National Qualifications 2025

X849/75/11 Modern Studies

FRIDAY, 23 MAY
1:00 PM – 3:20 PM

Total marks — 80

SECTION 1 — DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM — 26 marks

Attempt **EITHER** Part A **AND** Question 7 **OR** Part B **AND** Question 7

Part A	Democracy in Scotland	*page 02*
Part B	Democracy in the United Kingdom	*page 03*
Question 7		*pages 05–07*

SECTION 2 — SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM — 26 marks

Attempt **EITHER** Part C **AND** Question 14 **OR** Part D **AND** Question 14

Part C	Social inequality	*page 08*
Part D	Crime and the law	*page 09*
Question 14		*pages 10–11*

SECTION 3 — INTERNATIONAL ISSUES — 28 marks

Attempt **EITHER** Part E **AND** Question 21 **OR** Part F **AND** Question 21

Part E	World powers	*page 12*
Part F	World issues	*page 13*
Question 21		*pages 14–15*

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 — 26 marks

Attempt **EITHER** Part A **AND** Question 7 **OR** Part B **AND** Question 7

Part A Democracy in Scotland *page 02*
Part B Democracy in the United Kingdom *page 03*
Question 7 *pages 05–07*

PART A — DEMOCRACY IN SCOTLAND

In your answers to Questions 1, 2 and 3 you should give recent examples from Scotland.

Question 1

MSPs represent their constituents in a number of ways in the Scottish Parliament.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** ways MSPs represent their constituents in the Scottish Parliament. **4**

Question 2

The First Minister is very powerful.

Explain, **in detail**, **two** reasons why the First Minister is very powerful. **6**

Question 3

The Additional Member System (AMS) has many advantages and disadvantages.

Explain, **in detail**, **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage of the Additional Member System. **6**

[Now go to Question 7 starting on *page 05*]

MARKS

PART B — DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In your answers to Questions 4, 5 and 6 you should give recent examples from the United Kingdom.

Question 4

MPs represent their constituents in a number of ways in the UK Parliament.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** ways MPs represent their constituents in the UK Parliament. **4**

Question 5

The Prime Minister is very powerful.

Explain, **in detail**, **two** reasons why the Prime Minister is very powerful. **6**

Question 6

First Past the Post (FPTP) has many advantages and disadvantages.

Explain, **in detail**, **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage of First Past the Post. **6**

[Now go to Question 7 starting on *page 05*]

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Question 7

Study Sources 1, 2 and 3 and then answer the question which follows.

You are an independent adviser to a House of Commons Select Committee and have been asked to recommend whether or not MPs should be banned from having second jobs.

Option 1	**Option 2**
Ban MPs from having second jobs	Do not ban MPs from having second jobs

