National
Qualifications
2018

X749/76/11 Modern Studies

WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY
9:00 AM — 11:15 AM

Total marks — 60

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

Attempt **EITHER** question 1(a) **OR** 1(b) **AND** question 2

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) **AND** question 4

SECTION 3 — INTERNATIONAL ISSUES — 20 marks

Part A World powers

Part B World issues

Attempt **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.

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MARKS

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

Attempt **EITHER** question 1 (a) **OR** 1 (b) **AND** question 2

Question 1

(a) Analyse the potential impact of leaving the European Union.

You should refer to issues affecting Scotland **or** the United Kingdom **or** both in your answer. **12**

OR

(b) Analyse the influence of the media on voting behaviour.

You should refer to voting behaviour in Scotland **or** the United Kingdom **or** both in your answer. **12**

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Question 2

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

Source A

The role of committees — 'Parliament at work'

Committees are central to the work of the Scottish Parliament. The job of the committees is vital as the Scottish Parliament has no second chamber (unlike the UK Parliament). They have three broad roles:

- to scrutinise legislation and to hold the Scottish Government (currently the SNP) to account for its actions
- to introduce legislation (ie new laws)
- to conduct inquiries, gather evidence and produce reports into matters within their remit (eg recent inquiries into education by the Education and Skills Committee).

It is in these three areas that the success of the Scottish Parliament's committees is judged.

The membership of the committees is made up of MSPs from every party, with Committee Conveners, who chair meetings and set agendas, being drawn from different parties. Membership reflects the balance of power in parliament — some argue that this builds in a pro-government bias. Every piece of legislation that comes out of Holyrood comes under the scrutiny of one or more of the Scottish Parliament's committees.

Committees often meet in public and can do so anywhere in Scotland, not just inside parliament. In fact, most committees allow the general public to attend and most committee meetings are streamed live on the Scottish Parliament website. Committees have managed to amend government legislation on hundreds of occasions. Committees also have the power to introduce their own legislation ie a Committee Bill.

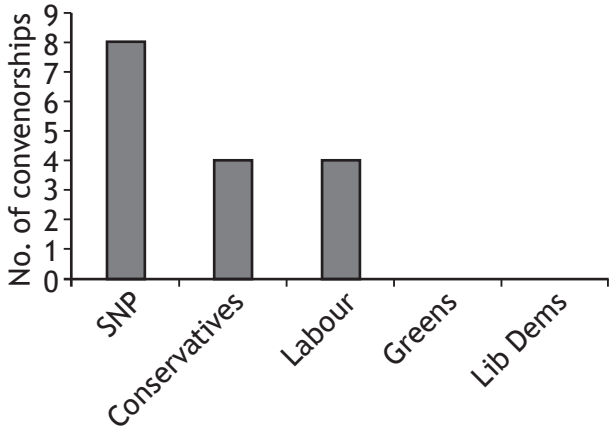
The Public Petitions Committee (PPC) is the main way for members of the public to influence policy. It is often called the jewel in Holyrood's crown with the general public believing the PPC to be a credit to our democracy. A petition to scrap the Offensive Behaviour at Football Act received nearly 10,000 signatures however the government wasn't forced to take action by this. In Parliamentary Session 4 (2011–2016), 170 petitions were considered by the PPC. The equivalent committee in the Welsh Assembly considered 356 petitions in that time.

Adapted from a variety of news sources.

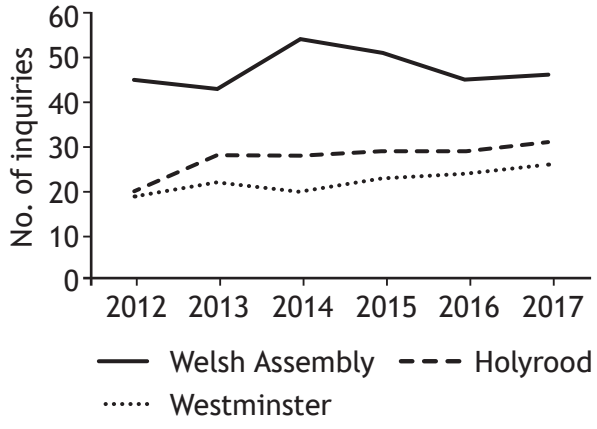
Source B

Statistics from the websites of the Scottish, Welsh and UK Governments

Number of committee convenorships held by political parties in the Scottish Parliament

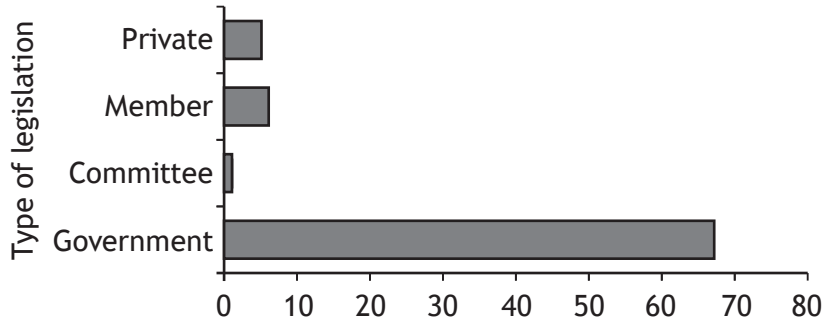


Total number of inquiries conducted by committees in selected Parliaments by year



