



2011 Politics

Higher – Paper 1

Finalised Marking Instructions

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Paper 1

Question 1

Award 1 or 2 marks for each developed point depending on significance and detail provided up to a total of 6 marks; some of the following points should be credited.

- The Labour party saw a significant decline in support as its share of the vote fell by nearly 7 percent and saw its number of MEPs decline by 5 from 18-13. Labour also fell from 2nd to 3rd place behind UKIP.
- UKIP moved into second place as a result of gaining 0.3% of the vote and 1 extra MEP. However, when compared to 2004 it actually recorded fewer votes.
- The BNP saw an increase in its share of the vote and managed to get 2 MEPs elected in 2009. It had no MEPs after the 2004 election.
- The smaller parties in general gained in the share of the vote and this appears to be at the expense of the main parties, for example the SNP, BNP Greens and Others all gained in share of the vote whilst Labour and Liberal Democrats saw a decline in their share.

Credit any other relevant point depending on significance and detailed use of the sources.

Question 2

Award up to 14 marks. For full credit of marks, candidates must refer to all sources and indicate to what extent the evidence supports the statements made.

The 2008 US elections saw sweeping victories for the Democrats with significant gains from the Republicans at all levels of government.

For full credit candidates must make use of sources **C** and **D** for this part of the statement.

Source C

The Democratic candidate Barack Obama convincingly won the Presidential Election. He easily won in the Electoral College with 365 electoral votes compared to 173 for his Republican opponent. Obama won by over 8 million votes and with the largest number of votes for any presidential candidate.

Source D

The Democrats recorded significant gains in the Senate. They gained 8 seats in total from the Republicans. This was a significant proportion of the 35 up for election and they now have a comfortable majority in the Senate (59-41).

In the House the Democrats increased their majority by making 21 gains and now have a comfortable margin over the Republicans (257-178).

At the level of state Governors the Democrats have a clear majority over the Republicans but they only gained one extra State Governor and did not make as much progress in this area as they did in others.

Overall the evidence supports this part of the statement to a large extent with significant gains at all levels apart from the State Governor elections.

Barack Obama's winning margin over John McCain was convincing in all areas and across all selections of US society.

For full credit candidates must make use of sources **E, F and G** for this part of the statement.

Source E

Barack Obama support was not convincing in all areas. Obama did record winning margins in most regions of the USA; the North East, Midwest and West but McCain won in the South by 54-45%.

Obama's support was also not convincing in all types of communities Obama easily won urban areas (63-35) but he recorded only a slight victory in Suburban areas (50-48) and actually lost rural areas to McCain by 53-45%.

Source F

Gender: Obama was victorious in both gender groups. He easily beat McCain among women though he only just defeated McCain among men (49-48) and this was hardly convincing. He also did not manage to achieve over 50% of the male vote.

Source G

Age: Obama's support was influenced by age. He achieved significant wins among the youngest age group but lost the seniors to McCain. His margin in the 45-64 age range was hardly convincing with a 50-49 win over McCain.

Race: Obama had very strong support from all minorities but he lost White voters to McCain by a significant 55-43 margin.

Religion: Obama did not have the support of all religious groups and lost the Protestant vote to McCain by 54-45, however, all other religious groupings supported him. Those with no religion significantly supported Obama.

Income: Obama did not record convincing wins in all income groups. He performed strongly among the poorer sections of society but lost three income groups to McCain. He did however win the most affluent group though this was by a relatively small margin.

Overall the evidence does not support the view that Obama was victorious among all groups and in all areas. Obama lost some groups to McCain (whites, protestants and the over 65s) and won by only small margins among men, the very rich and middle aged.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]