5.15 Comparative US/UK Democracy and Participation: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief but should use full sentences where asked. The two extended, levels-marked questions (the 12-mark source-based and the 30-mark essay) require well-structured, developed responses using accurate comparative knowledge, examples and evaluation.

1 Explain two ways in which voter registration in the United States can act as a barrier to participation, giving specific mechanisms or regulations.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 State two consequences of the US Electoral College for the geographic focus of presidential campaigns, with brief explanation.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.15 Comparative US/UK Democracy and Participation: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies one barrier, e.g. requirement to register in advance in many states	**B1**
develops that point, e.g. registration deadlines and documentary ID requirements can reduce turnout among mobile or disadvantaged voters	**B1**
identifies a second barrier, e.g. state-by-state variation including voter ID laws and purges of rolls	**B1**
develops that point, e.g. inconsistent rules, roll purges and differing ID standards can confuse and deter eligible voters	**B1**

Answer: One barrier is that many US states require voters to register in advance, with deadlines and documentary ID or proof of residence requirements, which can suppress turnout among those who move frequently, are low income or lack ID. A second barrier is the wide state variation in rules, including strict voter ID laws and periodic purges of voter rolls; this patchwork can lead to eligible voters being removed or deterred, and creates confusion that reduces participation.

Question 2

one accurate consequence, e.g. focus on swing states	**B1**
brief development, e.g. candidates target resources at competitive states with many electors	**B1**
a second accurate consequence, e.g. neglect of safe states	**B1**
brief development, e.g. voters in safe states receive less campaigning and may feel less influential	**B1**

Answer: Consequences include a heavy focus on swing states where the outcome is uncertain and electoral votes can be won or lost, so campaigns concentrate resources there; and neglect of safe states, where voters receive less campaigning and may feel their participation is less influential on the national result.

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