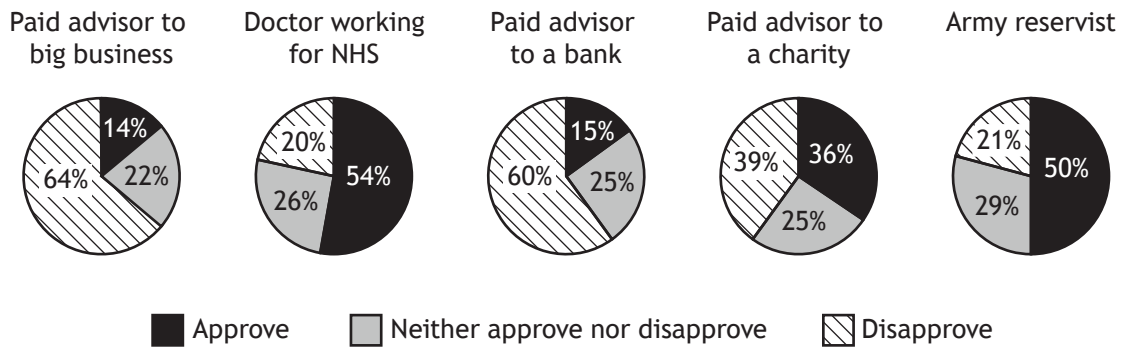
SOURCE 1

MPs second jobs fact file

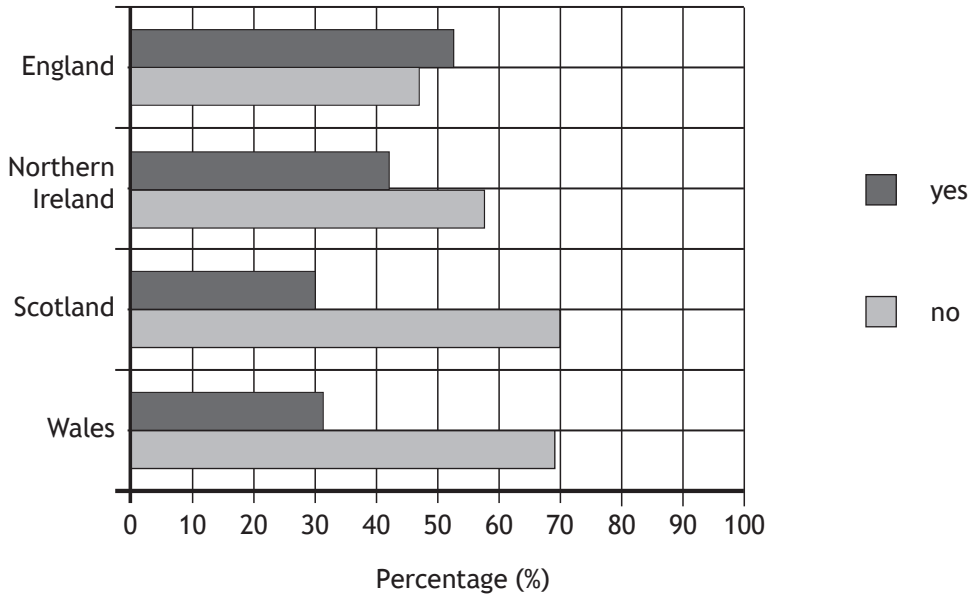
- MPs are allowed to take second jobs as long as they are not a government minister.
- There is no limit in terms of the time MPs can spend on any second job.
- MPs currently receive a basic annual salary of £91,346. The average salary in the UK is less than half of this.
- MPs are required to declare any earnings they make outside of Parliament, as well as any gifts, donations or shareholdings.
- No political party supports an outright ban on all second jobs.
- Traditionally, MPs having second jobs helped ensure that Parliament was filled with experienced professionals, from a range of diverse industries and backgrounds thus bringing a greater wealth of experience, expertise and insight into the House of Commons.
- A debate took place in the House of Commons in July 2024 to tighten rules on MPs having second jobs.
- Recent polls suggest there is public support for MPs having a second job although this is dependent on what that job is.
- Some MPs have received millions of pounds through second jobs and have become very wealthy as a result.
- There was controversy in 2021 when one MP had to resign for breaking the MPs' code of conduct after lobbying government departments to benefit the private company he was working for.
- Second jobs gives MPs job security should they be defeated at the next election.

SOURCE 2

Which second jobs would you approve of MPs doing?



Nations of the UK surveys - do you think MPs should be allowed second jobs?



SOURCE 3

Constituents' viewpoints

MPs should not be allowed to have second jobs. As there are no restrictions on the time MPs can spend on second jobs, it can often take them away from their parliamentary work and representing their constituents effectively. Being an MP is a well-paid job and so there should not be a need for them to top-up their income with a second job. It is for these reasons that the majority of the general public in every nation of the UK support a ban on second jobs. Some MPs act as consultants to businesses that are looking to gain government support — MPs should not be giving political advice to private companies or using their position to gain influence for big businesses and therefore breaching the standards expected of elected representatives. Most political parties agree with an outright ban on second jobs.

Kiera McAulay

Despite recent media headlines, MPs having second jobs isn't all bad. The general public recognises that some second jobs can be very beneficial to society, such as those working as NHS doctors and army reservists. Allowing MPs to have second jobs also brings a greater diversity of people to the House of Commons and is an important way for MPs to gain experience of working life outside politics, which can only be of benefit to their constituents. It is clear that MPs don't earn a lot of money from their second jobs. We also have to be fair to our MPs as not being allowed a second job may make them unemployed if they no longer remain an MP. It is for all these reasons that it has been years since the House of Commons has debated on the issue of second jobs.

Zac Faichney

You must decide which option to recommend, **either** ban MPs from having second jobs **(Option 1)** or do not ban MPs from having second jobs **(Option 2)**.

(i) Using Sources 1, 2 and 3, **which option would you choose**?

(ii) Give reasons to **support** your choice.

(iii) **Explain** why you did not choose the other option.

