Essay Plan – Pressure Groups

‘Unelected bodies can influence decision making in Parliament. Discuss.’ 20 marks

Introduction – outline what you are going to discuss – Pressure Group activities – Insider and Outsider groups – how influential they have been with changing laws. The media – influence.

Para 1 –

K – Insider Groups – explain what they are.

A – Easy for them to influence – good relationship

K – Examples – e.g BMA, EIS, Cancer Research, etc

A – However, limited to working within govt circles – safe politics.

C – Mini conclusion – Insiders effective but may be unable to create situation for bolder issues to be discussed.

Para 2 – Outsider Groups

K – What are they? Explain how they work.

A – Are they likely to change govt policy? Examples of their methods.

K – Examples of groups, eg CND, Anti-Cuts, Greenpeace, etc.

A – They are effective at public awareness – examples BUT real political change is difficult.

C – Mini conclusion – Outsiders – effective at raising issues, fighting causes, but lack the political clout to effect influence in Parliament.

Para 3 – Pressure methods

K – Direct action – explain what it is.

A – Can be used by insider and outsider. Boycotts, etc. Influence Parliament??.

K – Examples of action taken – successes/failures – petitions, boycotts, demonstrations, strikes, etc. Illegal methods – effectiveness??

A – Do these actions bring about change in laws? Do they influence Parliament short term? Long Term?

C – Mini Conclusion – Overall which methods are effective at influencing politicians?

Para – 4 The Media – lots to write about!!

K – In what ways can media influence politicians/elections? TV, press, social media.

A – Examples of media reporting which HAS influenced politicians/elections – eg Gordon Brown – Gillian Duffy. Scot Indy – BBC/Press coverage.

K – Media influence – effectiveness – viewers, political decisions – voters buy newspapers, money spent on adverts, etc.

A – Do the Press back ‘winners’ eg The Sun?

Are they influential – media campaigns e.g Daily Mail anti-immigration has it led to rise of UKIP? Do they have REAL influence.

C – Mini Conclusion – Overall does the media influence politicians? Can the media determine who wins elections? Referenda?

OVERALL CONCLUSION – Are unelected bodies effective at changing laws – influencing politics??