



National
Qualifications
2016

X749/76/11

Modern Studies

MONDAY, 30 MAY
9:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Total marks — 60

**SECTION 1 — DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM — 20 marks**

Attempt Question 1 and **EITHER** Question 2(a) **OR** 2(b)

SECTION 2 — SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM — 20 marks

Part A Social inequality in the United Kingdom
Part B Crime and the law in the United Kingdom

Attempt **EITHER** Question 3(a) **OR** 3(b) **OR** 3(c) **OR** 3(d)

SECTION 3 — INTERNATIONAL ISSUES — 20 marks

Part A World Powers
Part B World Issues

Attempt Question 4 and **EITHER** Question 5(a) **OR** 5(b) **OR** 5(c) **OR** 5(d)

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.



SECTION 1 — DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM — 20 marks

Attempt Question 1 and EITHER Question 2(a) OR 2(b)

Question 1

Study Sources A, B and C then attempt the question which follows.

SOURCE A

Political Inequality in the UK and why Voting Matters

A central claim of democracy is that every citizen's preference, no matter what their socio-economic status, should count equally. There are, however, good reasons for supposing that the principle of political equality and democracy are under threat and that politics is increasingly becoming the preserve of the rich and the powerful. In Britain, there is a growing public belief that some groups in the British population are better represented politically than others. There is a widespread suspicion that governments are more likely to pass laws which benefit the groups most likely to vote.

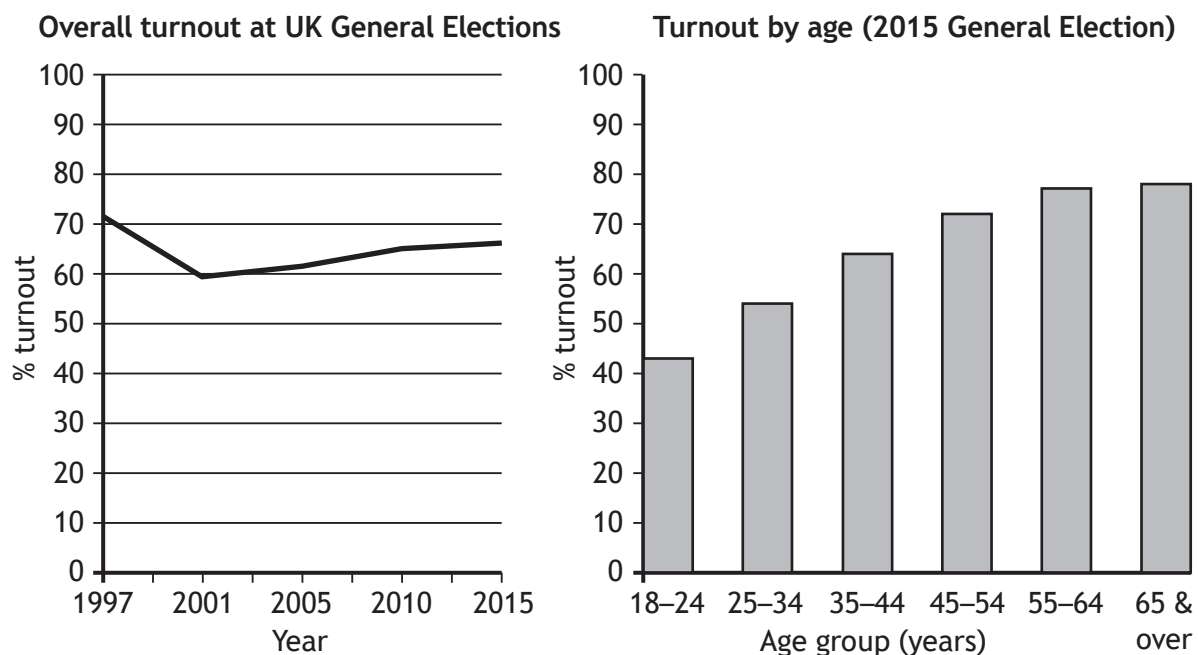
A great problem facing British democracy is the growing inequality within voter turnout. Although overall turnout was 66.1% in 2015, electoral participation is lower among lower income groups, mainly Social Classes D and E. This gives better-off voters, mainly in Social Classes A and B, disproportionate influence at the ballot box.

