

# X236/12/01

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS 2015

WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY  
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM

MODERN STUDIES  
HIGHER  
Paper 1

Candidates should answer **FOUR** questions:

- **ONE** from Section A

and

- **ONE** from Section B

and

- **ONE** from Section C

and

**ONE OTHER** from **EITHER** Section A **OR** Section C

Section A: Political Issues in the United Kingdom

Section B: Social Issues in the United Kingdom

Section C: International Issues.

**Each question is worth 15 marks.**



**SECTION A—Political Issues in the United Kingdom**

**Each question is worth 15 marks**

*STUDY THEME 1A: DEVOLVED DECISION MAKING IN SCOTLAND*

**Question A1**

*The Scottish Parliament needs additional powers if it is to be more effective in governing Scotland.*

Discuss.

*STUDY THEME 1B: DECISION MAKING IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT*

**Question A2**

*The Cabinet has the most important decision making role in UK Central Government.*

Discuss.

*STUDY THEME 1C: POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR POLICIES  
(INCLUDING THE SCOTTISH DIMENSION)*

**Question A3**

Critically examine the view that party leaders in the UK have the greatest influence on the policies their parties adopt.

*STUDY THEME 1D: ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, VOTING AND POLITICAL  
ATTITUDES*

**Question A4**

*Across the UK, voters are influenced by many factors. However, some factors are more important than others.*

Discuss.

**SECTION B—Social Issues in the United Kingdom**

**Each question is worth 15 marks**

*STUDY THEME 2: WEALTH AND HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN  
THE UNITED KINGDOM*

**EITHER**

**Question B5**

To what extent is poverty the most important factor affecting health?

**OR**

**Question B6**

*It is right that government should take responsibility for health and welfare.*

Discuss.

**[Turn over for Section C on Page four**

**SECTION C—International Issues**

**Each question is worth 15 marks**

*STUDY THEME 3A: THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA*

**Question C7**

*Democracy in South Africa is threatened by the continuing strength of the African National Congress.*

Discuss.

*STUDY THEME 3B: THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*

**Question C8**

Critically examine the view that there is no effective political opposition to the Communist Party in China.

*STUDY THEME 3C: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*

**Question C9**

To what extent are there effective checks on the powers of the US President?

*STUDY THEME 3D: THE EUROPEAN UNION*

**Question C10**

Assess the effectiveness of the European Parliament in the European Union’s decision making process.

*STUDY THEME 3E: THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA*

**Question C11**

**With reference to specific African countries (excluding the Republic of South Africa):**

To what extent is foreign aid important in promoting development in Africa?

*STUDY THEME 3F: GLOBAL SECURITY*

**Question C12**

Assess the UN’s effectiveness in dealing with recent threats to international peace and security.

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]