



2007 Politics

Higher – Paper 1

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Paper 1

Question 1

Award up to 3 marks for strengths and up to 3 marks for weaknesses of applying scientific method to the study of Politics

Credit the following:

Strengths:

- scientific method helps to define problems in Politics and provide a framework for research
- it leads to better problem-solving and helps students to be more searching and logical
- it helps students to start to distinguish between facts and values – it makes them more objective
- any other relevant point.

Weaknesses:

- it may lead to important concepts like justice and rights not being studied because they are more subjective and not verifiable by scientific study
- there is a difficulty with the lack of exact data in politics because of the fact that it deals with human beings and their behaviour which is not particularly quantifiable
- some areas of politics are too complex to be quantifiable because there are so many variables that might be involved eg in how political decisions are made
- there are many hidden values in politics with researchers/students having their own values and biases which leads to preconceptions and a difficulty in being objective
- any other relevant point.

Question 2

Award up to 14 marks using the guidelines below.

For full credit of marks, candidate must refer to all sources and say to what extent the evidence supports the statement:

“People across Scotland continue to show enthusiastic support for the Scottish Parliament.”

Source D

It is not correct to say that Scotland continued to show enthusiastic support for the Scottish Parliament because the percentage of voters by turnout had declined overall by 10% from 59.1% in 1999 to 49.4% in 2003. The turnout fell in all regions of Scotland with a very high drop of almost 18% in Central Scotland. However in terms of the eight regions a slightly more positive outcome emerges.

“The results of the 2003 election showed few differences compared with the 1999 election.”

Candidates may **agree** to some extent with this part of the statement and use the following in support:

Source B

Few differences: agree to some extent because like 1999 no party achieved an overall majority in 2003; like 1999 Labour and the Liberal Democrats formed a coalition government. There were no successful ethnic minority candidates.

Source C

Few differences: agree to some extent using this source – Labour remained the largest party with the greatest number of seats – 50 – and the SNP remained in second place with 27 seats. The Scottish Socialists, Greens and Independents all retained representation in Parliament. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats retained the same number of seats.

Source E

Few differences: The number of female MSPs remained the same for Labour and Liberal Democrats.

Candidates may **disagree** to some extent with the statement and use the following to back up their points:

Source D

But there were several **differences:** There was a large fall in turnout from 59% to 49%. All eight regions witnessed a decline in voting with Central Scotland having the largest change – 17.89%.

Source C

Differences: There was a decline in support for both Labour and SNP, both received fewer votes in both the constituency and regional list. Labour lost seven constituency seats and gained one regional list seat. In contrast the SNP gained two constituency seats and lost 10 regional list seats. As such the SNP witnessed the greatest change with the loss of 8 seats.

The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats both gained more votes but no extra seats.

A major change was the increase in support for the minority parties and a decline of support for Labour and SNP. The support for the Scottish Socialists, Greens and Independents was reflected in an increase of seats from three in 1999 to 17 in 2003. In contrast the Labour and SNP combined loss was 14.

The Scottish Socialists recorded the most significant change in support as they more than doubled their votes and increased their seats from 1 to 6. The Greens recorded the greatest increase in seats from 1 to 7.

Source E

The number of SNP female MSPs dropped from 15 to 9. However it increased for Conservatives, Greens, Independents and the Scottish Socialists (from 0 to 4). Overall the number of female MSPs increased from 48 to 51.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]