National 5 Modern Studies Sample Questions

Crime and Law

1. Describe, in detail, the types of crime most commonly committed by young people.

2. Explain, in detail, the causes of crime / why some people commit crime.

3. Describe, in detail, the ways the police try to reduce crime levels.

4. Describe, in detail, the adult courts in Scotland. Describe, in detail, the sentences criminal courts in Scotland can give to offenders.

5. Explain, in detail, why some people think that prison is not a suitable punishment.

6. Explain, in detail, why some people think prison is the most suitable punishment for some offenders.

7. Explain, in detail, why Scottish courts often use alternative punishments to prison when dealing with offenders.

8. Explain, in detail, the consequences of crime. (On individuals / families, communities). Explain, in detail, the ways people are affected by crime.

8. Explain, in detail, the reasons why some people are affected by crime more than others

9. Describe, in detail, the ways the Children’s Hearing System can help young people in Scotland.

10. Describe, in detail, the ways the Government have tried to tackle / reduce crime. Describe, in detail, two ways in which the group you have chosen tries to tackle crime

Democracy in Scotland

1. Describe, in detail, the services provided by local councils in Scotland and can affect the lives of people in Scotland.

2. Describe, in detail, the ways in which local councils in Scotland can raise money to provide local services.

3. Describe, in detail, the work of a local councillor in Scotland.

4. Describe, in detail, the devolved matters which the Scottish Parliament can make decisions about for Scotland.

5. Explain, in detail, the advantages of the Additional Member System which is used to elect the Scottish Parliament

6. Explain, in detail, the disadvantages of the Additional Member System which is used to elect the Scottish Parliament.

7. Describe, in detail, the ways in which political parties in Scotland campaign to get their candidates elected as MSPs.

8. Describe, in detail, the work of MSPs.

9. Describe, in detail, the work of the Scottish Parliament.

10. Describe, in detail, the powers of the First Minister in the Scottish Government.

11. Describe, in detail, the ways in which people in Scotland can participate in democracy in Scotland.

12. Describe, in detail, the rights and responsibilities of citizens in Scotland when participating in democracy.

13. Explain, in detail, why many people in Scotland choose to vote in elections.

14. Describe, in detail, the rights and responsibilities of citizens in Scotland related to voting.

15. Describe, in detail, the ways in which the media tries to influence the Scottish Government.

16. Describe, in detail, the rights and responsibilities of pressure groups when participating in democracy in Scotland:

17. Describe, in detail, how the media influences elections and democracy in Scotland.

World power-USA:

1. Describe, in detail, the political rights and responsibilities of the citizens of a world power you have studied

2. Describe, in detail, ways citizens from a world power you have studied can participate in politics

3. Explain, in detail, the structure of the government in a world power you have studied

4. Explain, in detail, causes of social and economic inequalities in a world power you have studied.

5. Explain, in detail, why some groups from a world power you have studied experience social and economic inequality.

6. Explain, in detail, consequences of social and economic inequalities in a world power you have studied (responses)

7. Explain, in detail, why some citizens may criticise their government for the limitations placed on their political rights.

8. Describe, in detail, two ways the World Power you have studied has had an impact on other countries

**Crime and Law**

1. Describe, in detail, the types of crime most commonly committed by young people.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.A type of crime commonly committed by young people is Gang Crime.  | This means Gangs are normally based on territory, and involve fighting with other gangs, this has a negative impact on their community. | For example, this involves many young men, and girls to a lesser extent. They may join a gang for protection or to feel they belong to something and need to commit crime as part of the activities of the gang. | In addition, Gangs and gang fighting are strongly linked with knife crime since some of these gang members carry knives for fighting with other gangs. This shows that gangs are common in young people and can lead them into committing crimes. |
| 2. A type of crime commonly committed by young people is Anti-social behaviour | This means persistent behaviour which causes an annoyance, alarm and anxiety to other people. | For example, this could include graffiti and vandalism. It could also be giving verbal abuse to people in the street or home area. | In addition, often anti-social behaviour in children is fuelled by underage drinking, or peer pressure when a child may want to gain respect or feel party of a group by taking part. This shows that Anti-social behaviour is common in young people and can have a negative impact on the lives of people who live there. |
| 3.A type of crime commonly committed by young people is Attempting to buy alcohol underage. | This means the law has decided that you have to be over 18 to purchase alcohol. | For example, some youngsters commit a crime by buying alcohol for themselves. Other young people who are over 18 may also commit a crime by buying alcohol for a person who is not 18. | In addition, young people may also commit the crime of being drunk in a public place such as a park, since they are unable to drink in bars due to the age restriction. This shows that crimes related to underage drinking are common amongst young people. |

