# 1.1 Political Parties: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Read Source A, then answer ALL questions. For levels-marked questions, write a well-structured, developed response using accurate political knowledge, named examples and precise terminology. This pack forms part of Edexcel Paper 1 (9PL0/01), Section A: UK Politics.**

**1** This question tests basic knowledge of the functions of political parties.

**(a)** State two functions performed by political parties in a representative democracy. **(2)**

**(b)** Explain one way in which political parties contribute to political participation. **(3)**

**(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)**

**2** This question is about party manifestos.

**(a)** Explain the purpose of a party manifesto. **(3)**

**(b)** Explain one criticism of the effectiveness of manifestos as a guide to future government policy. **(3)**

**(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 1.1 Political Parties: 10-minute Pack

## Question 1

(a) one accurate function, e.g. recruiting and selecting candidates for public office **B1**

(a) a second accurate function, e.g. aggregating and representing interests, providing policy choices to voters, or providing political education **B1**

**(a) Answer: Any two of: recruiting and selecting candidates for public office; aggregating and representing a range of interests into coherent policy programmes; providing voters with a clear choice of governing programmes at elections; political education/mobilising participation; forming and sustaining government (or organised opposition).**

(b) identifies a relevant channel of participation, e.g. party membership, campaigning, or candidate selection processes **B1**

(b) development, e.g. members can attend local party meetings, campaign during elections, and vote in internal selection or leadership contests **B1**

(b) explains the wider significance, e.g. this gives ordinary citizens a structured route into political activity beyond simply voting **B1**

**(b) Answer: Political parties provide structured opportunities for participation beyond voting, such as joining as a member, campaigning during elections, and taking part in internal candidate-selection or leadership contests; this gives ordinary citizens an organised route into political activity that would otherwise be harder to access individually.**

## Question 2

(a) identifies that a manifesto sets out a party's policy programme/commitments ahead of an election **B1**

(a) identifies that it gives voters a basis for comparing the parties' offers **B1**

(a) identifies its constitutional significance, e.g. under the Salisbury Convention, the unelected House of Lords does not usually block legislation that implements a governing party's manifesto commitments **B1**

**(a) Answer: A party manifesto sets out its policy programme and commitments ahead of an election, giving voters a clear basis for comparing what each party is offering. It also carries constitutional significance: under the Salisbury Convention, the unelected House of Lords does not usually block legislation that implements a governing party's stated manifesto commitments.**

(b) identifies a relevant criticism, e.g. that manifesto commitments may not survive coalition negotiation, or may be abandoned/changed due to unforeseen events **B1**

(b) accurate supporting detail, e.g. the 2010-2015 Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition required both parties to compromise on manifesto commitments to reach the Coalition Agreement **B1**

(b) explains the consequence, e.g. voters cannot always rely on a manifesto as a reliable prediction of the government's eventual policy programme **B1**

**(b) Answer: A common criticism is that manifesto commitments may not survive contact with events in office, most clearly where coalition government requires negotiation: after the 2010 general election produced no outright majority, the Conservative and Liberal Democrat manifestos had to be reconciled through negotiation into a single Coalition Agreement, meaning neither party's original manifesto was implemented in full. This shows a manifesto cannot always be relied upon as an accurate guide to the government's eventual policy programme.**


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