

**X235/301**

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2007

FRIDAY, 8 JUNE  
9.00 AM – 10.00 AM

POLITICS  
HIGHER  
Paper 1

Answer **both** questions.



**Study the sources below and answer the questions which follow.**

**Source A: Can Politics be called a Science?**

To some extent there is a difficulty with the definition of science – the original meaning of science, from the French, is simply “knowledge”. As the natural sciences, like Chemistry and Physics, developed and took over the term, the need for accurate measurement and mathematical calculations became important. Science was then viewed as precise, factual and supported by data and experiments. Although Political Science courses existed in universities in the 1870s, it was in the 1950s and 1960s that a movement to apply scientific method to the study of complex human behaviour came to the forefront. Advocates of this movement believed that the quest for knowledge about political behaviour must be systematic, more objective, more reliant on quantifiable data and more scientific than it had been traditionally.

This more systematic search for knowledge about the political world used some common scientific methods including, the objective identification of a problem to be investigated; the shaping of an initial hypothesis, a tentative assertion usually attempting to explain a cause and effect, to guide the investigation; the obtaining and organising of data to test the hypothesis; and testing and retesting to validate the hypothesis.

There are both strengths and weaknesses to the scientific enterprise as it is applied to the world of politics. As for strengths, the scientific method can be extraordinarily useful in defining a problem, framing a testable hypothesis, marshalling empirical data beyond hunch and opinion, and, ultimately, in validating a hypothesis. The scientific method facilitates problem solving and helps the student of politics to be more directed, economical, logical, and searching.

It also promises an impartial and reliable means of distinguishing “truth” from “falsehood” leading to objective knowledge about the political world. To do this we have to be able to distinguish between “facts” – which are by definition objective, in the sense that they can be demonstrated reliably and consistently, they can be proved – and “values”, which, by contrast, are subjective, matters of opinion.

Some political commentators argue strongly that political scientific study discarded extremely important political concepts like “justice”, “liberty”, “rights” and “equality” because they were not verifiable by scientific study.

There are, however, other weaknesses or difficulties to overcome when talking about political science. A major problem is the absence of exact data – politics deals with human beings and their behaviour cannot be studied in the same quantifiable way as other topics. Large areas of politics are not quantifiable, in fact they are too complex to be quantified. How and why do political leaders make the decisions they do – can we really know exactly how decisions are made?

Political studies are riddled with hidden values – political models and theories are not value-free. They are often constructed on the basis of assumptions about human nature or the role of the state which have political implications. It is also usually argued that political scientists are less likely than natural scientists to be impartial and objective in their studies since their own family background, social class and education will give them preconceptions about politics and the world they live in.

**Question 1**

*Use only the information in Source A.*

What are the main strengths and weaknesses of applying scientific method to the study of politics?

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**[Turn over**

## Source B: Scottish Electoral System and Parliament

The system used for elections to the Scottish Parliament is a form of proportional representation (PR) known as the Additional Member System (AMS). Each voter has two votes. The first is cast for a constituency MSP, of whom there are 73, using the First Past the Post system. The second vote is used to vote for a party to elect the additional members, of whom there are 56. The additional members are elected in 8 regions using the Party List system which ensures, as far as possible, the share of MSPs in the Scottish Parliament reflects the share of votes cast for each party.

Under the Additional Member System in the 1999 and 2003 Scottish elections, no single party achieved an overall majority. After both elections, Labour and Liberal Democrats formed a coalition government. The number of women MSPs has increased but the parliament still has no ethnic minority members.

## Source C: Scottish Parliament Election Results 1999–2003

Party	Constituency				Regional List				Total	
	1999 seats	2003 seats	1999 % vote	2003 % vote	1999 seats	2003 seats	1999 % vote	2003 % vote	1999 total seats	2003 total seats
Labour	53	46	38.80	34.62	3	4	33.60	29.30	56	50
SNP	7	9	28.70	23.78	28	18	27.30	20.86	35	27
Conservative	0	3	15.60	16.61	18	15	15.40	15.50	18	18
Liberal Democrat	12	13	14.20	15.36	5	4	12.40	11.78	17	17
Scottish Socialist	0	0	1.00	6.20	1	6	2.40	6.68	1	6
Green	0	0	0.00	0.00	1	7	4.48	6.90	1	7
Independent	1	2	1.62	3.43	0	2	7.09	9.98	1	4

**Source D: Turnout: Party List by Region***Marks*

<b>Region</b>	<b>1999 Turnout (%)</b>	<b>2003 Turnout (%)</b>	<b>Change (%)</b>
Central Scotland	66.50	48.61	-17.89
Glasgow	48.00	41.45	-6.55
Highlands & Islands	61.43	52.22	-9.21
Lothian	60.88	50.52	-10.36
Mid Scotland & Fife	59.46	49.68	-9.78
North East Scotland	54.68	48.25	-6.43
South of Scotland	61.86	52.33	-9.53
West of Scotland	61.70	53.25	-8.45
<b>Total Scotland</b>	<b>59.12</b>	<b>49.41</b>	<b>-9.71</b>

**Source E: Number of female MSPs elected to the Scottish Parliament**

<b>Party</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2003</b>
Labour	28	28
SNP	15	9
Conservative	3	4
Scottish Socialist	0	4
Liberal Democrat	2	2
Green	0	2
Independent	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>

**Question 2**

*Use only the information in Sources B, C, D and E.*

People across Scotland continue to show enthusiastic support for the Scottish Parliament. The results of the 2003 election showed few differences compared with the 1999 election.

To what extent does the information contained in **Sources B, C, D** and **E** support this viewpoint?

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[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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# **X235/302**

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2007

FRIDAY, 8 JUNE  
10.20 AM – 12.00 NOON

POLITICS  
HIGHER  
Paper 2

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

- ONE** from Section A—Political Theory
- ONE** from Section B—Political Structures
- ONE** from Section C—Political Representation

Each question carries 20 marks.



**Section A—Political Theory**

**Answer ONE question from this section.**

*Marks*

**A1.**

Legitimacy is crucial to the distinction between power and authority.

Discuss, using the work of Lukes and Weber to illustrate your answer. **(20)**

**A2.** Explain the key features of direct and representative democracy, using the work of appropriate theorists to illustrate your answer. **(20)**

**A3.** Compare and contrast the key features of socialism and conservatism, using the work of Marx, Lenin and Burke to illustrate your answer. **(20)**

**Section B—Political Structures**

**Answer ONE question from this section.**

*Marks*

**B4.**

Political assemblies exist mainly to scrutinise the work of the government.

Compare and contrast how the UK Parliament fulfills this function with **either** the Scottish Parliament **or** the US Congress.

**(20)**

**B5.**

Compare and contrast the nature and status of the UK Constitution with that of **either** Scotland **or** the USA.

**(20)**

**B6.**

Compare and contrast the role of the UK Prime Minister in making policy with that of **either** Scotland's First Minister **or** the President of the USA.

**(20)**

**[Turn over for Section C on *Page four***

**Section C—Political Representation**

**Answer ONE question from this section.**

*Marks*

- |            |  |             |
|------------|--|-------------|
| <b>C7.</b> | Explain and illustrate the main short-term and long-term influences on voting behaviour in the UK.                           | <b>(20)</b> |
| <b>C8.</b> | Explain and illustrate the main purposes of elections in the UK.   | <b>(20)</b> |
| <b>C9.</b> | Explain and illustrate the main advantages and disadvantages of the First Past the Post system used in UK General Elections. | <b>(20)</b> |

*[END OF QUESTION PAPER]*