

H

National Qualifications

2022

Politics

Paper 2

Tuesday, 26 April

Instructions to Candidates

Candidates should enter their surname, forename(s), date of birth, Scottish candidate number and the name and level of the subject at the top of their first answer sheet.

Total marks - 28

Attempt BOTH questions.

You must clearly identify the question number you are attempting on your answer sheet.

Marks are shown in square brackets at the end of each question or part question.

An owl in the margin indicates a new question.

An asterisk indicates a source that differs in some respect to the question in the printed paper.

[Braille page 2]

Total marks - 28

Attempt BOTH questions

Now 1. Study Sources A and B then attempt the questions which follows.

SOURCE A

The executive branch in the UK

In the UK, the Prime Minister is the head of the executive branch, the main purpose of this branch being to enforce the laws of the country. The Cabinet is at the heart of the executive branch. The Prime Minister chairs and appoints the members of the Cabinet which includes key leadership roles such as the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Prime Minister is normally the leader of the largest party in the House of Commons. Following the election held in 2019 this was the Conservative Party which had a majority of 80. When a government has a majority, they can get their legislation passed without requiring the support of other parties, meaning that the Prime Minister can successfully implement their policies and manifesto commitments. Some Prime Ministers, such as Tony Blair, enjoyed huge government majorities, meaning that they could easily pass bills such as the introduction of the National Minimum Wage without any obstacles being placed upon them by opposing parties.

There is no limit to the length of time a Prime Minister can serve. Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair served eleven and ten years respectively. In theory, a Prime Minister can be in power as long as they remain the leader of the largest party. In effect, a Prime Minister can stay in power as long as their party keeps winning general elections and they maintain the support of their party. Margaret Thatcher, during her eleven years in power, was able to make significant changes to the UK economy in particular as well as to society in general.

The UK has an uncodified constitution which has evolved gradually over time. As a consequence of this, members of the executive branch in the UK are also members of the legislative branch. The UK system of government is based on a fusion of power. Members of the Cabinet must also be members of either of the two chambers of the UK legislature (the House of Commons or the House of Lords). For example, Boris Johnson is both the Prime Minister and also the MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip. Consequently, almost all legislation introduced in the House of Commons originates from the government. There are some very limited opportunities for individual members of Parliament to introduce legislation through Private Members' Bills. However, the chances of these bills being passed is very small. In the UK the government has effective control of the legislative agenda.

SOURCE B

The executive branch in the US

The United States has a codified constitution which is based [Braille page 3] on a number of key principles. One of these is the separation of powers, meaning that the legislative, executive and judicial branches are separate parts of the political system. The legislative branch of government makes the laws, the executive branch carries out the laws and the judicial branch interprets the laws. In the us, the President and members of the Administration, such as the Cabinet, cannot be part of the legislature. For this reason, Barack Obama had to resign his post of Senator in order to become the 44th President of the us. Jeff Sessions also had to give up his post in the Senate when President Trump nominated him to be Attorney General. As a result of this separation of powers, all legislation is introduced and controlled by members of Congress (Senators or members of the House of Representatives). The executive in the US does not control the legislative agenda as they are a separate branch from the legislature.

To implement policies in the US, the executive requires the support of the legislative branch. A key barrier to a President trying to implement their policies is when Congress is controlled by members of the opposing party. It can sometimes be very difficult for the President to get their preferred legislation passed. For example, a major policy of President Clinton was healthcare. However, he was unable to enact his ideas because his opponents - the Republicans - won control of Congress halfway through his first term. President Trump has also faced the same problem as his opponents - the Democrats - won control of one of the chambers of Congress, the House of Representatives in 2018. This meant that President Trump was unable to enact any significant legislation.

The US Constitution also places a key limitation on the powers of the President. The 22nd Amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1947 and outlines the maximum time that a President can serve. Currently, the President is constrained to two terms of four years, meaning that they can only serve for eight years in total. Some Presidents, such as Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, served two full terms, whereas George H.W. Bush only served for a single term. After his second term was over in 2016 Barack Obama would not have been able to stand for re-election if he had wanted to due to this amendment.

Use only the information in Sources A and B. Compare the executive branch in the UK and the US.

ow 1. In your answer you must make **three** points of comparison and reach an overall conclusion. [8 marks]

ow 2. Study Sources A-F then attempt the question which follows.

Source A Turnout in Scotland at elections and referendums between the 2012 and 2017 local elections. Source A is supplied as a separate diagram.

Source B Turnout in selected councils in Scottish local elections, 2012 to 2017
In the table below, Council is followed by: 2012 %; 2017 %; % change 2012 to 2017.