2. Explain, in detail, the causes of crime / why some people commit crime.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One reason that people can commit crime because they are poor. | This means that poorer families who are unemployed or unable to claim benefits may not be able to afford material goods or food and commit theft to meet their needs. | For example, families including children may be forced to shoplift in order to get essentials like food to feed their family. | In addition, our society attaches much importance to material goods that people want to acquire them even though can’t afford them. This shows the pressure that people who are poor have to commit crimes like theft. |
| 2. Another reason that people can commit crime is because they have consumed too much alcohol. | This means that Alcohol can make people more reckless as alcohol numbs the senses and can change traits of our personality. 50% of violent crimes are committed while people were drunk. | For example, 50% of violent crimes are committed while people were drunk and 50% of Scotland’s prisoners said they were drunk when they committed their offence.  | In addition, People who are dependent on drugs or alcohol and are desperate for them can turn to crime to support their habit, such as stealing money or property to sell to pay for more drugs. This shows the link between alcohol and committing crime. |
| 3. Another reason that people can commit crime is because they have had a bad upbringing.-Also rememberTerrorism, greed, peer pressure, mental illness | This means that if a child’s parents have no respect for the law or another person’s property then he/she will grow up with the same attitude. | For example children who do not have set boundaries, such as not stealing, may feel that taking or vandalising other people’s property is normal behaviour.  | In addition, these children may also not value education and then end up with a poor education making it more likely that they will be in poverty and may commit crime to pay for their needs. This shows the strong link between upbringing and crime. |

3. Describe, in detail, the ways the police try to reduce crime levels.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One way that the police try to reduce crime levels is to be present at large public events where there could be disturbances with large crowds, they act as a deterrent to crime. | This means that their presence at football matches to separate rival fans from fighting and colliding with each other in stadiums can stop these crimes from being committed. | For example, the police were present at the Scotland vs England football match at Hampden stadium in November 2016 to prevent any potential clashes between the fans, as many supporters would not start a fight when they knew so many police were about and they would be likely to be caught.  | In addition, the police are consulted on the times of football matches and generally argue to have matches earlier in the day in the hope that fewer fans will have consumed alcohol and lessen the chances of violence and disorder at football games. This shows how effective the police involvement in football can prevent disorder at games. |
| 2. One way that the police try to reduce crime levels is to offer advice through their crime prevention branch. | This means that police can give information on the protection of property and crime prevention to members of the public looking for help. | For example, advice on crime prevention advice could involve helping to set up neighbourhood watch scheme to ensure that residents take all necessary precautions to prevent their house being broken into.  | In addition, police could attend schools and talk to pupils about being aware of internet dangers and help them spot child offenders and prevent children putting themselves in danger of a crime being committed against them. This shows the role of police in preventing crimes through information sharing. |
| 3.One way that the police try to reduce crime levels is through Community policing | This means that police officers get to know the public and develop local relationships with residents and workers to the area. | For example, police could regularly talk to residents in a housing scheme and a relationship of trust could be built. This would make it more likely that residents would confide in crimes within the area such as drug dealing and provide information to detect or prevent such crimes. | In addition, police can attend local schools and help pupils identify them as trustworthy and reliable. This would make it more likely that pupils would share information such as the whereabouts of missing teenagers and prevent any crime being committed against them if they are vulnerable. This shows that police working in the community can be an important method for the police to prevent crime. |

