1.7 Long-Term Factors Influencing Voting Behaviour: Class, Age and Region: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short-answer questions may be brief but must be precise. At least two extended answers require full sentences and developed explanation. The final 30-mark question must be a structured essay with a clear judgement.

1 State two long-term demographic or structural factors commonly cited as influencing voting behaviour in the UK, naming the factor in each answer.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain the concept of partisan dealignment in the UK and give one consequence for party organisations.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Explain two ways in which age influences voting behaviour in the UK, and give a brief contemporary example for one way, including the election year cited.

(Total for Question 3 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.7 Long-Term Factors Influencing Voting Behaviour: Class, Age and Region: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one accurate factor named, e.g. age	**B1**
a second accurate factor named, e.g. social class, region, ethnicity, or gender	**B1**

Answer: Any two of: age; social class; region (e.g. North-South differences, Scotland/England); ethnicity; gender.

Question 2

defines partisan dealignment as the decline in long-term party identification among voters	**B1**
explains that voters are less likely to identify with a single party over their life course	**B1**
gives one consequence, e.g. parties invest more in short-term campaigning and targeted messaging	**B1**
or gives an alternative consequence, e.g. parties rely more on professional campaign teams and less on mass membership	**B1**

Answer: Partisan dealignment is the decline in stable party identification, meaning fewer voters see themselves as lifelong supporters of one party. One consequence is that party organisations invest more in short-term targeted campaigning and professional campaign staff rather than relying on large, active memberships.

Question 3

identifies one way age influences voting, e.g. older voters are more likely to support Conservative parties	**B1**
develops that younger voters tend to favour more progressive or left parties	**B1**
identifies a second mechanism, e.g. lifecycle or generational effects	**B1**
develops how lifecycle or cohort effects operate, e.g. attitudes shift with life stage or cohorts retain formative attitudes	**B1**
gives a brief contemporary example with year, e.g. 2019 general election where younger cohorts favoured Labour and older cohorts voted Conservative	**B1**

Answer: Age influences voting because older voters are statistically more likely to support Conservative parties while younger voters tend to favour Labour or other progressive parties; this can reflect lifecycle effects (attitudes change as people age) or generational cohort effects (younger cohorts having distinct formative experiences). Example: in the 2019 general election younger age groups showed higher support for Labour compared with older age groups who leaned Conservative.

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