



National  
Qualifications  
2024

---

**2024 Politics**

**Paper 2**

**Higher**

**Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions**

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2024

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by SQA appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

The information in this document may be reproduced in support of SQA qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is reproduced, SQA must be clearly acknowledged as the source. If it is to be reproduced for any other purpose, written permission must be obtained from [permissions@sqa.org.uk](mailto:permissions@sqa.org.uk).



## 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**

	<b>1 mark</b>	<b>2 marks</b>	<b>3 marks</b>
<b>Analysis</b> Identification of relevant points of comparison. Award up to <b>3 marks</b> .	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.
<b>Analysis</b> Comments that identify relationships/implications/make judgements. Award up to <b>3 marks</b> .	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.
<b>Overall conclusion</b> Award up to <b>2 marks</b> .	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	Detailed marking instructions for this question
1.		<p>Candidates must demonstrate they can make accurate comparisons and draw valid conclusions.</p> <p>For full marks, candidates must refer to all sources and also reach an overall conclusion.</p>	8	<p>Award marks where candidates refer to the following aspects of the question:</p> <p><b>Source A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clause IV was a key aspect of the Labour Party’s constitution, emphasising common ownership</li> <li>• traditionally, Labour had strong trade union links</li> <li>• the Labour Party was positioned at the left side of the political spectrum, reflected in many of their policies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Source B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clause IV was amended from the constitution, moving to more of a market economy</li> <li>• New Labour reduced the influence of trade unions within the party</li> <li>• the Labour Party changed its position on the political spectrum, moving from the left side towards the middle ground.</li> </ul> <p>Award marks for any other relevant comparisons.</p>

Question	General marking instructions	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
	<p><b>Analysis</b> Comparisons involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying areas of differences</li> <li>• identifying areas of similarity</li> <li>• making evaluative comments on the extent of these differences/similarities.</li> </ul> <p>For full marks, candidates must use both sources and make three points of comparison.</p> <p>Award up to <b>2 marks</b> for each accurate point of comparison and analytical comment.</p> <p>Award up to a <b>maximum of 6 marks</b> for accurate comparisons with associated analysis.</p> <p>Award up to <b>2 marks</b> for an overall conclusion.</p>		<p><b>Analysis</b> 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.</p> <p>The following response would be awarded <b>1 mark</b> as it identifies one point of comparison from two sources.</p> <p><i>Source A states that the Labour Party traditionally closely associated itself with trade unions. On the other hand, Source B says that New Labour reduced the influence of trade unions within the party.</i></p> <p>The following response would be awarded <b>2 marks</b> as it identifies one point of comparison from two sources (<b>1 mark</b>) and makes a relevant analytical comment. (<b>1 mark</b>)</p> <p><i>Source A states that the Labour Party traditionally closely associated itself with trade unions. On the other hand, Source B says that New Labour reduced the influence of trade unions within the party. This means that New Labour’s policy focus and leadership were no longer closely aligned with trade unions.</i></p> <p>The following response would be awarded <b>1 mark</b> as it makes a straightforward, overall conclusion.</p> <p><i>Overall, there has been important changes to the Labour Party when comparing the traditional party with the introduction of New Labour.</i></p> <p>The following response would be awarded <b>2 marks</b> as it makes a detailed, overall conclusion.</p> <p><i>Overall, there have been significant changes between the Labour Party and New Labour, not least their differing views on the links of the party with trade unions. As well as this, there have been changes to the voters that New Labour was trying to target, as evidenced by the shift in the political spectrum to try and attract the skilled working class and the change to Clause IV to aid the shift to a more market style model of economy.</i></p>