Unequal turnout reinforces a vicious cycle of disaffection and under-representation among those groups where electoral participation is falling. As government policy becomes less responsive to their interests the less inclined they will be to vote. The less they vote, the less likely governments will respond to their interests; thus establishing a downward spiral excluding poorer socio-economic groups from electoral life.

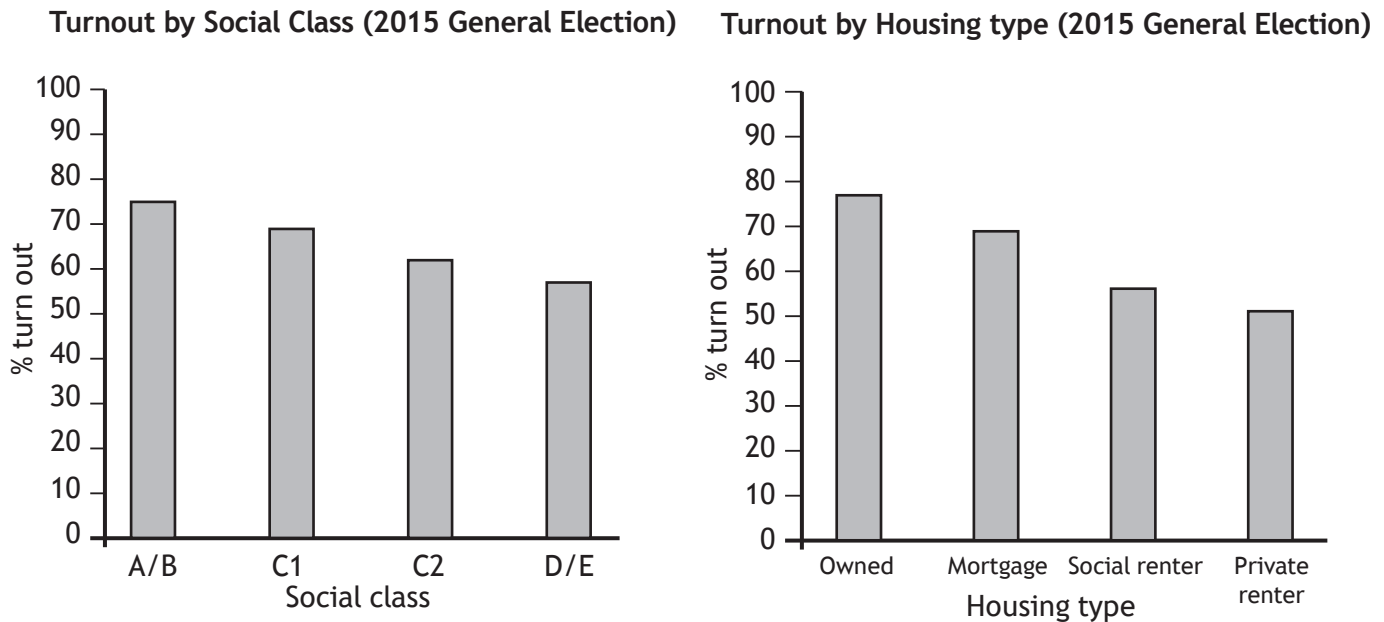
Those who vote at their first eligible election are considerably more likely to vote throughout the duration of their life. Forcing young people to turnout at the ballot box is one option that might break the non-voting habit plaguing our youth and would have a substantial impact on voter turnout as each generation ages. However, Scotland managed to engage its younger generation during the 2014 Independence Referendum without compulsory voting. The subsequent 7% increase in Scottish turnout at the 2015 General Election was largely responsible for the small increase in turnout across the whole UK.

SOURCE B

UK General Election Statistics



Source B (continued)



SOURCE C

Selected Government Policies (Introduced between the 2010 and 2015 General Elections)

Policy	Description
VAT increased to 20%	Disproportionately affected poorest households more than middle to upper income levels
End of Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in England and Wales	Removal of Government financial aid to help pupils from poorer backgrounds to stay on at school
Child Tax Credit	Households earning more than £40,000 per year will not receive this
Cap on Benefits	Households in receipt of benefits will receive no more than average UK family income
Bedroom Tax	Removal of some benefit for those staying in rented housing that has excess bedroom capacity
Flat Rate State Pension/ Retirement Age	Increase from £97 per week to £140 for single pensioners and an increase in retirement age to 68
Child Benefit means tested	Those earning over £50,000 will no longer receive this benefit
Housing Benefit	Under 26s no longer allowed to claim this benefit
Top Rate Tax Cut	5% reduction in tax levels for those earning more than £150,000 per year

Attempt the following question, using **only** the information in Sources A, B and C on *Page 02 and above*.

