

**2006 Politics**

**Higher – Paper 1**

**Finalised Marking Instructions**

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## **2006 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 8 marks where the candidate has identified relevant points.

#### **Arguments for a ban:**

- view of the medical profession – BMA totally supports a ban with medical evidence to support the ban
- health reasons – leads to premature deaths ,13 000 Scots die every year through smoking-related deaths etc; impact on passive smokers and young women. A ban will save lives
- Political/Moral reasons – Government ministers , both in the UK and Scottish government support the ban; balance between freedom of choice and health damage to others: Scotland's health record and benefit to NHS.

#### **Arguments against ban:**

- Practical and financial difficulties – impossible to enforce, diverts police and court time and may lead to closures of pubs: may lead to a drop in government income
- unfair and absurd law – will criminalise ordinary citizens, should concentrate on real crime and on cars and fast food establishments
- no evidence that the public support ban – TMA survey results
- views of Forest – the pressure group in favour of smokers' rights.

## Question 2

**It is important to award marks for information taken from the source and not to award marks for knowledge outwith this. Candidates have an opportunity to point out what is a small increase/decrease in share of votes or MEPs and what is a significant increase and the top end of the mark allocation should be given to those candidates who make such comments as opposed to those candidates who just state the figures from the source without commenting on their significance.**

Award 1 or 2 marks for each appropriate point depending on the level of accuracy and explanation up to a total of 7 marks.

- Candidates should disagree with both parts of the statement since the share of the votes and the number of MEPs have not remained constant over the two elections – except for the Green Party who have increased their share of the vote a little from 5.8% in 1999 to 6.3% in 2004 but they have the same number of MEPs at 2.
- The two major parties have seen a significant drop in both their share of the vote and number of MEPs. Labour's share of the vote has gone down from 28% to 22.6% and their MEPs have been reduced from 29 to 19 ie around 33%. The Conservatives have experienced a drop in votes from 34.2% to 26.7% and their MEPs have gone down from 36 to 27 ie 25% – very significant.
- Both SNP and Plaid Cymru have seen their share of the vote fall. SNP have gone from 2.57% to 1.4% but they still have 2 MEPs while Plaid Cymru's vote has gone down from 1.77% to 1% with the loss of 1 of their 2 MEPs.
- The Liberal Democrats have managed to increase both their share of the vote and their MEPs. Their vote has increased from 12.1% to 14.9% ie over 20% increase and their MEPs are up from 10 to 12 ie 20% increase.
- The biggest winners over the two elections have been the UKIP. They have increased their share of the vote significantly from 6.65% to 16.1% and their MEPs have increased from 3 to 12 – a 400% increase.
- Despite increasing their share of the vote significantly from 1.13 to 4.9 the BNP have still no MEPs.
- Other appropriate comments.

### Question 3

For full credit of marks candidates must refer to all sources and say to what extent the evidence supports the statement made.

Award up to 15 marks from the following:

**“Once again the election was a triumph for Labour, winning a very strong overall majority.”**

Source D confirms that Labour won with a strong overall majority of 66 seats and 158 more than the second party.

However not a triumph as Labour lost 47 seats and their share of the vote was only 35.3% of the electorate who voted.

**“It is clear that there is strong support among the voters for Labour and this was reflected in the turnout.”**

Source C questions the validity of the statement “reflected in the turnout.” The highest turnout was in 1992 when the Conservatives won. Labour’s 1997 victory was supported by a healthy 71.5% turnout. However, the 2001 turnout of 59.4% was the lowest turnout in recent years. It is true that the 2005 turnout did increase to 61.3% but it was still a poor turnout compared to previous elections.

Source D confirms that Labour won with the most seats but it was not strong support in terms of votes. Labour won only 35.3% of votes and as such 64.7% voters did not vote for Labour.

Source E highlights that in England the Conservatives gained slightly more votes than Labour, yet received 90 seats less. So there was not strong support among the voters for Labour. Labour did better in Scotland and in Wales, and were clearly the strongest party.

**“The election was a disappointment for every other party.”**

Source C shows that other political parties would be disappointed with the result as Labour still retained a large majority.

However, Conservatives and Liberal Democrats did increase their number of seats and in England the Conservatives had most votes. In Scotland the Liberal Democrats had an impressive 6.3% increase in their votes and overtook the SNP to become the second biggest party in Scotland. As such the other major parties had their successes as well as disappointments.

It is true that the elections were a disappointment for Plaid Cymru (Source E). It lost one of their three seats and witnessed a decline in their votes. The SNP who were overtaken by the Liberal Democrats, saw a drop in support. However, it was not all bad news; they gained one seat (Source E).

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]