

2004 Politics

Higher – Paper 1

Finalised Marking Instructions

2004 Politics

Higher

Paper 1

For full credit award marks for relevant points and for the selection of appropriate examples from the sources provided which support the points being made.

Question 1

Award up to **7 marks** where the candidates have identified relevant points.

Source A tells us that the powers of the Prime Minister include:

- Appointing and reshuffling the Cabinet
- Being able to sack Ministers
- The power to abolish an Office of State
- Patronage - being able to appoint Judges, Bishops and award titles and give out honours
- Commanding loyalty because (s)he is the country's official spokesperson with the media and on the world stage
- Deciding when to call a general election
- 'Assumed' Presidential powers - Britain no longer ruled by Cabinet ie with collective responsibility

Source A tells us that the constraints on the Prime Minister include:

- Appointment to Cabinet not a 'free' choice - seniority has to be considered
- Overlooked politicians may be more dangerous outwith the cabinet rather than within it
- Needs best MPs to ensure good Government
- Answerable to media and electorate
- Ministers not likely to tolerate manipulation of Cabinet agenda
- Ministers can get information from their Departments
- (S)he is accountable to press and voters for use of Powers of Patronage
- Date of election may be controlled by factors such as timing, appetite of the country and the state of readiness of the party

Question 2

For full credit award marks for relevant points and for the selection of appropriate examples from the sources provided which support the points being made.

Award up to **8 marks** from the following:

Source B/ Source C

- The Conservatives were not major winners - Liberal Democrats (+20) and Independents (+30) - ahead of their (+15).
- They overall won only 10% of the seats which was less than all the others except Scottish Socialist Party.
- Their share of seats was only up 1.2% since 1999.
- No improvement in Glasgow - only 1 councillor elected, same as 1999.
- Conservatives lost 2 seats in the West of Scotland area.
- Down 2 seats also in Mid-Scotland and Fife.
- Their best result by far was in the South of Scotland (+13).
- They also improved their seat count in Central Scotland (+3).

As can be seen from the above the evidence does not support the claim made by the spokesperson in the Conservatives being the major winners. It is true that some modest progress was made in the Central Belt. (Point to consider is candidates outwith Central Belt might only look at figures for Glasgow and Central and ignore West of Scotland.)

Question 3

For full credit award marks for relevant points and for the selection of appropriate examples from the sources provided which support the points being made.

Award up to **15 marks** from the following:

Source D

Shows large differences in the fortunes of the parties

- The system used favours, on this occasion, the Labour Party who gained 63% of the seats (46 seats) while only attracting 34.6% of the votes cast.
- The Liberal Democrats emerged as slight winners gaining 17.8% of the seats (13 seats) with only 15.3% of the votes cast.
- On the other hand the Conservatives with 16.6% of the votes cast only managed to gain 4.1% of the seats (3 seats).
- The SNP attracted 23.7% of the votes but were rewarded with only 12.3% of the seats (9 seats).
- The SSP with 6% of the votes got no seats.

Source E

Shows a reversal in the fortunes of some of the parties

- Labour with 29.4% of the votes only gained 7.1% of the seats (4 seats).
- The Conservatives and the SNP managed to attract 15.6% and 20.9% respectively of the votes cast and were rewarded with 26.8% (15 seats) and 32.1% (18 seats) of the seats respectively.
- The Liberal Democrats with 11.8% of the votes gained 7.1% of the seats (4 seats).
- The smaller parties were slight winners under this system.

Source F

This table shows that an evening up of the distribution of seats has occurred

- Labour overall gained 38.7% of the seats (50 seats) from 32% of the total votes. This shows that overall Labour are net winners from the system on this occasion.
- The Liberal Democrats result reflected their achievements - 13.6% of the votes resulting 13.2% of the seats (17 seats).
- The Conservatives gained 13.9% of the seats (18 seats) from 16.1% of the votes polled by them.
- The SNP result was close to their performance - 22.3% of the votes converted into 20.9% of the seats (27 seats).
- The smaller parties were rewarded as per their performances.

While it cannot be claimed that the election result was totally fair it can be argued, as stated, that the system is fairer. This is clear from Source D where the rewards in terms of seats in no way matched the performance of the parties in attracting support from the electorate.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]