4. Describe, in detail, the adult courts in Scotland.

 5. Describe, in detail, the sentences criminal courts in Scotland can give to offenders.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One type of adult court is the Justice of the Peace Court | This means that this court deals with minor offences such as breach of the peace, being drunk and disorderly and minor traffic offences. | For example, due to these cases, the longest prison sentence which can be imposed is generally 60 days and the maximum fine is up to £2500. | In addition, this court is presided by a lay magistrate (Justice of the Peace) and has no jury. This means that this court can only deal with minor crimes making it the lowest level of adult court. |
| 2. Another type of adult court is the Sheriff Court. | This means that it can deal with more serious cases than the Justice of Peace court such as assaults and drink driving offences. | For example, cases can be heard before a sheriff or a sheriff and a jury. The maximum sentence for cases heard before a sheriff is a fine of £10,000 or 12 months in prison. The maximum sentence for cases heard before a sheriff and jury is 5 years in prison or an unlimited fine. | In addition, this court has a range of non-custodial options such as community payback and probation that can be used if custody is not the best punishment. This shows the range of options open to this court.  |
| 3.Another type of adult court is the High Court  | This means that this court will deal with the most serious crimes such as rape and murder. | For example, this court will always be heard before a judge and jury of 15. The maximum sentence from this court would be an unlimited fine or life imprisonment. | In addition, as this is the highest level of court, if you are not satisfied with a decision of the sheriff court in criminal cases you may be able to appeal to the High Court. This shows the high level of cases brought before the high court. |

5. Explain, in detail, why some people think that prison is not a suitable punishment.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| **1.**One disadvantage of prison is that it is very costly. | This means that the government has to spend a large amount of money on running prisons when the country has significant problems like poverty and ill health and the money could be used in these areas. |  For example, the average annual overall cost of a prison place in England and Wales is now £36,259.59. This is more than the average wage of £27,600. The UK spends more on their prisons than most other EU countries.  | In addition, as the rate of prisoners has been increasing as prisons have been overcrowded every year since 1994, so the government will need to invest more money on building more and bigger prisons which will be an even greater expense than the yearly running costs. The government is also finding it difficult to fund the staff for these prisons which has led to greater violence and disorder in prison making them unsafe and not fit for purpose. This shows that prisons are becoming too expensive to run and the country cannot afford to run them safely. |
| **2.** Another disadvantage is that prisons are detrimental to families.  | This means that families can suffer financially, socially and emotionally when a family member is in prison as m**ore than double the number of children are affected by parental imprisonment than divorce.**  | For example, Two-thirds of families said their debts had increased since the imprisonment of their relative. This can lead to homelessness and poverty in these families who may no longer have anyone to help provide necessities and life can become very hard. | In addition, Parental imprisonment approximately trebles the risk of antisocial or delinquent behaviour by their children. This shows the long term effects of imprisonment as it is more likely that a cycle of criminality and poverty could occur showing how disadvantageous prison could be.  |
| **3.**Another disadvantage of prison is that it does not work. | This means that prisons are aimed at reducing crime by rehabilitating offenders or acting as a deterrent. However, statistics show that it does not stop criminals returning to crime after being in prison. | For example, statistics show that 46% of adults are reconvicted within one year of release and over two-thirds (68%) of under 18 year olds are reconvicted within a year of release. At present in the, the numbers of people in prison in the UK is higher than most other EU countries is high while crime rates are the highest in Europe. | In addition, the number of prisons receiving English and Maths qualifications in prison has fallen by a third from 2010-2015. This shows the failure of rehabilitation as there is less chance of gaining employment after prison without further qualifications and this may lead to a return to offending which proves a disadvantage. |

6. Explain, in detail, why some people think prison is the most suitable punishment for some offenders.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One reason that prison is more suitable punishment is because it prevents people from committing crime. | This means that the public will know that people who commit violent, dangerous crimes can be put in a safe place and cannot harm anyone else. | For example, the man found guilty of shooting and killing the MP Jo Cox will now serve life imprisonment and the public can be reassured that he will not be able to hurt another innocent person while he is in prison.  | In addition, prison is only used for serious crimes and is the only punishment that can remove a dangerous person from the public. This shows why some people feel that this is the most suitable form of punishment. |
| 2. Another advantage of prison is that it shows that there is a punishment to deter people from committing crime. | This means that people may decide against committing a crime if they feel that they are likely to be sent to prison. | For example, in countries where the number of people sent to prison was reduced such as Canada, there was a significant increase in crime as there was nothing to fear from the justice system.  | In addition, offenders cite the lack of freedom as the worst thing about prison and shows that it can be an effective punishment to prevent people committing crime. |
| 3.Another advantage of prison is that it aims to rehabilitate criminals. | This means that prisoners are given opportunities to be gain qualifications or training to help them find work on their release. | For example, one of the reasons that people commit crime is because of poverty which may have been due to a lack of education allowing them to be successful in the workplace.  | In addition, Theatre Nemo in Barlinne helps prisoners deal with the social and emotional issues which contributed to them committing crime. This shows that offering criminals an alternative to a life of crime may be an effective way to steer criminals from a life of crime and offer the hope of a more positive lifestyle. |