Your answer **must** be based on all **three** sources. **10**

[Now go to SECTION 2 on *page 08*]

MARKS

SECTION 2 — SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM — 26 marks

Attempt **EITHER** Part C **AND** Question 14 **OR** Part D **AND** Question 14

Part C Social inequality *page 08*

Part D Crime and the law *page 09*

Question 14 *pages 10–11*

PART C — SOCIAL INEQUALITY

In your answers to Questions 8, 9 and 10 you should give recent examples from the United Kingdom.

Question 8

Social and economic inequality is a problem in the UK.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** ways in which social and economic inequality is a problem in the UK. **4**

Question 9

There are many consequences of social and economic inequality on wider society.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** consequences of social and economic inequality on wider society. **6**

Question 10

The private sector has been successful in tackling social and economic inequalities.

Explain, **in detail**, **two** reasons why the private sector has been successful in tackling social and economic inequalities. **6**

[Now go to Question 14 starting on *page 10*]

MARKS

PART D — CRIME AND THE LAW

In your answers to Questions 11, 12 and 13 you should give recent examples from the United Kingdom.

Question 11

Crime is a problem in the UK.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** ways in which crime is a problem in the UK. **4**

Question 12

There are many consequences of crime on wider society.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** consequences of crime on wider society. **6**

Question 13

Prisons are an effective punishment.

Explain, **in detail**, **two** reasons why prisons are an effective punishment. **6**

[Now go to Question 14 starting on *page 10*]

Question 14

Study Sources 1, 2 and 3 and then answer the question which follows.

SOURCE 1

Minimum unit pricing for alcohol

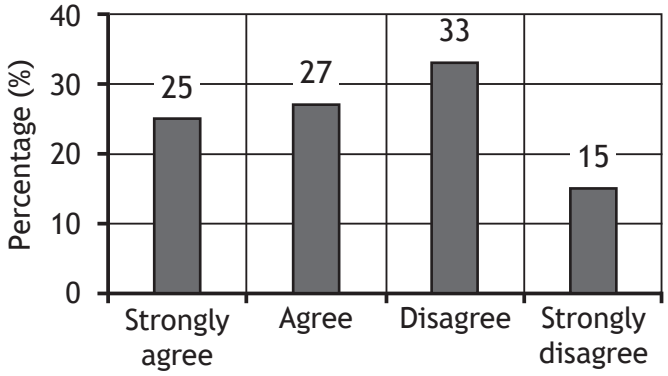
Minimum unit pricing for alcohol (MUP) was introduced by the Scottish Government in 2018 as a response to the nation's poor relationship with alcohol and their desire to make it less affordable. MUP was implemented at a rate of 50p per unit after a long legal battle between the Scottish Government and the drinks industry. This rate increased to 65p per unit in September 2024. The price increase of alcohol due to MUP has led to some economically vulnerable people experiencing increased financial strain as they spend more on alcohol than they can afford. This can lead to those who are dependent on alcohol reducing other spending, such as that on food and utilities.

According to recent studies, since the introduction of MUP, alcohol sales in Scotland have fallen. The alcohol products that MUP has specifically targeted, such as strong ciders and spirits, have seen the biggest reduction in sales since the pricing policy was implemented. However, among those drinking at harmful levels or people who are dependent on alcohol, there has been no clear evidence of a change in alcohol consumption.

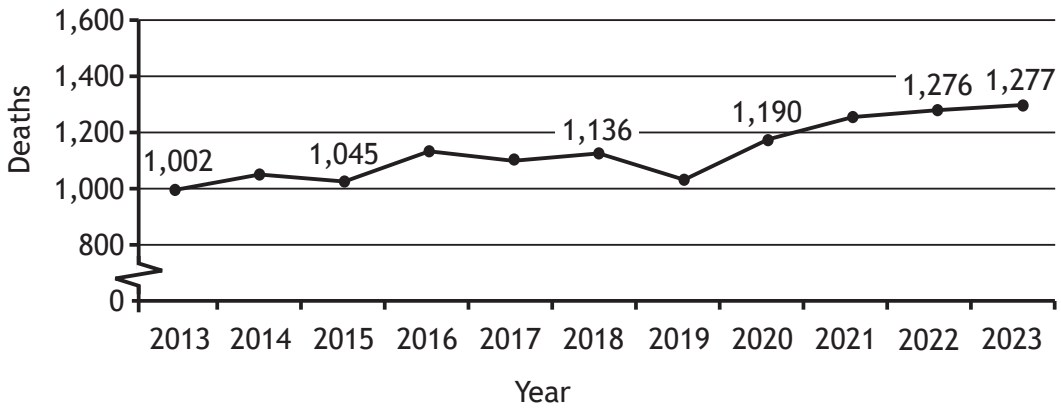
A high number of deaths in Scotland continue to be linked to alcohol. On the other hand, according to research it is estimated that each year, on average, MUP has saved 268 lives and has prevented 899 hospital admissions.

