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NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS 2008

FRIDAY, 9 MAY
1.00 PM – 2.45 PM

CONTEMPORARY
SOCIAL STUDIES
STANDARD GRADE
Credit Level

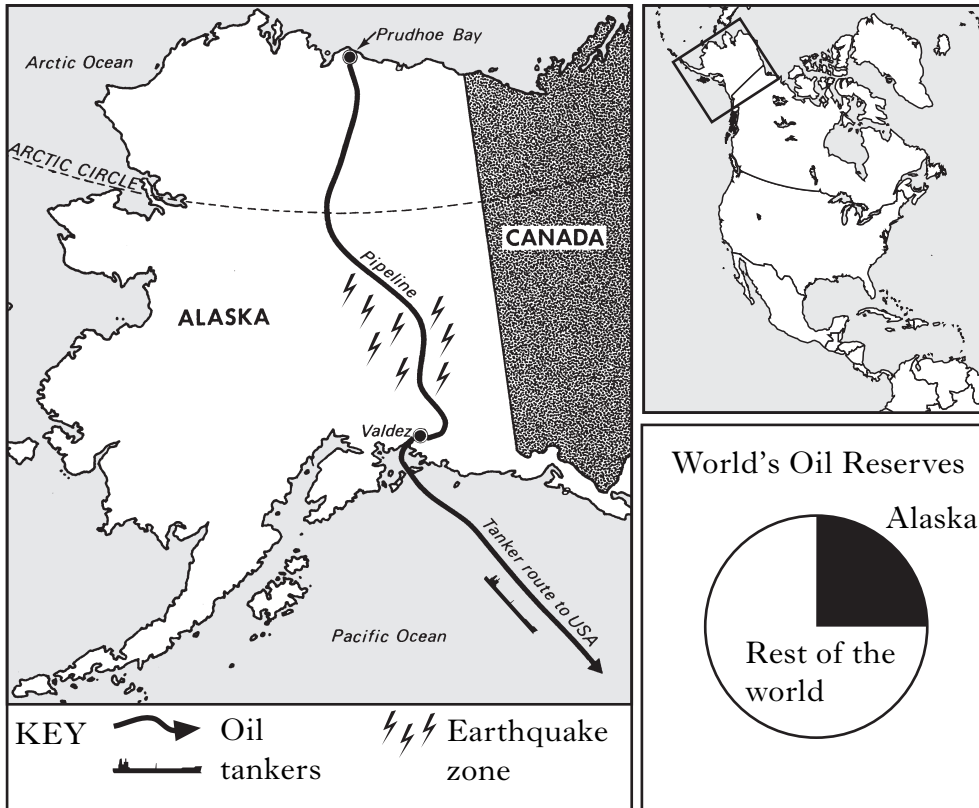
Instructions to Candidates

- 1 Question 1 is on fold-out Pages 2, 3 and 4.
- 2 Question 2 is on fold-out Pages 5, 6 and 7.
- 3 Question 3 is on Pages 8 and 9.
- 4 All three questions should be attempted.
- 5 Read each question carefully before you attempt to answer it.
- 6 Write your answers in the answer book provided.



1. Look at the sources below. They give information about developing oil reserves in the Arctic.

Source A



Source B

The Arctic is one of the last unspoilt wildernesses on our planet but its fragile environment is under threat. Alaska, especially, is under growing pressure as events elsewhere in the world force the US government to consider drilling in protected areas such as the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve. More of the ice cap is melting, making the region more accessible. In the last four years, an area of ice cap five times the size of the UK has disappeared. No ice means no seals and so polar bears starve.

In 2002 the US Interior Department disputed a study by its own scientists which stated that oil development would endanger wildlife, especially musk ox, caribou and snowgeese. The Government said that the report did not take into account the environmental safeguards built into the plan.

1. (continued)

Source C

The US uses about 21 million barrels of oil each day, of which 60% is imported. This makes the US dependent on foreign supplies. Much of the oil imported by the US comes from countries in the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. In Nigeria, local activists are trying to increase their share of the oil income by shutting down production platforms and taking hostages. In addition, world demand is rising. India and China, with more than 1 billion people each, are now competing for available supplies. As a result, oil prices rose by over 18% in 2006, three times the increase of the previous three years.

Source D

The Arctic National Wildlife Reserve contains 17% of US domestic oil. The Reserve is a key breeding ground for caribou, but supporters of drilling in it for oil say that only 0.01% of the area would be used. A poll in 2005 found that 55% of Americans want oil companies to stay out of Alaska, but the oil companies point out that it would lower petrol prices for the American public. Up to 65,000 jobs would be created, with improvements to roads and other infrastructure.

