

X235/12/02

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2013

THURSDAY, 6 JUNE
2.20 PM – 4.00 PM

POLITICS
HIGHER
Paper 2

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

ONE from Section A—Political Theory

ONE from Section B—Political Structures

ONE from Section C—Political Representation

Each question carries 20 marks.



Section A—Political Theory

Marks

Answer ONE question from this section.

- A1.** “The key feature of the state is sovereignty – its absolute and unrestricted power.”
Discuss, using the works of Hobbes, Marx and Lenin to illustrate your answer. **(20)**
- A2.** “Authority, Power and Legitimacy are closely linked.”
Critically examine this statement, using the works of Lukes and Weber to illustrate your answer. **(20)**
- A3.** Compare and contrast the key features of Edmund Burke’s Conservatism with the key features of Karl Marx’s Socialism. **(20)**

Section B—Political Structures

Marks

Answer ONE question from this section.

- B4.** Compare and contrast the powers of the UK Prime Minister with those of **either** the President of the USA **or** Scotland’s First Minister. (20)
- B5.** Compare and contrast the role of the judiciary in the UK with that of **either** Scotland **or** the USA. (20)
- B6.** The main function of political assemblies is to scrutinise the actions of the government. Compare and contrast the way that the UK Parliament fulfils this function with that of **either** the US Congress **or** Scottish Parliament. (20)

[Turn over for Section C on *Page four*

Section C—Political Representation

Marks

Answer ONE question from this section.

- C7.** “The Rational Choice model is now the dominant theory of voting behaviour in the UK.”
Discuss. (20)
- C8.** “The 2010 UK General Election result has weakened the arguments of those who support the First Past the Post system.”
Discuss. (20)
- C9.** Compare and contrast the functions of UK political parties with that of pressure groups. (20)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]