% of seats; UKIP in 2015 won 12.6% of the vote but only 1 seat, illustrating a major vote to seats distortion.

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