



2008 Politics

Higher – Paper 1

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Paper 1

Question 1

Award 1 or 2 marks for each developed point depending on relevance and details provided up to a total of 6 marks. Overall the conclusion should be that there were some significant changes over the two elections – some of the following points should be credited.

- On the unionist side, the Democratic Unionist Party gained ten seats to become the largest party both in seats and votes.
- Despite slipping to third place in first preference votes the Ulster Unionist Party actually increased their vote slightly and only lost one seat.
- On the nationalist side, Sinn Féin saw a big increase in their vote, gaining six seats at the expense of the Social Democratic and Labour Party.
- The minor parties all saw a significant fall in their support. The Alliance Party managed to hold all six of its seats despite their vote almost halving, the Women's Coalition and Northern Ireland Unionist Party were wiped out, and the Progressive Unionist Party and UK Unionist Party had just one seat each.
- Any other relevant points.

Question 2

Award up to 14 marks – for full credit of marks, candidates must refer to all sources and say to what extent the evidence supports the statements made.

“The 2005 General Election confirmed Labour’s clear popularity with the public.”

Source C

Correct in terms of seats won with Labour having 55% of the seats and Conservatives only having 30% of votes. However this is not reflected in the % of votes cast which properly shows popular opinion. Labour only won 35% of the votes with the Conservatives just behind with 32%. In short 65% of those who voted did not vote for Labour.

“Both the 2001 and 2005 elections reinforced Labour’s support across all sections of society and regions of the United Kingdom”.

Source D

Correct in terms of social class, C2 and DE, Labour has a clear lead over the other political parties especially class DE. However, this lead is not as great as it was in 2001.

Not correct for groups AB and C1. Group AB supports the Conservatives and even the Liberal Democrats had greater support than Labour in this group. While Labour had the support of group C1 in the 2001 election, the Conservatives have replaced Labour.

Source E1

For gender, Labour has the most support of all the political parties, in both elections. This is not the case for the male vote. While Labour had the most support in 2001, the situation in 2005 displays equal support between the two major parties.

Source E2

Labour has the most support from the 18-34 group and 35-54. However, this is not the case for those over 55 with the Conservative party having the most support.

Source F

Does not support the statement as Labour support declined in every government region. The greatest decline was in London -8.4 and the lowest in the South West -6.9. It was the Liberal Democrats who increased their support the most. Their greatest increase was in the North East 6.7 and in Scotland 6.3.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]