Question		General marking instructions	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
2.		<p>Candidates must demonstrate that they can interpret and evaluate electoral data.</p> <p>For full marks, candidates must refer to all sources and also say to what extent the data supports the statement made.</p> <p><b>Analysis/evaluation</b></p> <p>Award up to <b>3 marks</b> for answers that correctly interpret electoral data that links to an individual component of the viewpoint.</p> <p>Award <b>1 mark</b> for an evaluation of the validity of each individual component.</p> <p>For full marks, candidates must address both parts of the viewpoint.</p>	<b>20</b>	<p>Award marks where candidates refer to the following aspects of the question:</p> <p><b>Interpretation of data</b></p> <p><b>First part of the viewpoint – performance of the candidates among different types of voters in the 2016 and 2020 US presidential elections</b></p> <p><b>Component 1</b> ‘In the 2016 US presidential election, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by large margins in all sections of society.’</p> <p>Award <b>1 mark</b> if a candidate only addresses one aspect of the data, award <b>2 marks</b> if they address all three aspects of data.</p> <p><b>Aspect 1 (age) – Sources A and B</b> Trump won more votes amongst the 40-49 and 50+ age groups however Clinton won in the three younger age groups, including 56% of 18-24 year olds compared to Trump’s 35%.</p> <p><b>Aspect 2 (race) – Sources A and B</b> Trump only won the most votes from white people at 58% compared to Clinton’s 37%. Clinton won all other groups, including black people at 88%.</p> <p><b>Aspect 3 (income) – Sources A and B</b> Trump won all income groups above \$50,000 however Clinton won more votes amongst the poorer Americans, those earning below \$50,000.</p> <p><b>Component 2</b> ‘In 2020, this trend was reversed when Trump lost by large margins in most sections of society.’</p> <p>Award <b>1 mark</b> if a candidate only addresses one aspect of the data, award <b>2 marks</b> if they address all three aspects of data.</p>

Question	General marking instructions	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Aspect 1 (age) – Sources A and B</b> Biden won in all but one age group, although the 30-39 group was not by a large margin.</p> <p><b>Aspect 2 (race) – Sources A and B</b> Trump lost out heavily to Biden in all areas except white people where he won by 17%.</p> <p><b>Aspect 3 (income) – Sources A and B</b> Trump lost by large margins in three areas and drew in those earning over \$200,000. Trump only defeated Biden in one area – those earning \$100,000-\$199,000.</p> <p><b>Second part of the viewpoint – success of Democratic candidates and party</b></p> <p><b>Component 1</b> ‘By all measures Joe Biden is the most successful Democratic presidential candidate in recent years.’</p> <p>Award <b>1 mark</b> if a candidate only addresses one aspect of the data, award <b>2 marks</b> if they address all four aspects of data.</p> <p><b>Aspect 1 (number of electoral college votes) – Source C</b> Biden won the least number of Electoral College votes compared to the other winning Democratic presidential candidates shown. He won 306 which was much lower than Clinton and Obama who at their most successful had 379 and 365 respectively.</p> <p><b>Aspect 2 (% of electoral college votes) – Source C</b> Biden won the lowest percentage of Electoral College votes compared to Clinton and Obama who both achieved over 60% of Electoral College votes in all their election wins. Biden did not manage this, receiving just under 57% when he won in 2020.</p> <p><b>Aspect 3 (number of votes cast) – Source D</b> Biden easily won when looking at the number of votes received. In 2020, Biden won over 81 million votes. Obama and Clinton achieved 69.5 million and 47.4 million during their best years.</p>

Question	General marking instructions	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Aspect 4 (% of votes cast) – Source D</b>            Biden beat Clinton in this area as he received 51.3% of votes cast whereas Clinton received under 50% in both his election wins. Biden also beat Obama’s win in 2012 but not 2008.</p> <p><b>Component 2</b>            ‘The 2022 congressional elections were the most expensive ever, with Democratic donors being more generous than Republican donors.’</p> <p>Award <b>1 mark</b> if a candidate only addresses one aspect of the data, award <b>2 marks</b> if they address both aspects of data.</p> <p><b>Aspect 1 (value of donations per party) – Source E</b>            The Republicans received the most money in donations from its supporters with just under \$370 million received, but the Democrats had the largest donation from one individual with one supporter donating over \$178 million during the campaign.</p> <p><b>Aspect 2 (cost of election cycle) – Source F</b>            The 2022 congressional election cost 8.9 billion dollars however the 2020 election cycle cost 9.9 billion dollars.</p> <p><b>Component 3</b>            ‘Between 2016 and 2020, turnout increased significantly at both presidential and congressional level.’</p> <p>Award <b>1 mark</b> if a candidate only addresses one aspect of the data, award <b>2 marks</b> if they address both aspects of data.</p> <p><b>Aspect 1 (presidential elections) – Source F</b>            Between 2016 and 2020 turnout for the presidential election increased from 59.2% to 66.9%.</p> <p><b>Aspect 2 (congressional elections) – Source F</b>            Between 2016 and 2020 congressional elections fluctuated in turnout with 2016 seeing 60.1% turnout but dropping to 50% in 2018 before returning to above 60% in 2020.</p>