SOURCE 2

Public opinion survey — do you buy less alcohol because of MUP?



Number of deaths due to alcohol



SOURCE 3

Have your say on MUP

	Simone MUP has saved hundreds of lives that would otherwise have ended in early deaths, as well as reducing the number needing hospital care which in turn has saved the NHS money.
	Fergus My friend drinks too much and MUP has simply meant he spends more to maintain his drinking habits which hurts him financially.
	Khabib Scotland was the first country in the world to implement minimum unit pricing for alcohol and we should be proud of this.
	Dr Yang I see patients every week who are dependent on alcohol and their situation hasn't improved since MUP was introduced.
	Joe I don't drink strong cider or spirits anymore as it is simply too expensive.
	Professor Barbour Our research has shown MUP has reduced alcohol sales in Scotland, and this has undoubtedly benefitted the nation's health.
	Fjolla I heard on the news that deaths due to alcohol continue to increase. This proves MUP isn't working.

Using Sources 1, 2 and 3 give reasons to **support** and **oppose** the view of Jess Porter.

Minimum unit pricing for alcohol (MUP) has been a success in Scotland.

View of Jess Porter

In your answer you **must**:

- give evidence from the sources that supports Jess Porter's view

AND

- give evidence from the sources that opposes Jess Porter's view.

Your answer **must** be based on all **three** sources. **10**

[Now go to SECTION 3 on *page 12*]

MARKS

SECTION 3 — INTERNATIONAL ISSUES — 28 marks

Attempt **EITHER** Part E **AND** Question 21 **OR** Part F **AND** Question 21

Part E World powers *page 12*

Part F World issues *page 13*

Question 21 *pages 14–15*

PART E — WORLD POWERS

In your answers to Questions 15, 16 and 17 you should give recent examples from a world power you have studied.

Question 15

Governments attempt to tackle social and economic issues.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** ways that governments attempt to tackle social **and/or** economic issues.

In your answer you must state the world power you have studied. **4**

Question 16

There are a number of causes of social and economic issues.

Describe, **in detail**, **one** cause of social issues **and one** cause of economic issues in the world power you have studied.

In your answer you must state the world power you have studied. **6**

Question 17

Underrepresentation in politics is an issue in many world powers.

(a) Explain, **in detail**, why underrepresentation in politics is an issue in the world power you have studied.

In your answer you must state the world power you have studied. **8**

You should give a **maximum** of **three** explanations in your answer.

OR

World powers have an influence on other countries.

(b) Explain, **in detail**, why world powers have an influence on other countries.

In your answer you must state the world power you have studied. **8**

You should give a **maximum** of **three** explanations in your answer.

[Now go to Question 21 starting on *page 14*]

MARKS

PART F — WORLD ISSUES

In your answers to Questions 18, 19 and 20 you should give recent examples from a world issue you have studied.

Question 18

International organisations attempt to tackle conflicts and issues.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** ways an international organisation has attempted to tackle the international conflict or issue you have studied.

In your answer you must state the world conflict or issue you have studied. **4**

Question 19

International conflicts and issues have many consequences on those immediately affected.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** consequences of the international conflict or issue on those immediately affected.

In your answer you must state the world conflict or issue you have studied. **6**

Question 20

There are many causes of international conflicts and issues.

(a) Explain, **in detail**, the reasons why the international conflict or issue you have studied was caused.

In your answer you must state the world conflict or issue you have studied. **8**

You should give a **maximum** of **three** explanations in your answer.

OR

Military attempts are often taken to resolve international conflicts and issues.

(b) Explain, **in detail**, why military attempts have been taken to resolve the conflict or issue you have studied.

In your answer you must state the world conflict or issue you have studied. **8**

You should give a **maximum** of **three** explanations in your answer.

[Now go to Question 21 starting on *page 14*]

Question 21

Study Sources 1, 2 and 3 and then answer the question which follows.

