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NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2010

THURSDAY, 6 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 a proposed golf course development in Aberdeenshire.

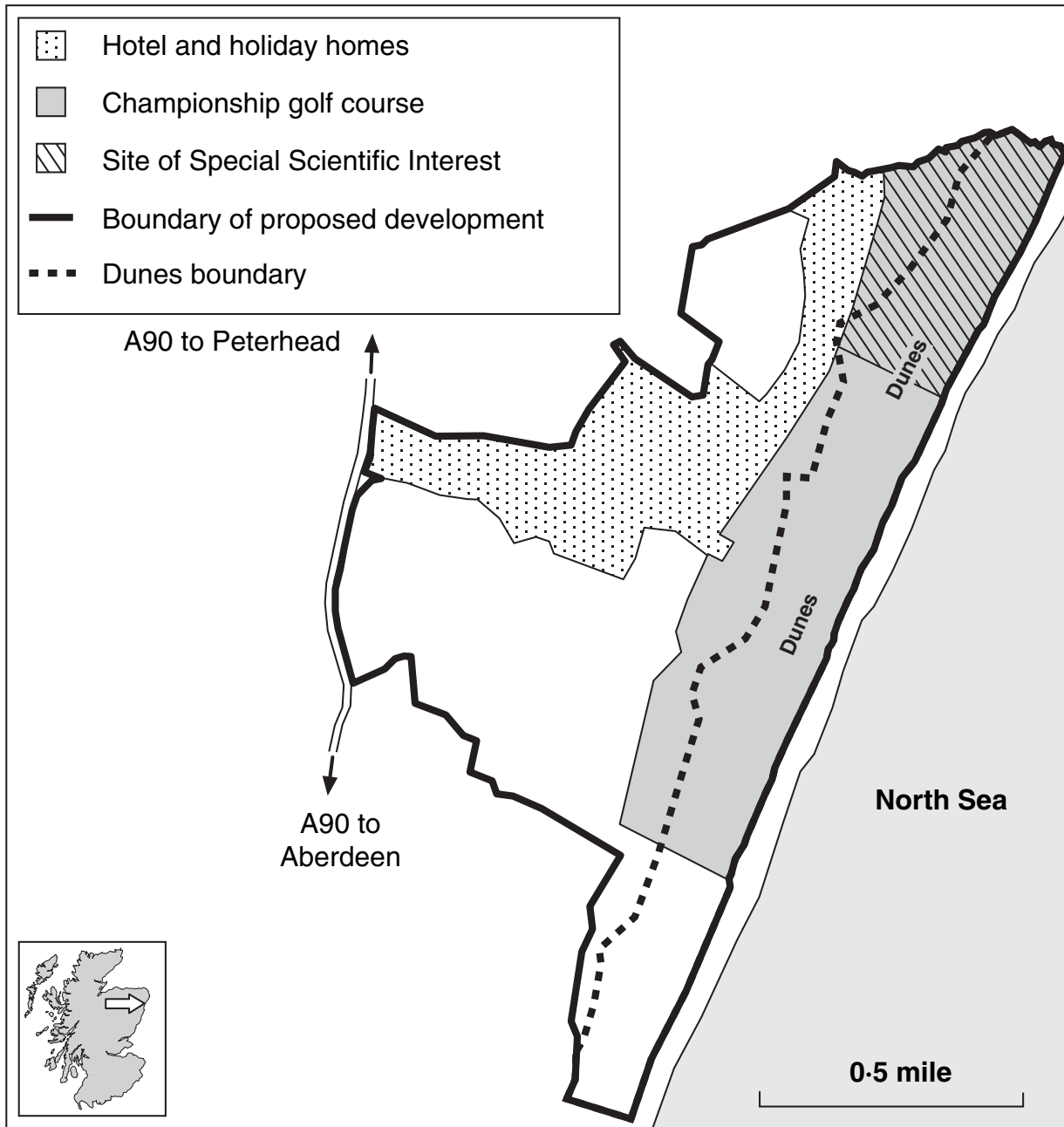
Source A The billionaire and the golf course

The American billionaire, Donald Trump, wants to build a “world class” golf course at Menie on the coast to the north of Aberdeen. He is prepared to spend £1 billion on the development, which would also include a five-star hotel with 450 bedrooms, 500 luxury homes and nearly 1000 timeshare apartments. Some of the apartment blocks would be seven storeys high.