7. Explain, in detail, why Scottish courts often use alternative punishments to prison when dealing with offenders.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| **1.**One reason that courts may use alternative forms of punishment to prison is because it can be more appropriate to keep an offender in the community. | This means that for less serious crimes, it may be more appropriate for some people/crimes, for an offender to keep their job as offenders can be more likely to commit crime if they are in poverty, unemployed  | For example, a person committing a minor theft may be issued with a fine instead of being sent to prison.  | In addition, this money could be used to offset the cost of a court trial and payback some of the costs of crime to the public. |
| **2.** Another reason that courts may use alternative forms of punishment to prison is because it can keep families together. | This means that it would allow a measure of freedom to remain in society allowing offenders to remain with their families which is an important factor in preventing re-offending. | For example, Tagging orders can be used to curtail some freedom and keeping track of offenders whilst not breaking and damaging family relationships as prison may do. | In addition, this can set a better routine and pattern for offenders and may reduce the risk of reoffending. |
| **3.**Another reason that courts may use alternative forms of punishment to prison is because it is much cheaper for the tax payer. | This means that as keeping offenders in jail can cost £40,000 a year per criminal- this money could be spent on areas to help victims or other members of the public.  | For example, Community Pay back orders can be used which allow a community to benefit from unpaid work e.g. Community pay back cleaning which can give something back to the community and even help the offender gain a sense of pride in their community and reduce reoffending rates.  | In addition, using alternative methods would reduce the prison population and prevent overcrowding which means that new, larger prisons would not have to be built, further increasing the costs to tax payers.  |

8a). Explain, in detail, the consequences of crime. (On individuals / families, communities, and wider society)

8b) Explain, in detail, the ways people are affected by crime.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One consequence of Crime is that it can have a financial impact | This means that money from taxation has to be used to pay for the consequences of crime. The overall cost of crime in the UK runs into billions of pounds. This can affect essential services like healthcare. Money is needed for the police to catch criminals and also courts to prosecute criminals. Money from taxation is used to pay for prison or alternatives to prison | For example, in the 2011 London riots hundreds lost their homes and businesses. The total cost was around ½ a billion pounds with 5000 compensation claims after the riots. | In addition, If crime rises more money is spent on this rather than hospitals or schools leading to poorer healthcare and education showing a negative effect of crime. |
| 2. Another consequence that Crime can have is the financial impact on individuals. | This means that victims may need to pay for things which they would otherwise not needed to have spent the money on and it may cause financial hardship as people do not budget for being the victim of crime. | For example, If an individual is burgled and they claim on their insurance this can cause their insurance premiums to be raised. Individuals without insurance may have to replace stolen property after a burglary or theft. | In addition, they also may choose to fit expensive security system or they may pay for taxis at night rather than walking due to fear of being a victim of crime again showing a negative effect. |
| 3.Another consequence of Crime is the emotional impact on individuals*.* | This means that the emotional side effects have been shown to last longer than the physical impact such as bruises. | For example, If you are the victim of crime, knowing that someone has deliberately tried to cause you harm can make people feel powerless and vulnerable. This can lead to depression or Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Victims of repeated crime such as domestic abuse or racism are particularly affected. Individuals may be too scared to go outside. | In addition, this can have longer term problems which can affect work or studies. It could lead to victims no longer being able to work or leading normal lives showing another negative effect. |

9. Explain, in detail, the reasons why some people are affected by crime more than others

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One reason that people are affected more by crime are victims.  | This means that a victim of crime may have long term issues as a result of this crime and these effects could last for a long time.  | For example, a victim of a serious of assaults may feel traumatised and feel fear about becoming a victim of assault again.  | In addition, a victim may develop such anxiety that they are unable to work and this may affect the standard of living that they can afford as an result of being a victim of crime. |
| 2. Perpetrators are a group of people who are likely to be affected by crime more than others. | This means that people who commit crime may be more likely to be affected by crime as they would suffer any consequences of committing their crime such as the punishment or having to live with their conscience. | For example, a perpetrator who is convicted of crime may be sent to prison. This can lead to family breakdowns or the loss of income to those committing crime and their families. | In addition, a perpetrator may develop depression or other mental illness because of the result of committing crime.  |
| 3.People who own businesses could also be more likely to be affected by crime | This means that a business who has been the victim of crime is likely to suffer the financial consequences that this would lead to.  | For example, a business that has been broken into such as a shop would have a number of consequences such as losing business will repairs are made to the shop, and paying additional premiums to insurance companies.  | In addition, these businesses may suffer regular thefts or break ins which could lead to such a financial strain on the business that it may close and the business owner would lose their livelihood.  |