Residents of Alaska are split, with some looking at the possible jobs created and others siding with the environmental groups opposed to development. Over 200 Alaskan tribes feel their traditional way of life is threatened since 60–70% of their diet comes from the land. Drilling, therefore, would affect their human rights. The US Fish and Wildlife Services recognize the diversity of wildlife and how fragile the environment is.

1. (continued)

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QUESTIONS

- (a) Using all the sources, give reasons to explain why the US wants to increase oil drilling in the Arctic. 6

- (b) “The Arctic is one of the last unspoilt wildernesses . . . under threat.”
(Source B)
From your own knowledge, give ways in which environmental groups could try to protect a fragile area like this from development. 4

- (c) Using the sources, describe the social and environmental disadvantages which oil exploration could bring. 4

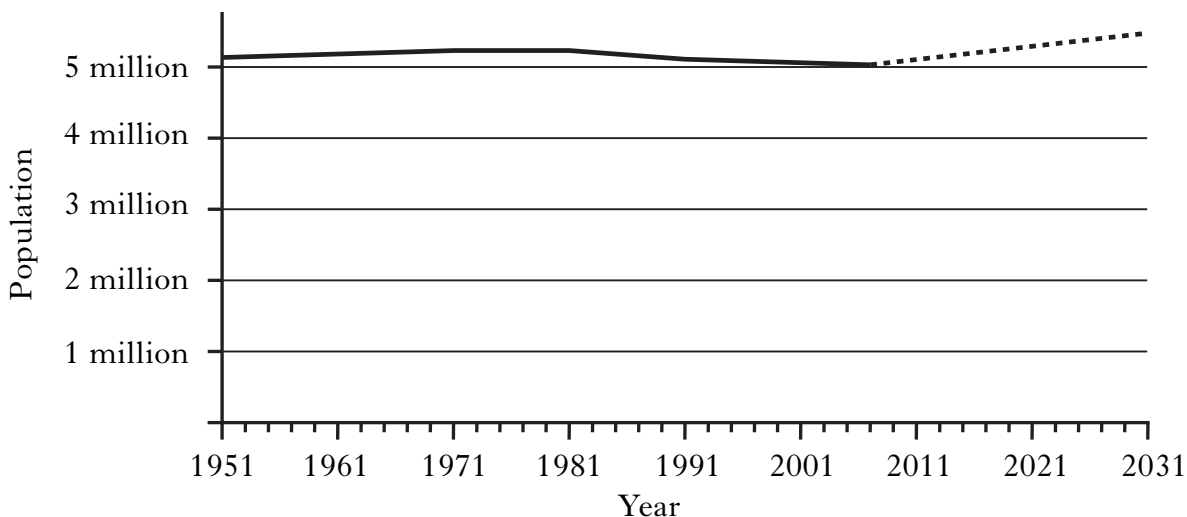
- (d) From your own knowledge, give reasons to explain why we will have to make less use of fossil fuels in the future. 6

[Turn over for Question 2 on *Pages five, six and seven*

2. Look at the sources below. They give information about Scotland's population and about working in Scotland.

Source A

Population of Scotland: 1951 – 2031



Changes to Scotland's population structure 1993 - 2003

Age group	0–14	15–29	30–44	45–59	60–74	75+
% change	-8%	-19%	+7%	+18%	+2%	+11%

Source B

With fewer young people in Scotland, employers are suffering a shortage not only of workers, but of skilled workers. Employers in Scotland say the skills shortage occurs only in some industries, eg the oil industry. Others say too much is being spent on university education and not enough on job-related training. (The UK will be short of 29,000 plumbers by 2009.)

Workers from other EU countries, especially Eastern Europe, come to Scotland to find work. Between 2004 and 2005, 24,000 East Europeans arrived. Of these 90% are not highly skilled and are employed in the hotel trade, the care industry, food processing and agriculture, with many earning less than the minimum wage.

Some are skilled, but for various reasons, eg poor English, are not getting employed according to their skill. Others are making use of their skills, such as the 40 Polish dentists who arrived in 2006.

2. (continued)

