

X236/12/01

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]