10. Describe, in detail, the ways the Children’s Hearing System can help young people in Scotland.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| **1.**The Children’s panel can help if the child is a victim of an offence | This means that they have special measures to support the child and prevent any further distress or problems for the child.  | They can remove a child from their home and into: a residential school, a children’s home, secure accommodation or foster parents. But only if this is the best way to protect the child. | In addition, social workers can be asked to work with the child to access other services of support, showing that the children’s panel can help young people. |
| **2.** The Children’s panel can help if the child has committed an offence | This means that a Children’s Panel may meet with you and your parents to try to help you if you have been getting into trouble, or if you are in need of care and protection. | For example, the panel members make a decision that is considered to be in the best interests of the child.  | In addition, the Children’s panel can refer the child to a children’s hearing because they believe compulsory measures are required, such as ASBOS and electronic tagging. |
| **3.**The Children’s panel can help if the child failed, without reasonable excuse to attend school regularly. | This means that at the hearing, all of the child's circumstances will be discussed, including background reports and wider family issues, not just the issue that caused the hearing to be called in the first place. | For example, They can issue supervision orders for social work to contact the child.  | In addition, the Children's Panel is interested in your welfare and try to ensure that you will not re-offend. |

11) Describe, in detail, the ways the Government have tried to tackle / reduce crime.

Describe, in detail, two ways in which the group you have chosen tries to tackle crime

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| Point | Explanation | Example |  |
| One way that the Scottish Government have responded to alcohol-related offences by trying to introduce a minimum price per unit of alcohol in 2012 | This means that over consumption of alcohol can cause violent or aggressive behaviour, especially at weekends, and people who become addicted to alcohol may commit crimes such as robbery or shoplifting to fund their habit. The Scottish Government have tried to tackle binge drinking, especially amongst youths, by trying to make high strength, low cost alcohol more expensive and so discourage binge drinking. | For example, the new law – the Alcohol Minimum Pricing Act has not come into effect yet as it is being challenged by the Scottish Whiskey Association but it would ensure alcohol could not be sold cheaper than 50p per unit, which the Government hope would put people off binge drinking as much as they could not afford it.  | In addition, half of Scottish prisoners now say they were drunk when they committed the offence so this might help. This means that the Scottish government are introducing strict measures to tackle crime as alcohol and crime are linked. |
| Another way the Scottish Government have responded to drink driving offences is by lowering the legal drink drive limit. | This means that driving over the legal alcohol limit is an offence, often leading to injury or death. Some people drive whilst under the influence of alcohol as it is may seem more convenient than having to take public transport or pay for taxis after drinking. Alcohol sometimes affects a person’s judgement, perhaps driving faster or more recklessly.  | For example, the new law, passed in 2014, changes the legal alcohol limit from 80mg of alcohol in 100mls of blood to 50mg of alcohol in 100mls of blood, making the Scottish limit lower than other parts of the UK. | In addition, the level of drink driving reduced by 12.5% between December 2014 and December 2015 after the introduction of this new law. This shows the positive effect that this law from the Scottish government has had on drink driving crime. |
| Another way that The Scottish Government have reduced the crime of sectarian offences at football is by clamping down on religious hatred. | This means that they felt there was too much sectarian singing and offences related to religious intolerance and bigotry at football matches, especially between rival mostly Catholic Celtic fans and mostly Protestant Rangers fans. This can cause people to feel threatened and uncomfortable and cause disorder. | For example, The government responded by introducing The 2012 Offensive Behaviour at Football Act which gives police more powers to arrest fans who sing bigoted or sectarian songs at or on their way to football games and those convicted could face a prison sentence of up to 5 years | In addition, the Scottish government claim that there has been a reduction of sectarian related crime however, it has been suggested that this law is not having much effect as violence and sectarian abuse remain a big problem in Scottish football. |