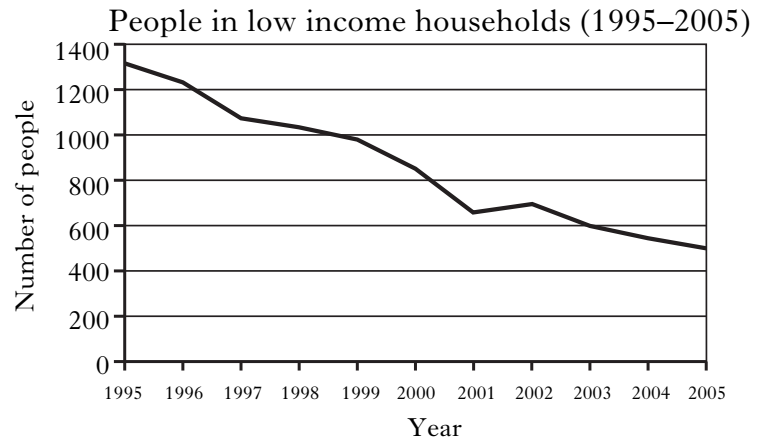
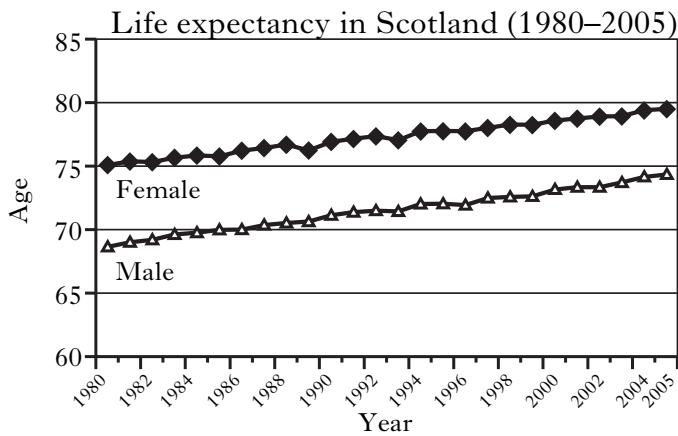
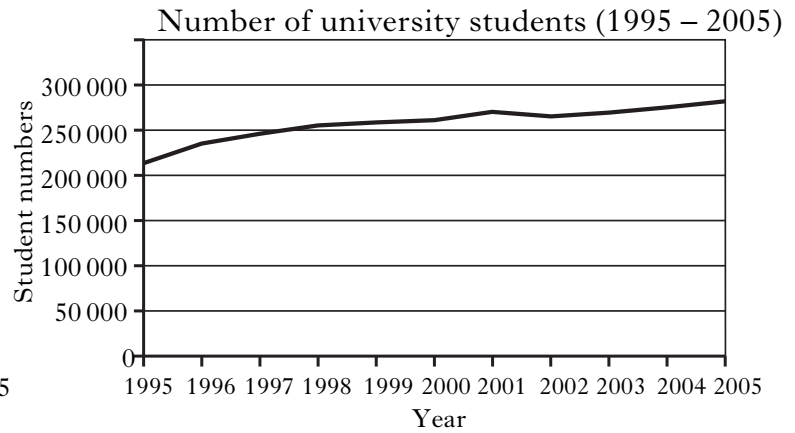
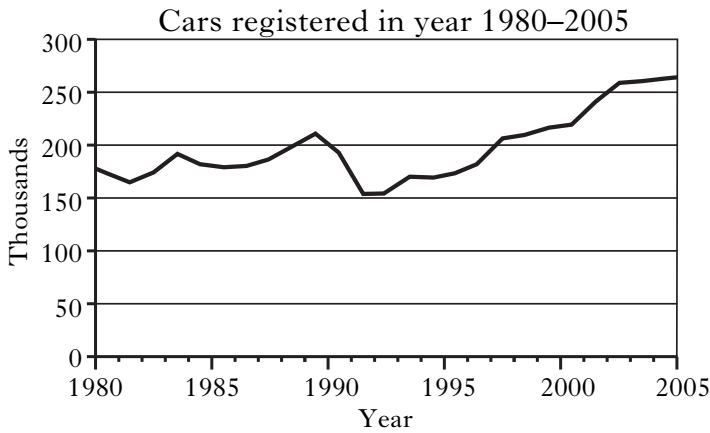
Source C

In the first year after Poland joined the European Union, 20,000 Poles arrived to help meet the skills shortage. Polish communities sprang up in Glasgow, Inverness and Aberdeen. In Edinburgh the Polish community now numbers over 22,000. The Scottish Executive has published a guide in Polish and distributed it in both countries. It provides information on housing, employment, benefits and training. Research has found that many migrants are willing to accept lower pay and poorer conditions than local workers. Most employers spoke very positively about the excellent timekeeping and willingness to work of their Polish workforce.

It is possible that, in the long term, many Polish migrants may return home permanently. Having saved up in Scotland, they will return to use their skills in their native land. Generally, Poles have settled in well with only a few incidents of anti-Polish feeling in the communities where they live.

3. Look at the sources below. They give information about social changes which have taken place in Scotland over the last 25 years.

Source A



Source B

Social changes – selected facts and figures for Scotland

- Between 1999 and 2004, an additional £2.4 billion was spent on the National Health Service.
- Between 1994 and 2004, there were 48 million fewer passenger journeys made on local bus services.
- In 2006 a law was introduced to ban smoking in public places.
- Between 1995 and 2003, recorded crime fell by 13%.
- Since the mid-1990s, there has been a growing economy, with record numbers in employment.

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