What conclusions can be drawn about turnout in the UK?

You **must** draw **one** conclusion about each of the following;

- the link between government policy and the turnout of different age groups
- the link between government policy and the turnout of different socio-economic groups

You **must** give an overall conclusion about turnout in the UK.

Section 1 (continued)

Attempt **EITHER** Question 2(a) **OR** 2(b)

Question 2

(a)

Electoral systems allow the views of the electorate to be represented.

Analyse the ways in which an electoral system you have studied allows the views of the electorate to be represented.

You should refer to an electoral system used in Scotland **or** the United Kingdom **or** both in your answer.

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OR

(b)

Individuals and groups in society can influence government decision making in many ways.

Analyse the ways in which individuals and groups in society can influence government decision making.

You should refer to individuals and groups in Scotland **or** the United Kingdom **or** both in your answer.

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SECTION 2 – SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM – 20 marks

Attempt **EITHER** question 3(a) **OR** 3(b) **OR** 3(c) **OR** 3(d)

Question 3**Part A: Social inequality in the United Kingdom**

Answers may refer to Scotland **or** the United Kingdom **or** both.

- (a) Government policies have failed to reduce social inequalities.

Discuss.

20

OR

- (b) To what extent can ill-health be blamed on the lifestyle choices of the population?

20

OR

Part B: Crime and the law in the United Kingdom

Answers may refer to Scotland **or** the United Kingdom **or** both.

- (c) Government policies have failed to reduce crime.

Discuss.

20

OR

- (d) To what extent is human nature the main cause of crime?

20

[Turn over

SECTION 3 — INTERNATIONAL ISSUES — 20 marks

Attempt Question 4 and EITHER Question 5(a) OR 5(b) OR 5(c) OR 5(d)

Question 4

Study Sources A, B and C then attempt the question which follows.

SOURCE A

Russia's "Foreign Agents"

In 2012 Russia's parliament adopted a law that required campaign groups to register as "foreign agents" with the Ministry of Justice if they engaged in "political activity" and received foreign funding. The definition of "political activity" under the law is so broad and vague that it covered almost all campaign groups in Russia.

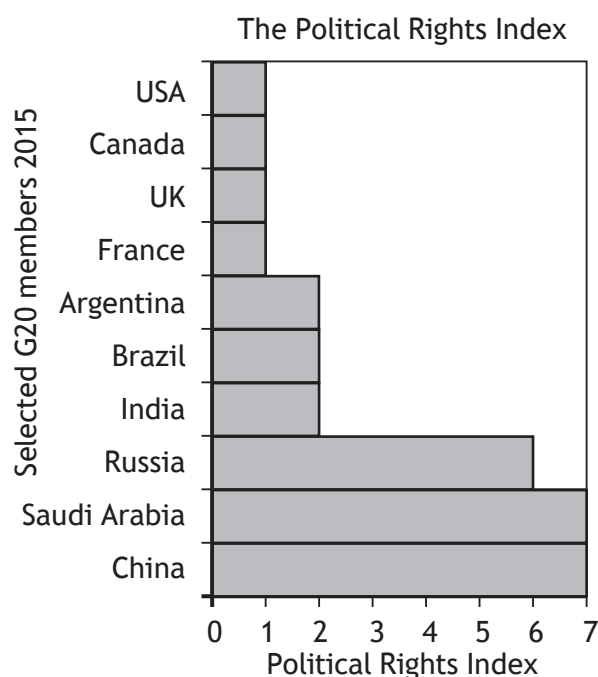
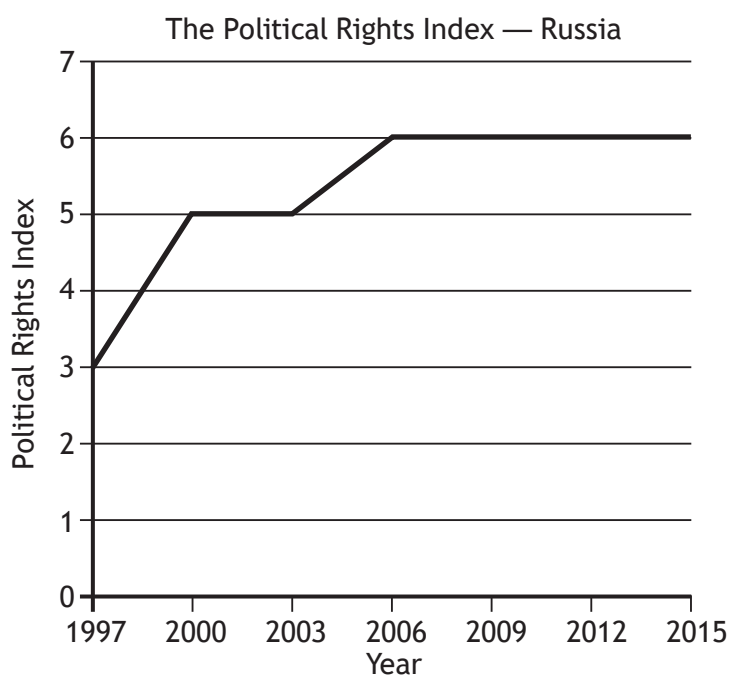
Russian authorities arrested and harassed activists, blocked independent online media and proposed measures that would further stifle free expression. More recently pro-government media published material blaming the government of Ukraine for the on-going civil war in that country, trying to deflect attention away from Russia's invasion and occupation of Crimea.

