

General Certificate of Education  
June 2005  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**SOCIAL SCIENCE: CITIZENSHIP**  
**Unit 2 The Citizen and the Political Process**

**SSC2**

Tuesday 7 June 2005 Morning Session

**In addition to this paper you will require:**  
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is SSC2.
- Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

**Advice**

- Where appropriate, you should use local and/or national and/or international examples and/or case studies.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question carries 30 marks.

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1 Read **Sources A** and **B** and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

**Source A**

Text from WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS (FACT SHEET M4),  
www.parliament.uk, March 2004, p6. Not reproduced here due to third-party  
copyright constraints.

**Source B**

**New Records for Women's Political Representation  
2003 Elections to the Scottish Parliament**

As a result of the 2003 elections, there is now a better gender balance in the Scottish Parliament. Women now make up 39.5% of all Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) and 56% of Labour MSPs. Unlike the Parliament at Westminster, the Scottish Parliament has broken new ground by choosing equal numbers of women and men to chair its powerful all-purpose committees.

The Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act 2002 allows political parties in the UK to use positive discrimination to increase the number of female candidates. Despite this legislation, only two political parties took the opportunity to adopt specific measures to achieve this – the Labour Party in Scotland and the Scottish Socialist Party (SSP).

*Source:* adapted from ELECTION RESULTS 2003: NEW RECORDS FOR WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION,  
www.pol.ed.ac.uk/gcc, June 2003

Your answers should refer to the sources as appropriate, but you should also include other relevant information.

- (a) Using the sources, briefly outline **two** ways in which the representation of women in the Scottish Parliament differs from that in the House of Commons. *(4 marks)*
- (b) Briefly examine some of the ways in which political parties could try to ensure that there is a more equal gender balance in politics. *(10 marks)*
- (c) Assess whether it is important that those elected at all levels of government are representative of the various groups that make up contemporary society. *(16 marks)*

**EITHER**

- 2 (a) Briefly examine the case for **or** against devolving power to the nations and regions of the United Kingdom. *(10 marks)*
- (b) 'Mass media coverage can make or break a campaign.' Assess this statement with reference to any campaign designed to influence political decision making. *(20 marks)*

**OR**

- 3 (a) Briefly explain some of the ways politicians and political parties can use the internet to encourage political participation. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Assess the extent to which the ideologies of conservatism, liberalism and socialism are important in contemporary British politics. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE**

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Question 1 Source B: Gender and Constitutional Change Project, University of Edinburgh (ESRC L219252023)

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