National Qualifications

X858/76/12

Politics Paper 2

Marking Instructions

Please note that these marking instructions have not been standardised based on candidate responses. You may therefore need to agree within your centre how to consistently mark an item if a candidate response is not covered by the marking instructions.

General marking principles for Higher Politics

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

(a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.

(b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.

(c) Marking must be consistent. Never make a hasty judgement on a response based on length, quality of handwriting or a confused start.

(d) Use the full range of marks available for each question.

(e) The detailed marking instructions are not an exhaustive list. Award marks for other relevant points.

Marking principles for each question type
For each of the question types the following provides an overview of marking principles.
The types of questions used in this paper are

- To what extent . . . [20-mark information-handling question]
- Compare . . . [8-mark information-handling question]

Source-based compare question that assesses information-handling skills (8 marks)
- Candidates will have two sources at an appropriate SCQF level
- Credit candidates who synthesis information between sources
- For full marks candidates must refer to both sources in their answer

Source-based interpreting electoral data question that assesses information-handling skills (20 marks)
- Candidates will have up to seven sources at an appropriate SCQF level
- Credit candidates who synthesis information both within and between sources
- For full marks candidates must refer to all sources in their answer

General marking guidelines for source-based questions (compare) — 8 marks

	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
Analysis Identification of relevant points of comparison. Award up to **3 marks**.	One accurate point of comparison identified from two sources.	Two accurate points of comparison identified from two sources.	Three accurate points of comparison identified from two sources.
Analysis Comments that identify relationships/implications/make judgements. Award up to **3 marks**.	One relevant analytical comment based on one point of comparison.	Two relevant analytical comments based on two points of comparison.	Three relevant analytical comments based on three points of comparison.
Overall conclusion Award up to **2 marks**.	Straightforward overall conclusion about the comparison based upon analysis of evidence.	Detailed overall conclusion about the comparison based on analysis of evidence.	

General marking guidelines for source-based question (interpretation of electoral data) — 20 marks

		1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
Interpretation of data linked to the first part of the viewpoint	**Component 1**	One aspect of data is interpreted accurately and linked to the first component of this part of the viewpoint.	All relevant aspects of data are interpreted accurately and linked to the first component of this part of the viewpoint.	In addition, all identified aspects of data are synthesised to provide a commentary linked to this component.
	Component 2	One aspect of data is interpreted accurately and linked to the second component of this part of the viewpoint.	All relevant aspects of data are interpreted accurately and linked to the second component of this part of the viewpoint.	In addition, all identified aspects of data are synthesised to provide a commentary linked to this component.
Interpretation of data linked to the second part of the viewpoint	**Component 1**	One aspect of data is interpreted accurately and linked to the first component of this part of the viewpoint.	All relevant aspects of data are interpreted accurately and linked to the first component of this part of the viewpoint.	In addition, all identified aspects of data are synthesised to provide a commentary linked to this component.
	Component 2	One aspect of data is interpreted accurately and linked to the second component of this part of the viewpoint.	All relevant aspects of data are interpreted accurately and linked to the second component of this part of the viewpoint.	In addition, all identified aspects of data are synthesised to provide a commentary linked to this component.
	Component 3	One aspect of data is interpreted accurately and linked to the third component of this part of the viewpoint.	All relevant aspects of data are interpreted accurately and linked to the third component of this part of the viewpoint.	In addition, all identified aspects of data are synthesised to provide a commentary linked to this component.
Evaluation of extent of validity of the viewpoint	**Evaluation of first part of the viewpoint**	An overall evaluative comment is made on the validity of one component of the first part of the viewpoint with supporting justification.	An overall comment is made on the validity of both components of the first part of the viewpoint with supporting justifications.	
	Evaluation of the second part of the viewpoint	An overall evaluative comment is made on the validity of one component of the second part of the viewpoint with supporting justification.	An overall evaluative comment is made on the validity of two components of the second part of the viewpoint with supporting justifications.	An overall evaluative comment is made on the validity of all components of the second part of the viewpoint with supporting justifications.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
1.			Candidates must demonstrate they can make accurate comparisons and draw valid conclusions. For full marks, candidates must refer to all sources and also say to what extent the evidence supports the viewpoint.	**8**	Award marks where candidates refer to the following aspects of the question. **Source A** • viewing figures have declined in recent years for PEBs with the largest viewing figure in 2017 only being around four million people • the impact of this may be limited to a minority as they may be viewed by pre-existing party supporters. It could also be the case that they can have a negative impact. • parties can control the content and reach out to the electorate in unique ways. This can enable them to set the agenda during an election campaign allowing a party to dictate the issues that the election is fought on. **Source B** • in 2010 the leaders' debate was the most watched programme of the day with 9.4 million people tuned in and despite declines in 2015 and 2017 the debates still attracted 7 million and 6.5 million viewers respectively. • surveys suggested that a majority of people thought these debates helped them decide who to vote for and over one million people said that they changed their voting intentions after watching their debates. • some have argued that politicians are not keen on allowing journalists to have this much control over the political debate. In 2017, it was thought that Theresa May avoided participation in the leaders' debate as she would not be able to control the issues discussed. She preferred to concentrate on what her party wanted to focus on during the campaign. Award marks for any other relevant comparisons.

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
			Analysis Comparisons involve: • identifying areas of differences • identifying areas of similarity • making evaluative comments on the extent of these differences/ similarities. For full marks, candidates must use both sources and make three points of comparison. Award up to **2 marks** for each accurate point of comparison and analytical comment. Award up to **a maximum of 6 marks** for accurate comparisons with associated analysis. Award up to **2 marks** for an overall conclusion.		**Analysis** Candidates may make individual evaluative comments as they address each point of comparison, or they may produce a summative evaluation of each part of the viewpoint in the conclusion to their answer — award marks for both approaches. The following response would be awarded **1 mark** as it identifies one point of comparison from two sources **(1 mark).** *Source A states that the impact of this may be limited to a minority as they may be viewed by pre-existing party supporters and it could also be the case that they can have a negative impact. Whereas Source B says that a majority of people thought that the televised debates would help them decide who to vote for.* The following response would be awarded **2 marks** as it identifies one point of comparison from two sources **(1 mark)** and makes a relevant analytical comment **(1 mark).** *Source A states that the impact of this may be limited to a minority as they may be viewed by pre-existing party supporters and it could also be the case that they can have a negative impact. Whereas Source B says that a majority of people thought that the televised debates would help them decide who to vote for. This shows that televised debates can be a more effective campaign strategy than PEBs as they can influence people to change their voting intentions rather than appeal to pre-existing supporters.* The following response would be awarded **2 marks** as it makes a detailed overall conclusion **(2 marks).** *Overall, the most effective campaign strategy appears to be the televised leaders' debates. This is because they reach a larger audience than PEBs and can influence more people to change the way they vote. The only way it could be argued PEBs can be more effective is that they enable a political party to influence the key issues of an election campaign. However, even then they may have a limited impact as they may appeal only to existing supporters.*

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
2.			Candidates must demonstrate that they can interpret and evaluate electoral data. For full marks, candidates must refer to all sources and also say to what extent the data supports the statement made. **Analysis/evaluation** Award up to **3 marks** for answers that correctly interpret electoral data that links to an individual component of the viewpoint. Award **1 mark** for an evaluation of the validity of each individual component. For full marks, candidates must address both parts of the viewpoint.	20	Award marks where candidates refer to the following aspects of the question. **Interpretation of data** **First part of the viewpoint — the performance of political parties in the 2015 UK general election** **Component 1** 'The 2015 general election in Scotland was a fantastic result for the SNP' Award **1 mark** if a candidate only addresses one aspect of data, award **2 marks** if they address both aspects of data. **Aspect 1 (share of the vote)** — Source B The SNP saw a big increase in their share of the vote — in Scotland it rose from around 20% of the Scottish vote to 50% which was the highest level it had ever achieved. **Aspect 2 (seats)** — Source A The SNP won a huge number of seats in 2015 (+50 seats). **Component 2** 'However, the UK wide results were a total disaster for the Labour party and as well as being the biggest losers on the night it was also their worst performance in decades.' Award **1 mark** if a candidate only addresses one aspect of data, award **2 marks** if they address all aspects of data. **Aspect 1 (seats)** — Source C Labour lost the 2015 election as it lost 26 seats nationally which included 40 seats in Scotland (Source A). Labour fell further behind the Conservatives who now had a lead over Labour of 98 seats. Although it lost 26 seats it was not as bad as the Lib Dems who lost 49 seats in the election.

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Aspect 2 (votes) — Source C Labour increased its vote share by 1·5% and slightly narrowed the gap on the Conservatives.
					Aspect 3 (historical seats) — Source D
					Labour won their lowest number of seats in any of the elections indicated.
					Aspect 4 (historical votes) — Source B
					Labour vote share was not the worse as it had a lower share in 2010.
					Second part of the viewpoint — changes in support for the Conservatives — **2015 and 2017**
					Component 1 'Analysis of support for the Conservatives shows that, in 2015, across a range of social characteristics, they made their biggest gains exclusively from groups where they had high levels of support.'
					Award **1 mark** if a candidate only addresses one aspect of data, award **2 marks** if they address all aspects of data.
					Aspect 1 (age) — Source E Support for the Conservatives increased the most among older voters, most notably over 65s. However, it did fall in the 55-64 age group very slightly. The Conservatives lost votes among the young.
					Aspect 2 (social class) — Source E The Conservatives gained votes from middle class voters with a significant increase from AB voters (+6%) however their support dropped from the working class.
					Aspect 3 (ethnicity) — Source E The biggest increase in support by ethnicity was from ethnic minorities (+7) although they did increase their support among whites very slightly.