Local business people are enthusiastic and welcome the 2700 permanent jobs which the development would bring (1250 of these would be local) as well as the thousands of additional jobs during construction. They see this as bringing money into the area. Aberdeen is keen to get into golf tourism, which is worth about £300 million a year elsewhere in Scotland.

There have been 958 letters and a petition with 560 signatures objecting to the development.

Source B Location Map



1. (continued)

Source C Sand dunes and SSSIs

Sand dunes are formed over thousands of years. They provide a unique, but fragile environment which is dependent on wind-blown sand from the beach. To stop sand blowing over the golf course, the dunes would have to be stabilised. The sand dunes at Menie are rated as one of the most important dune areas in the whole of the UK. Their importance is recognised by giving them the legal protection of being an SSSI (a Site of Special Scientific Interest).

Both the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Government's own environmental advisor, Scottish Natural Heritage, oppose the development. They say it is totally against Scottish and European legal requirements to protect nationally important sites.

Source D The decision

When Aberdeenshire councillors rejected Donald Trump's plans, reaction was varied. The RSPB said, "We are delighted that the destruction of part of the beautiful, unspoilt coastline has been recognised as too high a price to pay for this development." Some local businessmen were outraged. "The rest of the world will think we are mad", said one. "The social and economic benefits of the investment should have been enough to set aside the environmental concerns. A lot of Aberdeenshire's traditional industries such as farming, fishing and quarrying are in decline and the North Sea oil industry cannot go on for ever. This decision will send out the message that, if you want to do big business, don't do it in Scotland." However, another local said, "Money and economic growth aren't everything. In any case, the profits wouldn't stay here—they would go to Mr Trump in America."

After a Public Enquiry, the Scottish Government overruled Aberdeenshire Council and approved the plans, subject to some conditions.

2. Look at the sources below. They give information about Glenrothes New Town in Fife.

Source A Glenrothes New Town

Now over 60 years old, Glenrothes was part of the Government's New Towns policy to rebuild Scotland's stock of housing after World War 2. Planners aimed for a population of 35,000. New Towns were meant to be a break from the industrial past, providing high-tech jobs in clean, attractive environments.

Efforts were made to attract new firms, especially from overseas. With its clean air and modern housing, Glenrothes was marketed as ideal for the electronics industry.

In the 1970s, Fife Council moved its Headquarters there, creating many "white collar" jobs. The clean environment and green open spaces also attracted the senior management who were sent to run the incoming multinational* companies. However, most of the jobs available to local people involved repetitive assembly work.

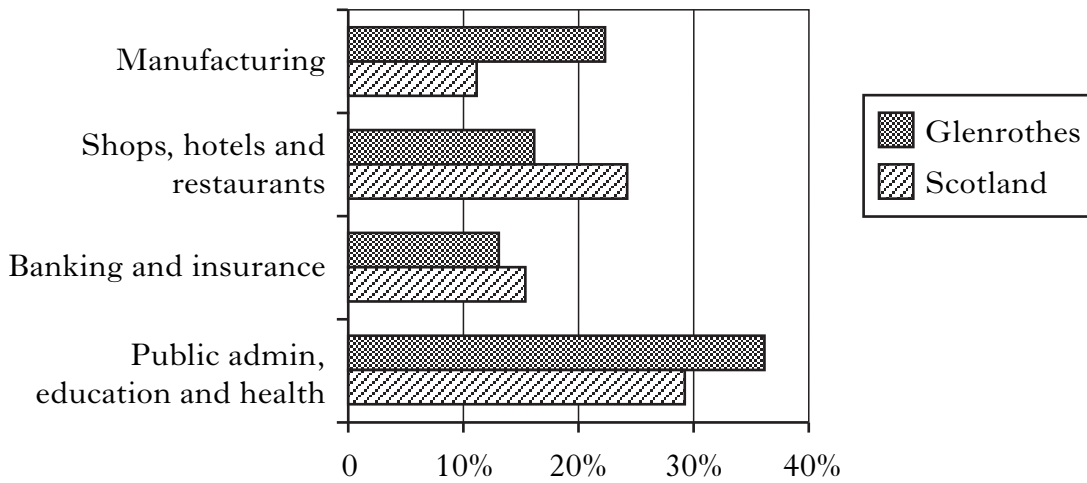
*A "multinational" is a company which has factories or offices in more than one country.