**Democracy in Scotland**

1. Describe, in detail, the services provided by local councils in Scotland and can affect the lives of Scottish people.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** | **Extend** |
| 1.One service that Councils provide is primary and secondary education. | This means Councils fund the building of schools, the resources within schools such as computers and projectors, and they pay the wages of staff including teachers, janitors and librarians.  | For example, the 32 councils across Scotland are cutting their budgets and some cuts are coming in education. SLC have had to limit the number of pupils who are given council transport to school. | In addition, this means some parents may have to take time off work to drive their children to school or else some pupils have to walk a long way to school. This shows the effect of the services provided by the council to their electorate. |
| 2. Another service that councils provide is local leisure facilities | This means that Councils provide leisure centres, swimming pools and gyms. If they fund more of them or give discounted rates to some people this can give more people opportunities to exercise and lead healthy lives but if they cut these services or make them more expensive it can make it more difficult for people to stay fit. | For example, South Lanarkshire Council give discounted rates for entry to its leisure facilities such as Hamilton Water Palace to over 60s, affecting elderly people as it lets them swim and stay healthy for less money. | In addition, this can have a positive effect on the health of those aged over 60 and may impact on a reduction of disease related to an unhealthy lifestyle in the elderly and cut the amount of money that this costs the NHS. This shows the effect that the council providing services can have on the community. |
| 3.Another service that Councils provide is environmental protection. | This means that Councils are responsible for environmental health and provide services such as bins for houses, clean water and sewage facilities, keeping the area clean. Councils issue different coloured bins for different types of waste to help with recycling. They also decide how often bins should be collected and emptied. | For example, recently South Lanarkshire announced that they would only collect general waste bins monthly instead of every 2 weeks due to budget cuts.  | In addition, this affects people’s lives as it means they may have to be more careful with how much rubbish they go through or else dispose of some of their own rubbish in skips or dumps. This shows that the councils provide vital services to the public. |

1. Describe, in detail, the ways in which local councils in Scotland can raise money to provide local services.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** | **Extend** |
| 1.One way that Councils raise money is through the block grant.  | This means that Taxes are collected by the UK Government who then give a share of this to the Scottish Government. This is known as the block grant. The Scottish Government then in turn pass a share of the block grant on to its 32 councils.  | For example, around a third of the Scottish Government’s block grant is given to councils. The total block grant Scotland receives is approximately £30 billion per year. | In addition, in 2016 the Scottish government gave approximately £10 billion of this to the 32 Scottish councils. This shows the way that councils can obtain money to provide their services to the public. |
| 2. Another way that Councils raise money through the council tax.  | This means that Council tax is tax you pay to the council if you are a homeowner. It is based on the value of a person’s house. | For example, in South Lanarkshire council, homes are given a band rating between A and H, A being the least valuable homes which pay the least council tax, and H being the most valuable homes which pay the most council tax.  | In addition, a band D house pays around £1100 per year in council tax. This shows a way that the council can raise money to fund its services. |
| 3.Another way that Councils also raise money is by charging people for some of its services at the point of use.  | This means that you have to pay to get into a council run leisure centre, play on a council run golf course, or pay for parking in a council run car park.  | For example, Hamilton Water palace, a South Lanarkshire council run leisure facility charges adults £5 for use of the swimming pool.  | In addition, this money is then used by the council to fund its services. This shows the way that money can be obtained by the council.  |

1. Describe, in detail, the work of a local councillor in Scotland.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One role of a local councillor is to vote on council matters  | This means that Councillors make decisions on education, leisure facilities, road repairs, and environmental protection. | For example, South Lanarkshire council has 67 councillors so at least 34 of them must agree to decisions. Recently SLC councillors voted to limit the number of pupils who are given council transport to school, meaning some parents may have to take time off work to drive their children to school or else some pupils have to walk a long way to school. | In addition, a majority of councillors need to approve a decision before it can go ahead. This shows that councillors play an important role on deciding council matters. |
| 2. Another role of Councillors is to meet with local constituents and raise any issues. | This means that as most people in Scotland are represented by around 3 councillors, if anyone has a problem with a council service or wishes to raise an issue they can meet with their councillor at meetings called surgeries. These are held regularly and at different areas within a ward to allow people an opportunity chances to meet with their councillor when it suits them. | For example, in South Lanarkshire council, East Kilbride West councillor Graham Simpson regularly meets local residents to learn of local problems or concerns. He was contacted by a 10 year old local school boy about the lack of decent play facilities in his community.  | He took this to the council and located £130,000 in funding to install new equipment including a skate ramp, swings, climbing frame, roundabout, seesaw and springy to ensure that local residents have good quality facilities for children and teenagers in the area. This can ensure that children are not bored and feel tempted to cause a disturbance to other residents. |
| 3.Another role of Councillors is to sit on committees. | This means that Committees are smaller groups of councillors who meet regularly to look into and attempt to help with particular, often ongoing local issues. Councillors invite experts to the committee to gather evidence which they use to write reports about the issue to the council or to help them make decisions.  | For example, East Kilbride North councillor Anne Maggs is on South Lanarkshire council’s Education resources Committee, which makes decisions on the budgets for education including funding for teachers, new computers and school books.  | It also decides on the dates of the school holidays and the number of inservice days every school year. This can have a huge impact on individuals in the community. |

