



**2010 Politics**

**Higher Paper 1**

**Finalised Marking Instructions**

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## **2010 Politics**

### **Higher**

#### **Paper 1**

##### **Question 1**

Award up to 2 marks for each developed point depending on relevance and details provided up to a total of 6 marks. Both sources must be used for full marks. Overall the conclusion should be that both the mayoral election and assembly elections were successful for the Conservatives but Labour did have some success by increasing support in the assembly elections.

The following points should be credited:

- The conservative candidate Boris Johnson won the mayoral election by defeating the incumbent Labour candidate Ken Livingstone. He almost doubled the number of first preference votes for the Conservatives and comfortably won the election.
- Labour did have some success as Livingstone increased his number of first preference votes from 685,541 to 893,877 between the two elections and was the only candidate other than the Conservatives to see his number of votes increase between the two elections.
- The Conservatives increased their seats in the London assembly from 9 to 11 and are the largest party in the assembly. They also gained 3 top up seats but they did lose 1 constituency seat.
- Labour were the only other party to register success in the assembly elections as they gained an extra constituency seat from the Conservatives.
- Any other relevant points.

## Question 2

Award up to 14 marks. For full marks candidates must refer to all sources and say to what extent the evidence supports the statements made.

**“In 2007 the SNP replaced Labour as the dominant party in Scottish local government.”**

### Source C

Labour has lost its dominant position in local elections, it had controlled 13 councils before 2007 but now only controls 2. However, in terms of council control the SNP has not replaced Labour as it does not control any councils. No other party other than Labour controls any local councils outright.

### Source D

Labour has lost its dominant position in terms of share of council seats and share of the vote. Labour had over 40% of the seats prior to 2007 but now only has 28.1%. Labour's share of the vote has fallen steadily from 36.6% in 1999 to just 28.5% in 2007.

The SNP can claim to have replaced Labour as the largest party in local government as it now has more councilors than Labour; 363 compared to 348 for Labour.

However, Labour is still the largest party in terms of votes. In 2007 it had 28.1% of the votes compared to 27.9% for the SNP.

**“The introduction of the Single Transferable Vote system in that year has resulted in greater participation and fairer representation in local government.”**

### Source D

The results do point to fairer representation for all parties as there is a closer link between share of the votes and share of the seats in 2007 than there was in previous elections (for example Labour received 28.1% of the votes and got 28.5% of the seats). The largest difference between vote and seat share was around 4%. In previous elections there were differences of nearly 10%.

It could be argued that the results did not fairly represent the performance of Labour voters as Labour received the largest share of the vote but the SNP received the largest number of seats.

### Source E

There was evidence of greater participations as turnout increased in 2007 compared to 2003 (however, it was still below the 1999 figure).

It does not appear that voters understood the new system as the number of spoilt ballots increased significantly: these more than doubled compared to previous elections and could represent voter disenchantment with the new system.

### Source F

There is clear evidence of reduced participation as despite there being the same number of council seats (1,222) there was a significant decrease in the number of candidates running for these seats (down from 4,195 to 2,607).

**Source G**

The 2007 results saw a change in the trend of increasing female participation in local elections. The number of female candidates fell from 27.7% to 22.5% which was a significant decrease.

Females appear to be less well represented in local government as there has been a small decline from 2003, however, as there was a greater decline in the number of candidates this could point to a better success rate for females who do stand for election.

Any other relevant points.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]