Question	General marking instructions	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Synthesis</b></p> <p><b>First part of the viewpoint</b></p> <p><b>Component 1 synthesis – 1 mark</b>  Trump won with older, richer white people whereas Clinton won with younger, less affluent ethnic minorities.</p> <p><b>Component 2 synthesis – 1 mark</b>  Trump lost in most sections of society, losing in most income brackets, most ethnic groups and most age groups.</p> <p><b>Second part of the viewpoint</b></p> <p><b>Component 1 synthesis – 1 mark</b>  Biden clearly won when looking at number of votes received but was not so successful when looking at the other three measures – % of votes, number of electoral college votes and % of electoral college votes.</p> <p><b>Component 2 synthesis – 1 mark</b>  While the Democrats received the largest donation from one person, the Republican Party received more money in donations in 2022. In addition, the 2022 congressional elections did not cost as much as the 2020 elections.</p> <p><b>Component 3 synthesis – 1 mark</b>  In terms of presidential elections, there was an increase in turnout between 2016 and 2020, however the congressional turnout did not increase in all elections between 2016 and 2020.</p>

Question	General marking instructions	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Evaluation of the validity of the viewpoint</b></p> <p><b>First part of the viewpoint</b></p> <p><b>Evaluation of one component – 1 mark</b>          Whilst Trump defeated Clinton in a number of areas, such as those earning over \$200,000, white voters and older voters, he did not win in all areas. Clinton defeated him in many areas, such as black voters and those aged under 40. In addition to this, Trump’s victories were not by large margins. Most of his wins were by under 10%. The only area where a large margin could be claimed is in race with 20% more white people voting for Trump than Clinton.</p> <p><b>Evaluation of both components – 2 marks</b>          Whilst Trump defeated Clinton in a number of areas, such as those earning over \$200,000, white voters and older voters, he did not win in all areas. Clinton defeated him in many areas, such as black voters and those aged under 40. In addition to this, Trump’s victories were not by large margins. Most of his wins were by under 10%. The only area where a large margin could be claimed is in race with 20% more white people voting for Trump than Clinton. This is reversed in 2020 as, although Trump did win within some sections, Biden won by large margins in most sections of society. Out of the 15 categories Biden won in 11 of them.</p>

Question	General marking instructions	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Second part of the viewpoint</b></p> <p><b>Evaluation of one component – 1 mark</b>            Biden is not only the most successful Democratic presidential candidate, but he is the most successful president since 1992 when looking at the number of votes received. However, he is not the most successful Democrat when looking at the % of votes won, number of electoral college votes and % of electoral votes. This means that Biden is not the most successful Democratic president by all measures as he is only the most successful in the number of votes received.</p> <p><b>Evaluation of two components – 2 marks</b>            Biden is not only the most successful Democratic presidential candidate, but he is the most successful president since 1992 when looking at the number of votes received. However, he is not the most successful Democrat when looking at the % of votes won, number of electoral college votes and % of electoral votes. This means that Biden is not the most successful Democratic president by all measures as he is only the most successful in the number of votes received.</p> <p>The 2022 election cycle was the most expensive out of all congressional election cycles with the exception of the previous one which cost 1 billion dollars more, therefore the 2022 election was not the most expensive ever. Also, the Democrats, whilst not receiving the most money in donations overall, did receive the largest donation from an individual. This donation was just under 90 million dollars more than the largest Republican donation. The 2022 election therefore was not the most expensive ever, but the Republican party donors did outspend their Democratic rivals by over 100 million dollars.</p>

Question	General marking instructions	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Evaluation of all three components – 3 marks</b></p> <p>Biden is not only the most successful Democratic presidential candidate, but he is the most successful president since 1992 when looking at the number of votes received. However, he is not the most successful Democrat when looking at the % of votes won, number of electoral college votes and % of electoral votes. This means that Biden is not the most successful Democratic president by all measures as he is only the most successful in the number of votes received.</p> <p>The 2022 election cycle was the most expensive out of all congressional election cycles with the exception of the previous one which cost 1 billion dollars more, therefore the 2022 election was not the most expensive ever. Also, the Democrats, whilst not receiving the most money in donations overall, did receive the largest donation from an individual. This donation was just under 90 million dollars more than the largest Republican donation. The 2022 election therefore was not the most expensive ever, but the Republican party donors did outspend their Democratic rivals by over 100 million dollars.</p> <p>Whilst there was an increase in turnout in the presidential election, the congressional turnout was more varied with a decrease between presidential and non-presidential election years. This means that there were not significant increases in turnout between 2016 and 2020 in both presidential and congressional level. Whilst it could be argued there was a significant increase at presidential level, the congressional levels dropped to 50% in 2018 which is as a significant decrease rather than increase.</p>

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]