

## Higher Politics Paper 2 – Comments on Specimen Answer 2

**Question:** Using appropriate examples, compare and contrast the effects of introducing proportional electoral systems into the United Kingdom. **(20 marks)**

### Answer 2

This answer is much more precise and there are excellent linkages made between the electoral systems, examples and countries in which they're used.

- There is an excellent opening paragraph and a reasonable attempt at a conclusion.
- He/she makes references to compare and/or contrast each of the systems where relevant.
- The candidate's description of the use of the single transferable vote is excellent – it states the name of the system, where it operates in the UK, its main characteristics and how it works. The use of the equation demonstrates a clear understanding that a quota is necessary to be elected under this system.
- The description of the system used in Scotland is equally as clear and relevant.
- The description of the system used for elections to the European Parliament demonstrates a full understanding of the relationship of the method of voting for a party to the manner in which each party's list of candidates operates.

The effects of the particular systems used in different parts of the UK is very good using relevant examples and in the case of Northern Ireland a fairly sophisticated analysis by showing how the STV system lends itself to the nature of Northern Ireland politics.

There is no mention of the impact on England specifically and the wording of the question did allow for this.

Overall this is a thorough answer which is both wide-ranging and analytical. It includes the most significant factors and offers excellent evaluations of the different electoral systems. It is qualitatively and quantitatively superior to Answer 1 and would score **18/20**.