

# X235/12/02

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2015

THURSDAY, 4 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.** Compare and contrast the key features of direct and representative democracy using the works of appropriate theorists. **(20)**
- A2.** “The key features of Liberalism and Socialism are very similar.”  
Discuss, using the works of John Locke and Karl Marx. **(20)**
- A3.** “Marxism provides an analysis of the state that differs significantly from the Pluralist model.”  
Discuss. **(20)**

**Section B—Political Structures**

*Marks*

**Answer ONE question from this section.**

- B4.** Compare and contrast the nature and status of the UK constitution with that of **either** the USA **or** Scotland. (20)
- B5.** Compare and contrast the powers of the UK Prime Minister with those of **either** the First Minister of Scotland **or** the President of the United States. (20)
- B6.** Compare and contrast the role of the UK Parliament in scrutinising the executive with that of **either** the United States Congress **or** the Scottish Parliament. (20)

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

**Section C—Political Representation**

*Marks*

**Answer ONE question from this section.**

- C7.** “The Sociological Model remains the dominant model of voting behaviour in the UK.”  
Discuss. **(20)**
- C8.** Explain the main theories of representation, illustrating your answer with examples from the UK. **(20)**
- C9.** Explain with examples the key advantages and disadvantages of using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system as used in Scottish Local Government elections. **(20)**

*[END OF QUESTION PAPER]*