Source B Glenrothes and Scotland: employment by grade

Grade	Glenrothes (%)	Scotland (%)
Management and professional	33·5	24·2
Supervisory and skilled	22·0	22·5
Semi-skilled and unskilled	29·7	23·0
Unemployed	4·1	4·2
Full time student	4·7	7·1
Other	6·0	19·0

2. (continued)

Source C Glenrothes and Scotland: Main employment categories (Percentage of total)



Source D “When America sneezes, Britain catches the cold”

In 1958, the American firm Beckman Instruments was the first major electronics company to open in Glenrothes, creating 600 jobs. Two years later, a second large American company followed. The opening of the Forth Road Bridge (1964) and the Tay Road Bridge (1966) improved communications, resulting in a wave of multinationals. These in turn attracted smaller UK companies, supplying components for the larger companies.

However, boom turned to bust in the 1980s. American companies relocated to the Far East due to the cheaper labour costs there. This led to factory closures in Glenrothes and hundreds being made redundant, often having to move elsewhere to find work. American senior management returned home. Both migrations caused a fall in house prices.

The 1990s saw a new wave of multinationals from both America and Japan opening factories, but when sales slumped, these were the first to close. This left empty factories and empty order books for local suppliers. The 21st century has seen a greater variety of industries in Glenrothes, from book giant Amazon to small scale local businesses.

3. Look at the sources below. They give information about government in Scotland and elsewhere in the world.

Source A Local and Devolved Government in Scotland

The responsibilities of the Scottish Government and local councils in Scotland include:

- Education and leisure services (eg schools, museums, libraries)
- Social work (eg community care, children and family services)
- Planning and transport (eg roads, public transport, planning applications, economic development)
- Environmental services (eg rubbish collection, street lighting, parks and cemeteries)
- Housing (allocation and maintenance of publicly-owned housing)
- Police and fire services
- Finance (managing local income and spending, collecting council tax)
- Health (the provision of health care, hospitals, doctors etc).

Source B The United Kingdom Government in Scotland

The responsibilities of the United Kingdom Government in Scotland include the organisation of:

- Defence (the maintenance of the army, navy and air force)
- Broadcasting (the organisation of television and radio)
- Immigration (the control of the numbers and origins of immigrants)
- Finance (the raising and spending of income tax, VAT etc)
- Social security payments.

Source C Scotland compared with some independent countries

Country	Area (sq km)	Population	*GNP per person
Scotland	77 000	5 100 000	£15 000 (estimated)
Denmark	43 000	5 000 000	£23 700
Ethiopia	1 128 000	57 200 000	£75
Kenya	583 000	30 000 000	£220
Luxembourg	2600	414 000	£30 300
Norway	324 000	4 400 000	£24 000

*GNP per person is the amount of money a country earns, in a year, divided by its population. It gives an idea of the relative wealth of different countries.

3. (continued)

Source D Scotland compared with other places which have some degree of self-government (devolution)

Place	Area (sq km)	Population	Political Status
Scotland	77 000	5 100 000	Nation within the UK
California	411 000	37 500 000	State of the USA
Catalonia	32 000	7 220 000	Region of Spain
Quebec	1 542 000	7 600 000	Province of Canada
Queensland	1 727 000	3 500 000	State of Australia

QUESTIONS

- (a) “All of the most important concerns of the people of Scotland are catered for by the **local** and devolved government system.”

Using Sources A and B, say to what extent you agree with the statement above.

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- (b) “An independent country must be big, with a large population, and wealthy. Even for devolved government, Scotland does not qualify.”

Do you agree or disagree? Using Sources C and D, give reasons to support your choice.

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- (c) From your own knowledge, describe how a person becomes a local councillor and what they might do to serve the community.

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- (d) Scotland has a distinct identity within the UK.

Give examples of distinctive Scottish institutions (such as the Law) and describe how they make Scotland different from other parts of the UK.

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[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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