Source B (continued)

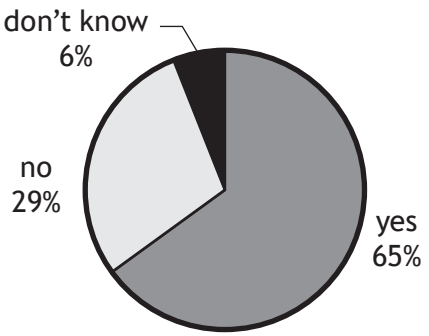
Legislation passed in Scottish Parliament Session 4 (2011–16)



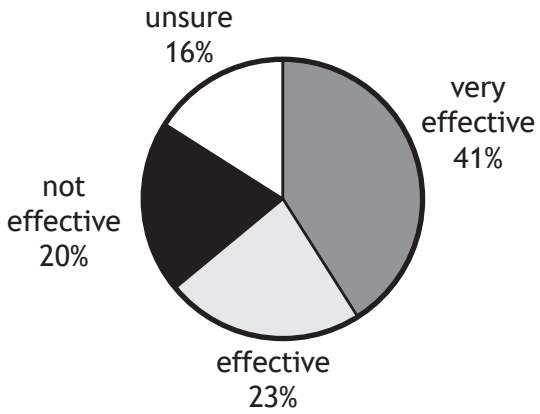
Source C

Public attitude survey on the Scottish Parliament

Would the jobs of the committees be more effectively carried out by a second chamber?



How effective is the Public Petitions Committee system at enhancing the democratic process within the Scottish Parliament?



Statement: 'The committee system must do better'

The committee system — intended to be the engine room of Scottish parliamentary democracy — has been criticised for failing in a crucial function: to introduce legislation.

Some would also argue that the committee system is not fully independent of government as their membership reflects the distribution of party power in parliament. The dominance of the SNP means their MSPs make up a large proportion of membership in each committee eg five of the eleven members of the Education and Skills Committee are from the SNP, including the Convenor.

To their credit, committees engage in short and 'snappy' inquiries with the potential to provide timely advice to government. However, Scottish Parliamentary committees seem to be lacking the resources and time to conduct inquiries at the same rate as other comparable parliaments, such as the Welsh Assembly. However, committee inquiries can compel witnesses, including Scottish Government Ministers, to attend or provide written evidence. Failure to do so is a criminal offence.

Survey data and statement from a blog by a Professor of Politics at a Scottish University.

Answer the following question, using **only** the information in Sources A, B and C on *page 04* and above.

To what extent is it accurate to state that the Scottish Parliament's committees fulfil their roles effectively?

In your answer, you may wish to evaluate the reliability of the sources. **8**

MARKS

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

Attempt **EITHER** question 3 (a) **OR** 3 (b) **OR** 3 (c) **OR** 3 (d) **AND** question 4

Question 3

Part A: Social inequality in the United Kingdom

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

(a) Evaluate the impact of social inequality on a group in society that you have studied. **12**

OR

(b) Evaluate the view that government should be responsible for tackling social inequality. **12**

OR

Part B: Crime and the law in the United Kingdom

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

(c) Evaluate the economic impact of crime on society. **12**

OR

(d) Evaluate the view that inequality causes crime. **12**

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Question 4

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

Source A

British prisons

Crime rates in Britain are falling, however the prison population remains high and is nearly double that of 20 years ago. Recent reductions in prison staff have meant that it is more difficult for staff to control the large prison population. Britain now has the largest prison population in Western Europe at 93,665, which is nearly 20,000 higher than France and 30,000 more than Germany.

In England and Wales 60% of prisons accommodate more prisoners than their Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA). CNA is calculated by the Prison Service and represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that it aims to provide to all prisoners. As a consequence of overcrowding some prisons are forced to 'double-up' prisoners by housing two in cells designed for one. In 2014–15, 21,755 people were held in overcrowded accommodation, with the majority of these doubling-up in cells.

Frances Crook, chief executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, has said that 'without enough staff to keep people safe, prisons are increasingly providing restricted regimes, under which prisoners are locked in their cells for up to 23 hours a day.' Human Rights groups have claimed that being locked up for 23 hours a day is degrading and that it reduces the rehabilitation services offered in prison. They also claim that prisons are unable to provide adequate healthcare and that the mental health of prisoners is negatively affected. Thameside prison was recently criticised by inspectors for locking up 60% of prisoners for 23 hours a day due to the rising level of gang violence within the prison.

Prison staff have reported that there is a growing level of violence and rioting in prisons which they are not able to control. In 2013, the Prison Service's riot squad in England and Wales was called out 203 times (129 times in 2012). In 2016, Birmingham prison faced a 12-hour riot where 600 prisoners took over 4 wings of the prison.