[Braille page 4]

Aberdeen City: 34.0; 44.1; +10.1.
Dumfries and Galloway: 44.0; 49.1; +5.1.
Edinburgh: 42.6; 50.5; +7.9.
Glasgow: 32.4; 39.0; +6.6.
Na h-Eileanan an Iar: 53.2; 56.1; +2.9.
Shetland Islands: 54.7; 49.1; -5.6.
West Lothian: 42.4; 46.1; +3.7.
Scotland total: 39.7; 46.9; +7.2.

Source C Other measures of participation, 2012 to 2017 Scottish local elections

Number of candidates in Scottish local elections, 2012 to 2017

[Braille page 5]

In the table below, political party is followed by the number of their candidates in 2012; number of their candidates in 2017.

Conservative: 362; 380.

Labour: 497; 453.

Lib Dems: 247; 247.

SNP: 613; 627.

Green: 86; 218.

Independents: 465; 499.

Others: 226; 148.

Total: 2,496; 2,572.

% of female candidates in Scottish local elections, 2012 to 2017

The table below shows political party followed by: % female candidates in 2012; % of female candidates in 2017.

Conservative: 26.0; 21.3.

Labour: 27.2; 31.9.

Lib Dems: 27.5; 32.8.

SNP: 23.8; 41.3.

Green: 41.8; 45.4.

Independents: 13.3; 18.4.

Others: 19.5; 18.4.

[Braille page 6]

Source D National share of first preference votes in Scottish local elections, 2012 to 2017

In the table below, Party is followed by: % share 2012; % share 2017; % change 2012 to 2017.

Conservative: 13.3; 25.3; +12.0.

Labour: 31.4; 20.2; -11.2.

Lib Dems: 6.6; 6.9; +0.3.

SNP: 32.3; 32.3; 0.

Green: 2.3; 4.0; +1.7.

Independents: 12.1; 10.4; -1.7.

Others: 1.9; 1.0; -0.9.

% share of first preference votes in selected councils, 2017 Scottish local elections

[Braille page 7]

In the table below, Council is followed by: Conservative; Labour; Lib Dems; SNP; Green; Independents; Other.

Aberdeen City: 24.7; 17.7; 15.2; 32.4; 2.2; 7.4; 0.4.

Dumfries and Galloway: 37.2; 17.7; 2.4; 20.7; 1.8; 20.0; 0.2.

Edinburgh: 27.7; 18.4; 13.6; 27.0; 12.4; 0.7; 0.2.

Glasgow: 14.6; 30.2; 2.9; 41.0; 8.7; 1.3; 1.3.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar: 3.4; 0; 0; 19.2; 0; 77.5; 0.

Shetland Islands: 1.0; 0; 0; 0; 0; 99.0; 0.

West Lothian: 23.2; 29.0; 2.6; 37.3; 2.7; 5.0; 0.2.

Source E Seats won by party, 2012 to 2017 Scottish local elections

[Braille page 8]

In the table below, Party is followed by: Total seats 2012; Total seats 2017; Change in total seats 2012 to 2017; % seats 2012; % seats 2017; % change in seats 2012 to 2017.

Conservative: 115; 276; +161; 9.4; 22.5; +13.1.

Labour: 394; 262; -132; 32.2; 21.4; -10.8.

Lib Dems: 71; 67; -4; 5.8; 5.5; -0.3.

SNP: 424; 431; +7; 34.7; 35.1; +0.4.

Green: 14; 19; +5; 1.1; 1.6; +0.5.

Independents: 201; 168; -33; 16.4; 13.7; -2.7.

Others: 4; 4; 0; 0.3; 0.3; 0.

Source F 2019 English local elections data

National vote share and seats won by party, 2015 to 2019

[Braille page 9]

In the table below, Party is followed by: % vote share 2015; % vote share 2019; % change in vote share 2015 to 2019; Total seats 2015; Total seats 2019; Change in total seats 2015 to 2019.

Conservative: 36; 31; -5; 5540; 3559; -1981.

Labour: 32; 31; -1; 2292; 2020; -272.

Lib Dems: 10; 17; +7; 661; 1351; +690.

Others: 22; 21; -1; 285; 297; +12.

Number of councils won by party, 2015 to 2019

In the table below, Party is followed by: 2015; 2019; Change 2015 to 2019.

Conservative: 192; 143; -49.

Labour: 100; 91; -9.

Lib Dems: 6; 23; +17.

Others or no overall control: 53; 84; +31.

Turnout in the 2017 Scottish local elections easily surpassed all other recent votes in Scotland with figures showing very significant increases in all areas. Other measures of participation indicated considerable and consistent improvements. The Conservatives were the clear winners of the 2017 Scottish local elections as they made huge gains and ended as the most popular party right across the country. Labour was clearly the biggest loser on the night. In the 2019 English local elections there were similar outcomes for the two main parties.

Using only the information in Sources A to F.

- ow 2. To what extent does the evidence contained in these sources support the viewpoint in the previous text? [20 marks]

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]