



SQ38/H/01

Politics

Date — Not applicable

Duration — 2 hours and 15 minutes

Total marks — 60

SECTION 1 — POLITICAL THEORY — 20 marks

Attempt EITHER Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b).

SECTION 2 — POLITICAL SYSTEMS — 20 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

Question 2 contains a choice.

SECTION 3 — POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS — 20 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

Question 2 contains a choice.

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not you may lose all the marks for this paper.



SECTION 1 — POLITICAL THEORY — 20 marks
Attempt **EITHER** Question 1(a) **OR** Question 1(b).

1. (a) Legitimacy is crucial to an understanding of the distinction between Power and Authority.

Discuss with reference to the ideas of Lukes and Weber.

20

OR

- (b) To what extent are the key features of political ideologies different?
You should refer to **two** political ideologies and make reference to the ideas of relevant theorists.

20

SECTION 2 — POLITICAL SYSTEMS — 20 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

Question 2 contains a choice.

1. Study Sources A and B below and opposite then answer the question that follows.

SOURCE A

US Congressional Committees

Membership of US committees, especially Senate committees, has always had high status. Congressional committees are often referred to as “little legislatures” because of the influence they have. In a nation which prides itself on the separation of powers, Congressional committees also provide an invaluable service to the nation by investigating the Executive’s work. Congressional committees have significant budgets to carry out detailed investigations and can rely on a large staff of investigators.

In recent times, US committees have become very politically divided with members taking positions on bills according to party lines. Although this partisanship has impacted on members’ willingness to scrutinise government as Republican and Democrat members adopt opposite positions, Congressional committees are often controlled by the opponents to the President. For example, during the 1990s Congressional committees controlled by the Republicans carried out a number of investigations into the Democratic President, Bill Clinton, over alleged scandals in office.

Senate committee meetings, especially, can often be lively and combative. UK MP George Galloway famously made a flamboyant appearance at the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee in 2005.

There have been calls to improve the workings of committees. Many in the USA feel that the influence of professional lobbyists should be reduced. Information could be shared much better with the public so voters can be empowered to make more informed decisions about whether to keep or replace the elected officials who are acting as their representatives. However, Congressional committees do have some significant powers such as the ability to compel witnesses to attend hearings and to acquire information under oath. Indeed, lying under oath and failure to disclose information has resulted in imprisonment in the past.

1. (continued)

SOURCE B

Parliamentary Committees in the United Kingdom

House of Commons committees hold inquiries to produce reports on a range of matters, from the conduct of government to specialist subject areas. Membership of Parliamentary committees hasn't always been as valued as it could be. But in recent years their profile has risen following investigations and public hearings into the conduct of British banks and phone hacking allegations against a number of newspapers. However, critics have long argued that Parliamentary committees are limited by a lack of staff and resources to carry out detailed scrutiny of the executive branch.

While MPs can belong to committees in the Commons and peers belong to committees in the Lords, there are also some joint committees where members from the two Houses of Parliament work together. Despite being, in theory, independent from the government, the balance on House of Commons committees reflects party support in the House. As a result, committees usually have a majority controlled by the governing party. For a long time, party whips had too much power and committees were accused of editing reports critical of the government as a result of the influence of government whips. Even now, sometimes hearings can be dull and MPs are not always able to get key information from witnesses. Witnesses are able to talk about irrelevant issues knowing that in a few minutes they will be free to leave.

Many people feel that Parliamentary committees could be improved in order to make them more effective. The practice of giving each committee member five or 10 minutes to question witnesses can be counter-productive. While the vast majority of those called to attend committees do so, Parliament does not have any real effective power to fine or imprison people who refuse to attend or who mislead it.

Using **only** the information in **Sources A and B** opposite and above:

compare the effectiveness of US Congressional committees and UK Parliamentary committees in scrutinising the actions of government.

In your answer you must make **three** points of comparison and reach an overall conclusion.

8

2. Attempt EITHER Question 2(a) OR Question 2(b).

(a) Compare the role of the Executive in making policy in two political systems. 12

OR

(b) Compare the role of the Judiciary in protecting rights in two political systems. 12

SECTION 3 — POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS — 20 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

Question 2 contains a choice.

1. Study Sources A, B and C below and opposite then answer the question that follows.

SOURCE A

Scottish local government results for 2007 and 2012

Party	2007 results		2012 results		Change in number of seats 2007 to 2012
	Number of seats	% of seats	Number of seats	% of seats	
SNP	363	29.7%	425	34.8%	+62
Labour	348	28.4%	394	32.2%	+46
Conservative	143	11.7%	115	9.4%	-28
Liberal Democrat	166	13.6%	71	5.8%	-95
Green	8	0.7%	14	2.3%	+6
Other	194	15.7%	204	16.7%	+10

SOURCE B

Control of selected elected local authorities: 2007 and 2012

Local Authority	2007	2012
	Control of council by party	Control of council by party
Aberdeen City	SNP/Lib Dem coalition	Labour/Conservative coalition
Dundee City	SNP minority	SNP majority
Fife	SNP/Lib Dem coalition	Labour minority
Midlothian	Labour	SNP/Independent coalition
Perth and Kinross	Lib Dem/SNP coalition	SNP minority
Stirling	SNP minority	Labour/Conservative coalition

1. (continued)

SOURCE C

Candidates in council elections by gender

Party	Candidates in 2012			% Female candidates	
	Female	Male	Total	2007	2012
Labour	138	359	497	19.3%	27.7%
SNP	149	465	614	21.5%	24.3%
Liberal Democrat	69	178	247	30.9%	27.9%
Conservative	95	267	362	24.6%	26.2%
Green	35	51	86	N/A	40.7%
Independent/ Other	105	586	691	20.8%	15.2%
Total	591	1906	2497	22.5%	23.6%

Using **only** the information in Sources A, B and C opposite and above.

“The Scottish local government elections of 2012 resulted in few changes when compared to the 2007 election. However, there was a significant increase in 2012 in the number of female candidates standing for election.”

To what extent does the information in Sources A, B and C support this viewpoint?

8

2. Attempt EITHER Question 2(a) OR Question 2(b).

(a) Evaluate the success of media strategies used by political parties during election campaigns.

12

OR

(b) Evaluate the impact of the dominant ideas of a political party on its electoral performance.

12

[END OF SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER]