



National
Qualifications
2015

X758/76/11

Politics

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE

1:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Total marks — 60

SECTION 1 — POLITICAL THEORY — 20 marks

Attempt Question 1 and EITHER Question 2(a) OR Question 2(b).

SECTION 2 — POLITICAL SYSTEMS — 20 marks

Attempt EITHER Question 3(a) OR Question 3(b).

SECTION 3 — POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS — 20 marks

Attempt Question 4 and EITHER Question 5(a) OR Question 5(b).

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not you may lose all the marks for this paper.



* X 7 5 8 7 6 1 1 *

SECTION 1 — POLITICAL THEORY — 20 marks

Attempt Question 1 and EITHER Question 2(a) OR Question 2(b)

1. Study Sources A and B below (and opposite) then answer the question that follows.

SOURCE A

The Socialist role of the state

Socialists believe that the existing capitalist economic order exploits the working classes and that it should be the state's role to change, and then replace, this system. They believe that resentment will emerge when the class division between a business and property owning elite and the working class becomes apparent and this will lead to conflict. Socialists argue that under capitalism the existing social and economic order tends to be maintained for the benefit of those who own the means of production. Socialists seek change—they argue for the state to play a key role in changing society by replacing the capitalist economic system. Socialists like Karl Marx have been associated with revolutionary change.

Socialists believe that private property is a key factor leading to inequality and exploitation. Socialists believe the state should play a key role in the introduction of the common ownership of the means of production and a state controlled command economy. Through the removal of private property and the introduction of common ownership and a command economy, a Socialist state would achieve a fairer distribution of society's wealth. Socialism is based on the notion that all are equal; not only in terms of opportunity, but also regarding outcome. Thus, people should be motivated by moral rather than material incentives. The state should therefore, exist to administer the fair distribution of a society's wealth—rather than allow this to be left to market forces.

Socialists have a broadly positive view of human nature and consider people to be social creatures who, if the state creates the right circumstances, can experience a common humanity. Socialists believe that the state can shape human nature by determining the economic structure of society. This collectivist approach argues that when co-operation rather than competition is promoted, individuals will act collectively for the good of all. Socialists believe that competition creates resentment and by removing this, the state can ensure individuals are not corrupted by their social conditions.

1. (continued)

SOURCE B

The Conservative role of the state

Conservatives are so called because of their hostility to change and belief in the importance of conserving and respecting society's traditional values, beliefs and institutions. They think that institutions such as family, church and the class system enable people to understand their place within society. It is therefore, the state's responsibility to maintain the existing order and allow only gradual change. Reforms may be permitted, but only when necessary and always with regard to tradition. It was Edmund Burke who made clear his view that no good came from violent and rapid change.

Conservatives have a negative view of human nature and believe that humans are insecure, selfish, dependent and irrational. Conservatives believe that people behave irrationally and it becomes the job of the state to maintain social order by means of deterrents such as harsh punishment. Obedience, whether it is to one's parents, the church or the state itself, is a vital component of Conservative thinking. Individual freedom is less important than an individual's need for safety and social order, and it is the state's responsibility to implement and maintain this order.

Conservatives expect the state to protect people's property and not to provide support for the less fortunate. Conservatives believe that it is the job of the state to set the circumstances whereby businesses can flourish and people's property will be protected. Conservatives believe that private property has a number of social benefits such as rewarding hard work and providing security and a stake in society. By promoting property ownership, the state can ensure that individuals will be more likely to respect the property of others and this creates a greater level of individual responsibility.

Using only the information in Sources A and B above (and opposite).

Compare the Socialist and Conservative views on the role of the state.

In your answer you must make **three** points of comparison and reach an overall conclusion.

8

[Turn over

2. Attempt EITHER Question 2(a) OR Question 2(b).

(a) Analyse the concept of power with reference to the ideas of Steven Lukes.

12

OR

(b) Analyse the key features of direct democracy.

In your answer you should refer to the ideas of a relevant theorist.

12

SECTION 2 — POLITICAL SYSTEMS — 20 marks

Attempt EITHER question 3(a) OR 3(b)

3. (a) To what extent are there differences between the nature and status of the constitutions of **two** political systems you have studied?

20

OR

(b)

The Executive has few limits on its powers.

Discuss with reference to **two** political systems you have studied.

20

[Turn over

SECTION 3 — POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS — 20 marks
Attempt Question 4 and EITHER Question 5(a) OR Question 5(b)

4. Study Sources A, B and C below (and opposite) then answer the question that follows.

SOURCE A

**Results by party for the Cowdenbeath Constituency for the
 Scottish Parliamentary Elections — 2011 and 2014**

Party	Votes (2011)	Votes (2014)	Change in number of votes (2011–2014)
Labour	11,926	11,192	-734
SNP	10,679	5,704	-4,975
Conservative	1,792	1,893	+101
Liberal Democrats	997	425	-572
Others	276	848	+572
Majority	1,247	5,488	+4,241

SOURCE B

**Changes in votes in the Cowdenbeath Constituency for the
 Scottish Parliamentary Elections — 2011 to 2014**

Party	% of vote (2011)	% of vote (2014)	Change in % of votes (2011–2014)
Labour	46.5	55.8	+9.3
SNP	41.6	28.4	-13.2
Conservative	7.0	9.4	+2.4
Liberal Democrats	3.9	3.0	-0.9
Others	1.1	3.2	+2.1

4. (continued)

SOURCE C

Selected electoral data for the Cowdenbeath Constituency
for the Scottish Parliamentary Elections — 2011 and 2014

	2011	2014
Total votes cast	25,750	20,083
Spoilt ballot papers	80	21
Turnout (%)	47.4	34.8
Number of candidates standing for election	5	7

Using only the information in Sources A, B and C above (and opposite).

Compared to 2011, the result of the 2014 election for the Cowdenbeath Constituency was a great success for the Labour Party and no other party could be pleased with the outcome. Interestingly, there was significantly greater participation in the 2014 election.

To what extent does the information in Sources A, B and C support this viewpoint?

8

[Turn over for Question 5 on *Page eight*

	MARKS
5. Attempt EITHER Question 5(a) OR Question 5(b).	
(a) Evaluate the effectiveness of modern technology used by political parties during election campaigns.	12
OR	
(b) Evaluate the relevance of the Rational Choice model in explaining voting behaviour.	12

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]