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Aspect 4 (housing tenure) — Source E The Conservatives made gains among homeowners and those with a mortgage but lost votes from those who rent their accommodation.
					Component 2 'This also undoubtedly applied across the different parts of the country.'
					Award **1 mark** if a candidate only addresses one aspect of data, award **2 marks** if they address both aspects of data.
					Aspect 1 (nations) — Source F The Conservatives made their biggest gains in England which has the highest level of support for the party. The area with the lowest (Scotland) saw the Conservatives lose votes.
					Aspect 2 (regions) — Source F The Conservatives made gains in every area in which they had over 40% of support. However, they made larger gains in the North East than in the South East which had much higher levels of support for the Conservatives.
					Component 3 'Both these trends clearly continued in the 2017 general election.'
					Award **1 mark** if a candidate only addresses one aspect of data, award **2 marks** if they address all three aspects of data.
					Aspect 1 (nations) — Source G In 2017 the Conservatives made huge gains in Scotland (13·7%). The party also made gains in England (4·6%) and Wales (6·3%).

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Aspect 2 (social class) — Source G The Conservatives made big gains from working class voters (C2 support for the Conservatives increased by 13% and DE support increased by 11%). **Aspect 3 (age)** — Source G The oldest voters saw the most significant gains for the Conservatives with particularly big gains among 55—64 and 65+ voters. They lost votes or made no gains in the youngest groups of voters. **Synthesis** **First part of the viewpoint** **Component 1 synthesis** — **1 mark** The SNP made huge gains in seats and votes. **Component 2 synthesis** — **1 mark** Labour lost a significant number of seats across the UK, especially in Scotland, and this was its worse result for a long time. However, they did actually increase their share of the vote and it was still higher than in 2010. The Lib Dems lost more seats and had the biggest drop in support. **Second part of the viewpoint** **Component 1 synthesis** — **1 mark** For age, social class and housing tenure it was the Conservatives' strongest supporters who made the biggest increase in support but for ethnicity the biggest increase came from minorities, a group that has not favoured the Conservatives as much as whites.

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Component 2 synthesis — 1 mark Generally, the biggest gains in Conservative support were in regions with already high support but low supporting regions also saw gains. England, the nation with the highest level of support, also saw the biggest gain and the nation with the lowest (Scotland) saw support drop. **Component 3 synthesis — 1 mark** In two of the strongest supporting groups there was the biggest increase but, among nations, it was the lowest supporting area that saw the biggest gains in 2017 — Scotland. **Evaluation of the validity of the viewpoint** **First part of the viewpoint** **Evaluation of one component — 1 mark** The election was definitely a fantastic result for the SNP winning 50% of the vote in Scotland and winning a huge number of seats. **Evaluation of both components** The election was definitely a fantastic result for the SNP winning 50% of the vote in Scotland and winning a huge number of seats. The 2015 election can be said to be a total disaster for Labour in some ways. The party lost a large number of seats across the UK and it fell to its lowest number of seats in any recent election. However, at the same time, it did actually increase its share of the votes overall and the party did not do as badly as the Lib Dems who were the night's biggest losers. It was not definitely their worst performance in decades as their share of the vote went up compared to 2010.

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Second part of the viewpoint
					Evaluation of one component The viewpoint states that the Conservatives made their biggest gains in 2015 exclusively from groups where they had the highest levels of support. This does apply for both age and social class and they made their biggest gains amongst home owners and those with a mortgage. However, they made their biggest gains in BME voters whereas Whites are much more likely to support the Conservatives, therefore it is not the case that it was exclusively from the groups with high levels of support.
					Evaluation of two components The viewpoint states that the Conservatives made their biggest gains in 2015 exclusively from groups where they had the highest levels of support. This does apply for both age and social class and they made their biggest gains amongst home owners and those with a mortgage. However, they made their biggest gains in BME voters whereas Whites are much more likely to support the Conservatives, therefore it is not the case that it was exclusively from the groups with high levels of support.
					The viewpoint also goes on to state that they made significant gains in parts of the country where they already had high levels of support. This appears to be the case as the Conservatives made their biggest gains in regions where they had over 40% of support and in other regions they lost votes, however they also increased their support by a greater margin in the North East (their lowest supporting region) than they did in the South East (their highest supporting region).

Question			General marking instructions	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Evaluation of all components The viewpoint states that the Conservatives made their biggest gains in 2015 exclusively from groups where they had the highest levels of support. This does apply for both age and social class and they made their biggest gains amongst home owners and those with a mortgage. However, they made their biggest gains in BME voters whereas Whites are much more likely to support the Conservatives, therefore it is not the case that it was exclusively from the groups with high levels of support. The viewpoint also goes on to state that they made significant gains in parts of the country where they already had high levels of support. This appears to be the case as the Conservatives made their biggest gains in regions where they had over 40% of support and in other regions they lost votes. However, they also increased their support by a greater margin in the North East (their lowest supporting region) than they did in the South East (their highest supporting region). Finally, the viewpoint goes on to state that both these trends in Conservative support continued in 2017. For age it was the case that the strongest supporting groups had the biggest increase but when it comes to the different parts of the country it was actually the weakest area (Scotland) that saw the highest increase in support. So both these trends did not continue in 2017.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]