

X235/301

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2011

THURSDAY, 9 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: UK European Parliament election results 2004

	Votes	% Share	Seats won*
Conservative	4,397,087	26.7	24
Labour	3,718,683	22.6	18
UKIP	2,660,768	16.2	12
Liberal Democrats	2,452,327	14.9	10
Green	1,028,283	6.2	2
BNP	808,201	4.9	0
SNP	231,505	1.4	2
Plaid Cymru	159,888	1.0	1
Others	1,001,861	6.1	3
Total	16,458,603	100	72

*2004 seats adjusted to the current total of 72

Source B: UK European Parliament election results 2009

	Votes	% Share	Seats won
Conservative	4,198,394	27.7	25
UKIP	2,498,226	16.5	13
Labour	2,381,760	15.7	13
Liberal Democrats	2,080,613	13.7	11
Green	1,303,745	8.6	2
BNP	943,598	6.2	2
SNP	321,007	2.2	2
Plaid Cymru	126,702	0.9	1
Others	1,282,887	8.5	3
Total	15,136,932	100	72

Question 1

Use only the information in Sources A and B.

Between the 2004 and 2009 elections for the European Parliament there were some significant changes in support for political parties.

What conclusions can be drawn about the **most significant changes** in support for the political parties between the 2004 and 2009 European election results?

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Source C:

The 2008 US elections were historic in a number of ways. The Democratic nominee Barack Obama defeated his Republican opponent, John McCain, to become the first African-American President of the United States. Obama won 365 Electoral College votes compared to McCain's 173 and the Democrats regained the Presidency for the first time since Bill Clinton held office.

Obama also won the most votes ever recorded for a Presidential candidate. In total 66,882,230 voters supported Obama compared to 58,343,671 for John McCain. The election was also notable for the huge amount of money raised and spent by the candidates. The two main candidates raised and spent over \$1 billion between them. This did not include money raised and spent by candidates running for other elections held that year for the Senate, House of Representatives and State Governors.

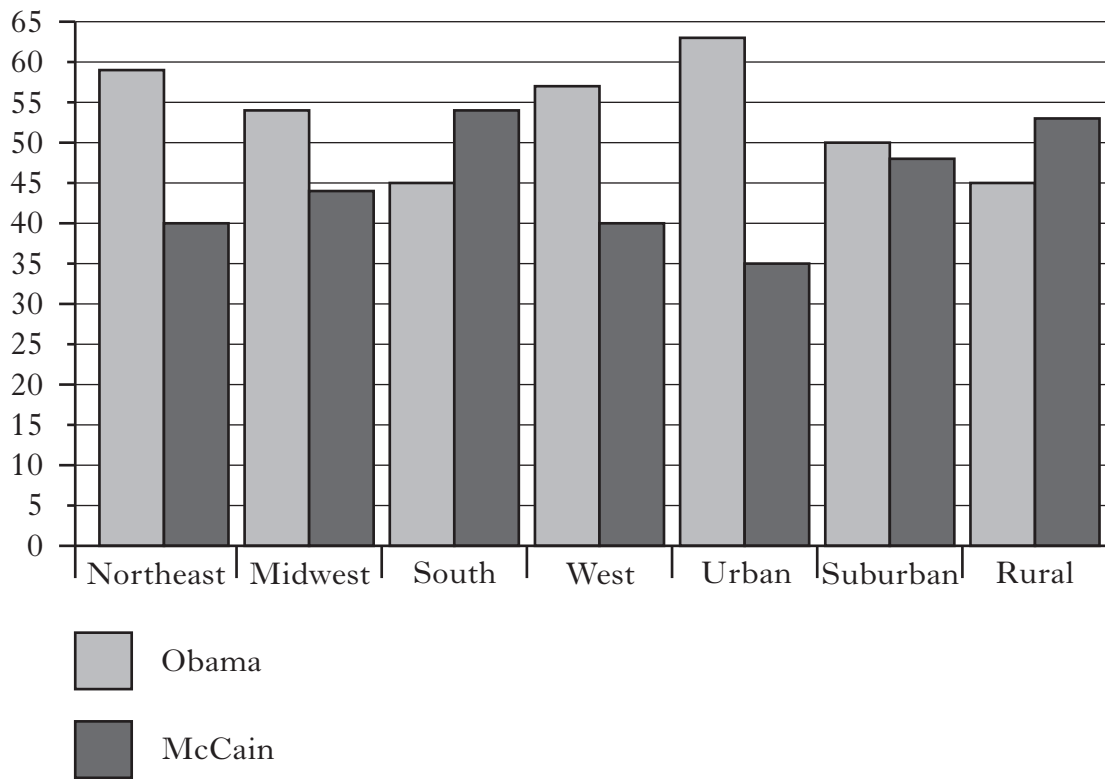
Source D: 2008 US election results at Congressional and State Governor levels