1. Describe, in detail, the devolved matters which the Scottish Parliament can make decisions about for Scotland.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| One devolved matter that the Scottish Parliament can make decisions about is in Health. | This means that the Scottish Parliament can decide and vote on health problems particular to Scottish people and make sure that they make decisions for the best interests of those in this smaller area of the UK. | For example, the Scottish government have researched the particular problems that Scotland has with alcohol and have voted to introduce the minimum pricing of alcohol to make it more difficult to buy excessive amounts of alcohol and reduce the health and crime issues associated with this. | In addition, Scotland does not charge for prescription fees meaning that Scottish people do not need to consider the cost of medication which can mean that Scots may be more inclined to visit their doctor and get early treatment that those in the rest of the UK who would have to consider the cost of medication and may delay doctor’s visits and may be more at risk of serious illness without early diagnosis. |
| **2.** Another devolved area in Scotland is in education. | This means that the Scottish government can make their own decisions about education requirements for the people of Scotland. | For example, the Scottish government decided that tuition fees for further education would be free in Scotland. This means that people in Scotland do not need to pay fees such as the £9000 a year that people in England may have to pay as there is not this free provision in England. People in Scotland then do not need to worry about whether they can afford to send children to university, reducing the inequality that this allows. | In addition, the Scottish government have introduced their own system of education, Curriculum for excellence which they believe will give their citizens the best opportunities from the education system. |
| **3.** Another devolved area of the Scottish government is housing. | This means that Scotland can determine its own housing policy which can be different than other parts of the UK and tailored toward issues with housing in Scotland. | For example, the SNP Scottish government have decided that they will not allow the sale of council housing (right to buy) policy to ensure that houses built for those unable to afford private housing is available such as the 15,500, social rented sector homes in Scotland. | In addition, the Scottish government announced in 2016 that they will invest £3 billion to build at least 50,000 new affordable homes, of which 35,000 will be for social rent. |

1. Explain, in detail, the **advantages** of the Additional Member System which is used to elect the Scottish Parliament.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One advantage of AMS is that it is more proportional than other systems. | This means that AMS is a system with 2 votes which is a compromise between FPTP and the list system and should ensure that the number of votes cast fairly represents the number of seats gained in the Scottish parliament. | For example, in the 2016 Scottish election, the green party gained 6.6% of the list share votes and got 6 seats in parliament.  | This shows that votes are less likely to be wasted as the people will be more fairly represented in Parliament. |
| 2. Another advantage of AMS is that there is more choice of representative. | This means that every voter has 2 votes under AMS. One vote is for a constituency representative and the other is for a list MSP. The list system uses proportional representation to elect 7 list MSPs for each area and the constituency vote elects one constituency MSP for an area. | For example in East Kilbride, the people are represented by Linda Fabiani as their constituency MSP and 7 other MSPs from various other parties using the list system. This means that individual voters can choose to contact any of the 8 MSPs who represent them and can find one which they feel will understand their viewpoint. | In addition, it can ensure more people are represented as there is more chance that a minority party will be represented allowing the electorate the chance to have their views heard. |
| 3.Another advantage of AMS is that there is more chance of a coalition government. | This means that due to the hybrid system of AMS balancing the 2 types of votes, it is more likely that a coalition government will be formed. This would allow more compromise in government and greater discussion and would stop any one party being able to push through all of their own policies. | For example, the first 2 elections of the Scottish Parliament were coalition governments with Labour-lib democrats sharing power.  | However, since 2007 there have been minority and majority governments showing that a coalition is not always the case under AMS. |

