

## Higher Politics Paper 1 – Specimen ‘A’ pass answer

### Answer 2

*“Bush’s victory was comprehensive and was welcomed by the majority of Americans. On the issues that were important, Bush reflected the mood of the nation.”*

*It is stated that “Bush’s victory was comprehensive and was welcomed by the majority of Americans.*

*Source B indicates that Bush had a clear victory over Kerry which only looks totally comfortable in an electoral college votes 286 252 a majority of 34. The Percentage vote is closer between the candidates with Bush having 51% to Kerry’s 48%. Nevertheless Bush did win with a clear margin of 3.5 million votes. The Independent candidate had very little support and Ralph Nads won only 406,880 votes.*

*When one examines the breakdown in voting a contrasting picture emerges. In terms of gender more males (55%) support Bush than Kerry (44%) while more females support Kerry than Bush although the gap is only 3%. Bush clearly has the comprehensive support of the white community with a margin of 58 to 41. However this is not the case for non-white voters who clearly did not support a Bush victory. A staggering 88% of the Afro-American community voted for Kerry and only 44% of the Latino community voted for.*

*It is in race that we see the greatest division in voting. Bush’s victory was only welcomed by the whites and not the non-whites. There is a clear divide in support based on race income and geographic area (Source A). Those under a income of 50,000 dollars which included the poor prefer Kerry to Bush by 55 - 44. When one looks at the figures over 50,000 dollars which includes the rich, the figures are reverse with Bush winning 56% to 43%. Where people stay has also has impact. Those in the cities did not welcome a Bush victory: 56% voted for Kerry and 44% for Bush. For those living in the suburbs this support is reversed with Kerry winning only 4% to Bush. The greatest geographic difference is in the countryside with Bush having 57% of the votes and Kerry 42% This shows that Bush’s victory was welcomed by wealthier Americans and those who live outside the cities. The poor and city dwellers did not welcome Bush’s victory*

*It is also stated that “on the important issues Bush reflected the mood of the Nation.” Source E highlights the way people voted based on what they regarded as being the most important issues. In terms of Terrorism and Moral Values regarded as being of importance by a significant number of Americans, Bush was*

*regarded as the better candidate with 86% (Terrorism) and (80%) Moral Values giving their support. In the Iraq war issue Kerry had 73% of the vote and again in employment he had 80%. On items that had less important Kerry had the better support in Education, and Health Care. As such, it is not totally correct to say the Bush had the support of the voters on all the important issues and so reflected the mood of the nation.*