	Senate (100 members– 35 up for election)				House of Representatives (435 members– all up for election)			State Governors (50 Governors– 8 up for election)		
	Pre- election	Result	Change	Post- election	Pre- election	Change	Post- election	Pre- election	Change	Post- election
Democrats	51*	20	+8	59*	236	+21	257	28	+1	29
Republicans	49	15	–8	41	199	–21	178	22	–1	21

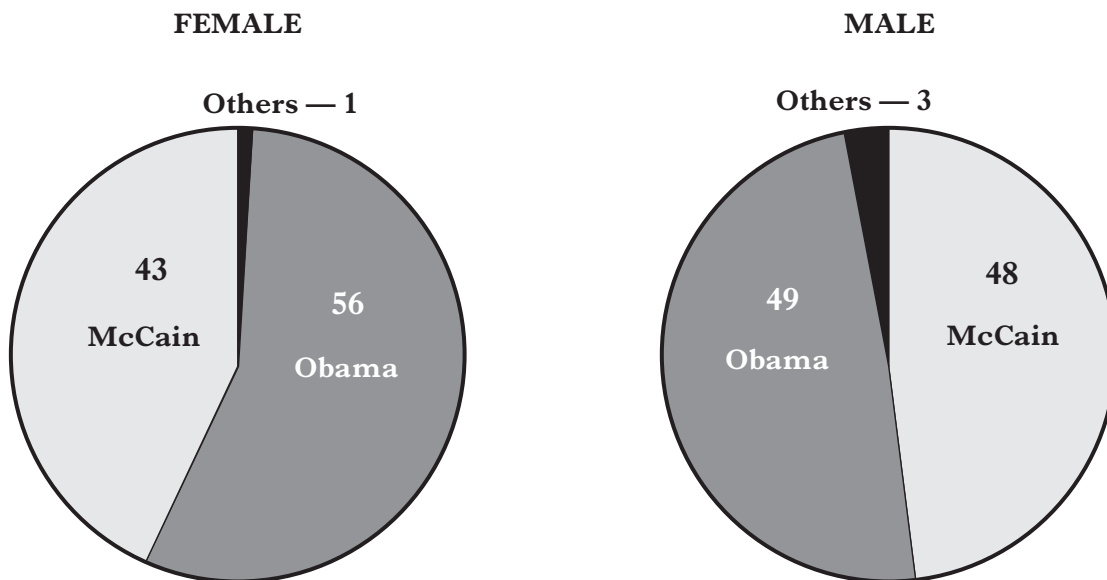
(*include 2 independents who usually vote with the Democrats in the Senate)

[Turn over

Source E: 2008 Presidential Election: voting by region and type of community (%)



Source F: Voting in 2008 Presidential Election by gender (%)



Source G: Voting by age, income, religious affiliation and race in the 2008 Presidential Election (%)

Age	18–29	30–44	45–64	65+
Obama	66	52	50	45
McCain	32	46	49	53

Income	Under \$15,000	\$15–30,000	\$30–50,000	\$50–75,000	\$75–100,000	\$100–150,000	\$150–200,000	\$200,000–
Obama	73	60	55	48	51	48	48	52
McCain	25	37	43	49	48	51	50	46

Religion	Protestant	Catholic	Jewish	None
Obama	45	54	78	75
McCain	54	45	21	23

Race	White	African-American	Latino	Asian
Obama	43	95	67	62
McCain	55	4	31	35

Question 2

Use only the information in Sources C, D, E, F and G.

The 2008 US elections saw sweeping victories for the Democrats with significant gains from the Republicans at all levels of government. Barack Obama's winning margin over John McCain was convincing in all areas and across all sections of US society.

To what extent does the information in **Sources C, D, E, F and G** support this view?

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X235/302

NATIONAL
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2011

THURSDAY, 9 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.** Compare and contrast the key features of Liberalism and Conservatism, using the works of Locke and Burke. **(20)**
- A2.** Marxism provides an analysis of the state that conflicts with the pluralist model of the state.
Discuss. **(20)**
- A3.** To what extent is legitimacy crucial to the distinction between power and authority? You should refer to the works of Lukes and Weber in your answer. **(20)**

Section B—Political Structures

Answer ONE question from this section.

Marks

- B4.** Compare and contrast the links between elected representatives and their constituents in the UK Parliament with those in **either** the Scottish Parliament **or** the US Congress. (20)
- B5.** An independent judiciary is essential to safeguard the constitution and citizens' rights.
Discuss with reference to the UK **and** USA **or** Scotland. (20)
- B6.** Compare and contrast the checks and balances that are in place to curb the powers of the UK Prime Minister with those 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

- C7.** Explain with examples the key advantages and disadvantages of using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system as used in Scottish Local Government elections. **(20)**
- C8.** Compare and contrast the **main theories** of voting behaviour, illustrating your answer with examples from the UK. **(20)**
- C9.** Explain with examples the main functions of elections in the UK. **(20)**

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]