This picture of overcrowding continues in Scotland with Barlinnie prison in recent times operating at 20% above its design capacity. Further to this, in Scotland's only women's prison (Cornton Vale) some prisoners in the recent past have been forced to use their sinks as toilets due to night-time security arrangements. Prisoners are faced with waits of more than an hour before being allowed to use the toilet, in what inspectors have described as a significant breach of human dignity.

Source B

Selected statistics on prison populations in England and Wales

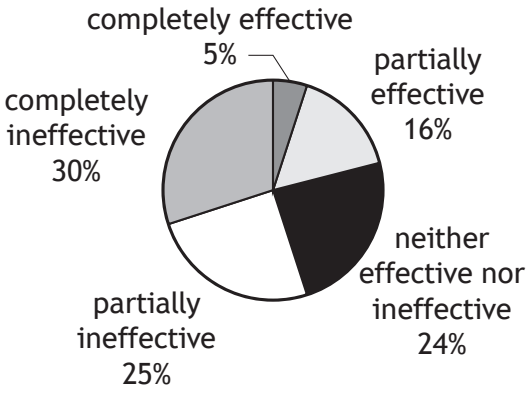
Prison	No. of prisoners	Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA)
Doncaster	1,115	738
Liverpool	1,097	1,101
Pentonville	1,238	906
Thameside	1,223	932
Wormwood Scrubs	1,231	1,156
Total	**84,069**	**74,703**

MARKS

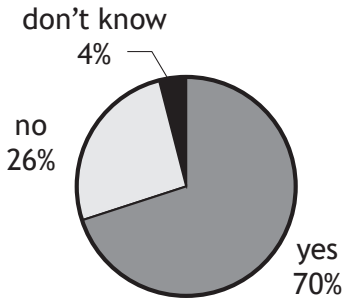
Source B (continued)

Public opinion on prisons

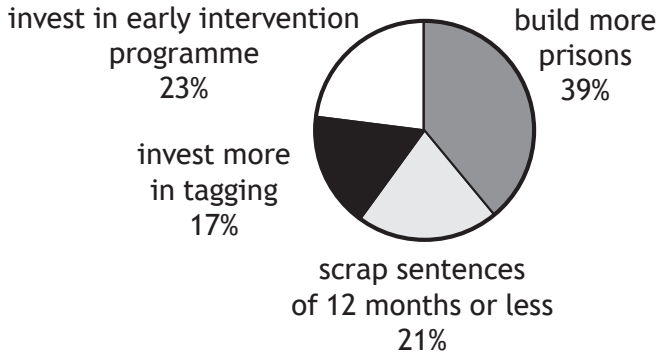
How effective are prisons in punishing criminals?



Should prisons be tougher on criminals?



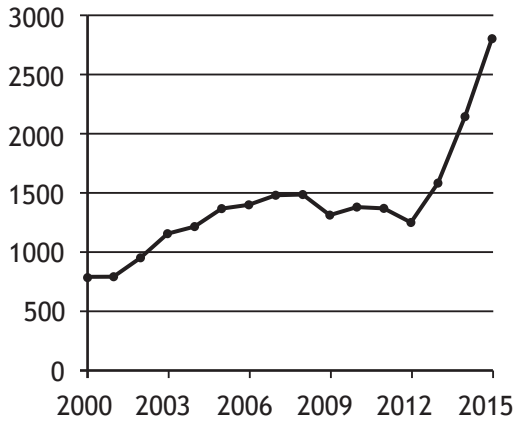
Which government policy do you feel would best tackle prison overcrowding?



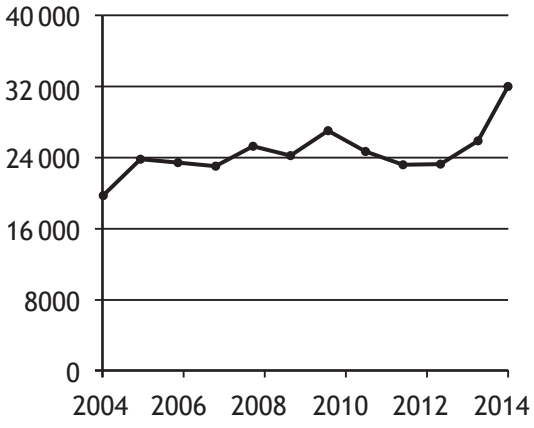
Source C

Selected statistics on prisons in England and Wales

No. of serious assaults inside prisons



No. of incidents of self-harm



Attempt the following question, using **only** the information in Sources A, B and C on *page 08* and above.

What conclusions can be drawn about overcrowding in British prisons?

You must draw conclusions about:

- overcrowding and the living conditions of prisoners
- overcrowding and safety in prisons.

You should provide an overall conclusion about the extent of overcrowding in British prisons. **8**

MARKS

SECTION 3 — INTERNATIONAL ISSUES — 20 marks

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) To what extent does social and economic inequality exist? **20**

OR

(b) There are limited opportunities for people to influence government decision making. Discuss. **20**

OR

Part B: World issues

With reference to a world issue you have studied:

(c) To what extent are some factors which cause this issue more important than others? **20**

OR

(d) Attempts to resolve this issue have been successful. Discuss. **20**

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