In Russia "foreign agent" is interpreted as "spy" or "traitor." The groups campaigning for political freedoms were in no doubt that the law aimed to demonise them, and to turn the public against them. Russia's many human rights groups boycotted the law, calling it "slandorous." Many of them have now been forced to disband and many of their leaders have been prosecuted for refusing to register as a "foreign agent". In the past such individuals may have faced the death sentence but Russia has not executed anyone since 1996.

In August 2013, four organisations challenged the law in Russia's Constitutional Court. On April 8, 2014 the court upheld the law, ruling that the term "foreign agent" had no negative connotations, therefore, its use was "not intended to persecute or discredit" anyone. The court also found that labelling campaign groups as "foreign agents" was in the interests of state security and did not affect the right to protest. The ruling has been heavily criticised by many foreign governments.

Source: Adapted from the website of an international pressure group campaigning to improve human rights

SOURCE B



(7 = People have very weak political rights, 1 = People have very strong political rights)

Source: Adapted from an academic website for students and teachers of international affairs

Note: The Political Rights Index measures how free and fair elections are, the right to free speech and to campaign, and the fairness of government departments including the police, courts and prisons.

SOURCE C

Annual Report 2014

“There have been fewer complaints from Russians over human rights violations”, Government spokesman Vladimir Lukin said in his annual report. He said that more than half of the complaints he had received last year were about violations of civil rights and freedoms. The number of complaints concerning political rights was relatively small, and complaints about religious freedoms and freedom of conscience decreased by 10%.

In 2014, Mr Lukin’s offices received 24,000 complaints; in 2012 the figure was 58,000. Many people were worried about violations of their personal rights, others complained about unfair court rulings; more than half of the letters (56%) were complaints about the courts and nearly one-quarter of the complaints were about abuses by the police or prison staff. As for political complaints, they accounted for 2% of the total. Lukin also praised a recent report by the European Union which congratulated Russia on its expansion of jury trials right across Russia and its suspension of the death penalty.

As he submitted his report to President Vladimir Putin, Lukin brought up the issue of mass inspections of human rights groups, launched in recent weeks. Lukin assured the journalists that political campaign groups had nothing to fear and that their right to protest was protected by Russian law.

Source: Adapted from the website of the Russian Government’s news agency

Attempt the following question, using **only** the information in Sources A, B and C on *Page 06* and above.

To what extent is it accurate to state that Russia effectively protects the rights of its citizens?

In your answer, you may wish to evaluate the reliability of the sources.

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[Turn over for next question

Section 3 (continued)

Attempt **EITHER** Question 5(a) **OR** 5(b) **OR** 5(c) **OR** 5(d)

Question 5**Part A: World Powers**

With reference to a world power you have studied:

- (a) Evaluate the success of the Government in tackling a socio-economic issue. 12

OR

- (b) Evaluate the effectiveness of the political system in representing the wishes of the population. 12

OR

Part B: World Issues

With reference to a world issue you have studied:

- (c) Evaluate the impact of this issue on the individuals and groups affected. 12

OR

- (d) Evaluate the effectiveness of international organisations in addressing this issue. 12

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]