



National
Qualifications
2026

X849/76/11

**Modern Studies
Paper 1**

TUESDAY, 19 MAY
9:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Total marks — 52

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

Attempt **ONE** question from 1 (a) **OR** 1 (b) **OR** 1 (c).

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

Part A Social inequality

Part B Crime and the law

Attempt **ONE** question from 2 (a) **OR** 2 (b) **OR** 2 (c) **OR** 2 (d).

SECTION 3 — INTERNATIONAL ISSUES — 12 marks

Part C World powers

Part D World issues

Attempt **ONE** question from 3 (a) **OR** 3 (b) **OR** 3 (c) **OR** 3 (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.

You must leave your answer booklet on your desk; if you do not, you could lose all the marks for this paper.



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

Attempt **ONE** question from 1 (a) **OR** 1 (b) **OR** 1 (c)

Question 1

- (a) Parliament is limited in its ability to check the power of government.

Discuss.

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

20

OR

- (b) The electoral systems used in the UK are ineffective at providing fair representation.

Discuss.

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

20

OR

- (c) The methods that pressure groups use determine their ability to successfully influence government decision-making.

Discuss.

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

20

[Now go to SECTION 2 on *page 03*]

SECTION 2 — SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM — 20 marksAttempt **ONE** question from 2 (a) **OR** 2 (b) **OR** 2 (c) **OR** 2 (d)**Question 2****Part A: Social inequality**Answers may refer to Scotland **or** the United Kingdom **or** both.

- (a) To what extent are some factors more important than others in causing income and wealth inequality? **20**

OR

- (b) To what extent have government attempts to reduce inequality been successful? **20**

OR**Part B: Crime and the law**Answers may refer to Scotland **or** the United Kingdom **or** both.

- (c) To what extent are victims the group most affected by crime? **20**

OR

- (d) To what extent are non-custodial sentences the most effective in dealing with offenders? **20**

[Now go to SECTION 3 on *page 04*]

SECTION 3 — INTERNATIONAL ISSUES — 12 marksAttempt **ONE** question from 3 (a) **OR** 3 (b) **OR** 3 (c) **OR** 3 (d)**Question 3****Part C: World powers**

With reference to a world power you have studied

- (a) analyse the effects of socio-economic inequality on a group you have studied. **12**

OR

- (b) evaluate the international influence of a world power you have studied. **12**

OR**Part D: World issues**

With reference to a world issue you have studied

- (c) evaluate the impact of the issue on individuals, families and communities. **12**

OR

- (d) analyse the success of international organisations in tackling the issue. **12**

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]