

2005 Politics

Higher – Paper 1

Finalised Marking Instructions

These Marking Instructions have been prepared by Examination Teams for use by SQA Appointed Markers when marking External Course Assessments.

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Paper 1

Question 1

Refers to Source A only and is looking for the advantages and disadvantages of using a PR system (STV) for Scottish Local Elections.

Award up to two marks for each correct point up to a maximum of eight marks – to gain the maximum the points should be contained in a structured paragraph NOT simply as listed points.

Advantages:

- STV is easy to understand and use for voters
- no votes are wasted
- it encourages a better turnout, particularly in constituencies considered to be safe seats
- it ensures that no candidate is elected with less than 50% of the votes cast
- there is a more accurate match between MPs elected and votes cast per party.

Disadvantages:

- STV is a recipe for coalition government with a large number of parties being elected – this may lead to “weak” government
- small parties may have a disproportionate amount of power in coalitions
- the system favours centre parties who are normally a second choice
- large constituencies may mean the connection between MPs and constituents is lost
- there is the possibility of problems with by-elections in terms of should everyone in the multi-constituency get a vote or only part of it.

Question 2

Refers to Sources B, C and D only. Two marks awarded for each valid point made, up to a total of eight marks. Candidates must make it clear whether they agree with all or parts of the statement.

Comments therefore must be made on:

- the extent to which women have had to catch up with men in the countries listed
- the extent to which women have overtaken men in voting turnout in the countries listed
- the extent to which voter turnout has increased in each election year.

Women catching up on men

Agree to an extent with quote in terms of Finland; not so much for Sweden but the evidence is not supported at all by the figures shown for India.

- Men were in front of women in Finland from 1972 until 1983. The gap closed and by 1987 women overtook men 76.6% to 76.2%.
- The gap between men and women in Sweden showed women in front by 94.3% to 93.9% in 1976 and they stay in front from then on. The gap grew to almost 3% in 1988 – 86.5% against 83.8% before falling to 1.3% of a gap in favour of women in 1998.
- The situation in India was certainly different from the other two countries with women always behind in terms of gender voting. Not only did more women vote but the gap between men and women stayed fairly high starting with 65.6% against 54.9% in 1977 a gap of almost 11% to 65.7% against 57.9% a gap of just over 11%.

Women overtaking men

Again agree with quote to an extent for Finland and Sweden but the evidence does not support the view at all for India.

- Having overtaken men in 1987 women have stayed in front in Finland and they have increased the gap during the 1990s to approximately 3% 1995 – 73.1% to 71.9; 1999 – 69.7% to 66.8%.
- In Sweden the women overtook men in 1976 and have stayed in front although the gap has remained fairly close – usually within 1% or 2%.
- Clearly in India women have always been behind.

Turnout increasing in each election year

There is some evidence for this up to a point but for the election turnout figures have reduced in latter years rather than increased for Finland and Sweden while in India has been more erratic with the last election seeing a 4% rise approx in turnout.

- Figures for turnout in Finland start at 81.4% in 1972 before reducing to 68.3% in 1999.
- Sweden had a very high turnout of 94.1% in 1976 which before falling to 82.1% in 1998 (a slight blip in 1991 when turnout rose from 85.2% to 86.9% before starting to fall again marginally in 1994).
- India fell from 60.5% in 1977, rose again to a high of 63.6% in 1984; fell again in 1991 only to rise in 1996 and 1998 at 62.0%.

Question 3

“an outstanding success...disaster for main opposition parties”.

Source E confirms that it was an outstanding success for the ANC – increased the number of seats and percentage of votes in each of the 3 elections, from 252 seats in 1994 to 279 in 2004 and from 63% in 1994 to 69% in 2004.

It was a disaster for the NNP if not for IFP but it was a success for the DA. The NNP vote has collapsed from 82 seats in 1994 to only 7 in 2004 and from 20% to less than 2%. In contrast, the DA has replaced the NNP as the leading opposition party – from 7 seats and 1.7% of votes in 1994 to 50 and 12% in 2004. Credit reference to gradual decline of IFP.

“enthusiasm...electoral process”

Source F does not support this viewpoint. Despite an increase in the electorate turnout has gone down in each of the 3 elections – from 19.5m in 1994 to 15.6m in 2004. The situation is apathy not enthusiasm if one looks at turnout as a percentage of voting age – from an outstanding 86% in 1994 to a poor 57.8 % in 2004. If one uses only registered voters the figures look more promising.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]