SOURCE 1

Female representation in Canadian politics

In 1921, the first woman was elected to the House of Commons of Canada. Today, it holds a record number of female members. In the 2021 federal election, of the 338 members elected, 103 were women. Of those, 22 were elected for the first time. This represents an increase of five seats over the previous record of 98 women who were elected in 2019. In terms of female representation in Parliament, Canada ranks 66th in the world. The female population in Canada is 50.36% compared to 49.64% being male.

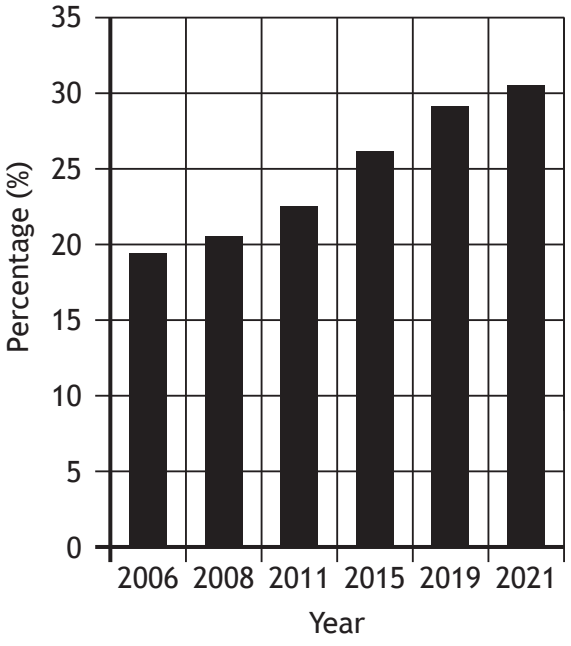
There is significant political pressure to increase the number of women representatives in the House of Commons. Some Canadian political parties have pledged to include more female representation in government by introducing certain measures to increase both participation and representation. These measures have included all-woman shortlists, gender quotas and woman-only seats. However, not everyone supports these measures.

Provincial and territorial legislatures in Canada face similar issues in achieving gender equality between men and women. By the end of 2024, women represented 35.3% (273 out of 772) of all provincial and territorial legislators across Canada as a whole.

SOURCE 2

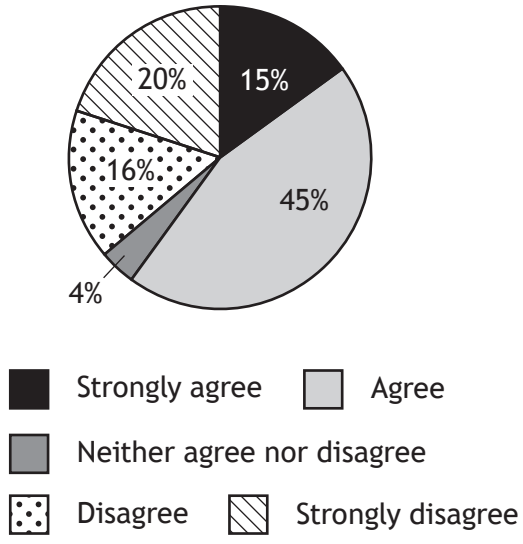
House of Commons of Canada

Percentage (%) of females in the House of Commons



Public opinion survey

Should political parties take specific measures to increase female representation in the House of Commons?



SOURCE 3

Females in parliament — selected world rankings (2023)

Country	World ranking
Cuba	2
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	5
Ecuador	21
Moldova	25
Albania	43
Estonia	67
Malta	80

Female members of selected provincial and territorial legislatures in Canada (2023)

Province/territory	Total number of members	Number of female members	Percentage (%) of female members
Alberta	87	29	33.3
British Columbia	87	37	42.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	40	9	22.5
Northwest Territories	19	10	52.6
Nova Scotia	55	19	34.5
Ontario	124	47	39
Quebec	125	58	46.4

Using Sources 1, 2 and 3, what conclusions can be drawn about female representation in politics in Canada?

You should reach a conclusion about each of the following:

- progress towards gender equality in the House of Commons
- female representation in the Canadian Parliament compared to other countries
- opinions on measures to increase female representation in the House of Commons
- female representation in provincial and territorial legislatures.

Your conclusions must be supported by evidence from the sources. You should link information within and between the sources in support of your conclusions.

Your answer **must** be based on all **three** sources. **10**

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