# 6.10 Pluralist and Elite Theories of Power: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions. For short answer questions, write in full sentences for questions worth 2 marks or more. Spend about 15 minutes in total.**

**1** Which one of the following best describes the pluralist view of power in Britain?

- ☐ A) Power is concentrated in a single ruling class that controls all institutions
- ☐ B) Power is dispersed among many competing groups such as parties, unions and pressure groups
- ☐ C) Power is held only by elected politicians with no influence from other groups
- ☐ D) Power is purely symbolic and has no impact on decisions

**(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)**

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**2** Identify one way citizens can try to influence decisions between elections in Britain, and give one brief reason why pluralists consider this effective.

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


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**3** Identify and explain two practical limitations that pressure groups in Britain often face, which may limit their influence compared with elite actors.

**(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)**

**4** Identify and explain two ways trade unions could influence government policy in Britain, according to pluralist ideas. Give one clear example of each method and explain its effect.

**(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 6.10 Pluralist and Elite Theories of Power: Test Pack

## Question 1

| | |
|---|---|
| B (power dispersed among many competing groups) | **B1** |

**Answer: B**

## Question 2

| | |
|---|---|
| identifies a method, e.g. joining or supporting pressure groups, signing petitions or contacting MPs | **B1** |
| brief development, e.g. pluralists argue pressure groups aggregate public views and mobilise voters, making politicians respond between elections | **B1** |

**Answer: Joining or supporting pressure groups, signing petitions or contacting MPs; pluralists argue pressure groups aggregate public views and mobilise voters, making politicians respond between elections.**

## Question 3

| | |
|---|---|
| identifies a limitation, e.g. limited resources or organisational capacity | **B1** |
| explains how this limits influence, e.g. less ability to fund research, sustained lobbying or legal challenges | **B1** |
| identifies a second linked point, e.g. dependence on public support or media attention | **B1** |
| development, e.g. without consistent public interest their campaigns may fail to change elite priorities | **B1** |

**Answer: Pressure groups may have limited resources or organisational capacity, reducing their ability to fund research, sustained lobbying or legal challenges. They also depend on public support and media attention, so without consistent interest their campaigns may fail to change elite priorities.**

## Question 4

| | |
|---|---|
| identifies a method, e.g. strikes or collective bargaining | **B1** |
| explains how this can influence government or employers, e.g. strikes disrupt services or production and push policymakers to negotiate | **B1** |
| identifies a second linked point, e.g. unions lobby MPs or fund campaigns | **B1** |
| development, e.g. lobbying can change legislation or pressure parties to adopt union-friendly policies | **B1** |

**Answer: Trade unions can organise strikes or use collective bargaining, which disrupts services or production and pressures employers and policymakers to negotiate. They also lobby MPs and run campaigns that can push parties to adopt union-friendly policies.**


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