1. Explain, in detail, the disadvantages of the Additional Member System which is used to elect the Scottish Parliament.

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| Point | Explanation | Example |  |
| 1. One disadvantage of AMS is that it is complicated and difficult to understand.
 | This means that people may find it hard to understand the 2 vote system and what their vote represents. This may mean that people are put off voting and so the government does not represent as many people as their voices are not being heard by not voting. | For example, in the 2016 Scottish election only 55.6% of Scots voted. This may be due to the confusing AMS system meaning that 44% of the electorate did not have a say in their representation in government. | However, less that 1% of votes were spoiled showing that those who did vote, understood the system well enough to make their vote count. |
| 1. Another disadvantage of AMS is that it is difficult to understand the role of all the 8 representatives.
 | This means that every voter has 2 votes under AMS. One vote is for a constituency representative and the other is for a list MSP. The list system uses proportional representation to elect 7 list MSPs for each area and the constituency vote elects one constituency MSP for an area. This can seem like too many and the choice can seem overwhelming and confusing. | For example in East Kilbride, the people are represented by Linda Fabiani as their constituency MSP and 7 other MSPs from various other parties using the list system. This means that individual voters can choose to contact any of the 8 MSPs who represent them but most people do not know all 8 and will tend to contact their constituency MSP. This means that the other 7 MSPs do not perhaps work as hard to represent the people and could be regarded as a waste. | In addition, the list MSPs would not feel the same loyalty to their constituents as they are chosen for the list by their party and so would be more inclined to stick to their party line whereas a constituency MSP may work harder knowing that the constituents specifically voted for them. |
| 1. Another disadvantage of AMS is that it is less likely to elect a majority government.
 | This means that due to the proportionality that AMS tries to achieve it is unlikely that one party will achieve overall power. This means that it will be more difficult to vote policies that a party has promised in a manifesto and means that discussions and votes will take longer meaning that the electorate will not see changes happening at the speed that a majority government could achieve. | For example, in the Scottish Parliament election in 2016, no party gained a majority. The SNP got the most seats but not enough for a majority and have a minority government at the moment. This has meant that Nicola Sturgeon had to give more time for discussion on a vote for a second referendum as there was no a guarantee that she would win as she does not have a majority of votes in her party and had to convince those in other parties to vote for this. | However, a majority government is clearly possible under AMS as the 2011 Scottish Parliament produced.  |

1. Describe, in detail, the ways in which political parties in Scotland campaign to get their candidates elected as MSPs.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1. One way that parties can get their candidates elected in through televised debates.
 | This means that members of parties involved in the elections can debate with each other on a public platform and show the public their viewpoints and policies as well as their personalities.  | For example, prior to the 2016 Scottish Election Nicola Sturgeon represented her party in a televised debate and had a platform to justify her party’s policies and show the strength of her character. | It is argued that these opportunities give the public a good chance to understand the differences between parties and make an informed choice. |
| 2. Another way that parties can get their candidates elected is through leaflets. | This means that leaflets outlining the candidate’s policies and commitments can be posted through letterboxes giving constituents information to decide on who to vote for.  | For example, prior to the 2016 Scottish Election the conservative party produced leaflets detailing the role of the Conservative party in being an effective check on the SNP government. This managed to persuade a significant number of Scots to vote for them as they gained 16 seats in 2016 from the 2011 election.  | In addition, local issues can be highlighted on these leaflets to persuade people to vote for the party that will look after important local concerns. |
| 3.Another way that parties can get their candidates elected is by Canvassing. | This means that candidates or party representatives go door to door to speak to people to persuade them about their candidates’ qualities to represent the electorate. | For example, prior to the 2016 Scottish election, Linda Fabiani went door to door in East Kilbride to persuade the people that she had their interests at heart and was the right person to represent them at the Scottish Parliament.  | In addition, this tactic was successful as 55.7% of the East Kilbride constituency voted Fabiani and she remained the MSP for the area. |

1. Describe, in detail, the work of MSPs.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.MSPs hold the Scottish government to account in parliament. | This means that MSPs can ask questions in the Scottish parliament and make sure Ministers justify their decision making. Every Thursday the First Minister faces questions from MSPs at First Minister’s Question time. | For example, in 2016 Conservative MSP and leader Ruth Davidson asked First Minister Nicola Sturgeon what her government would do to protect the Scottish economy from any negative effects of leaving the EU. | This shows that MSPs are vital to ensure that the government justifies the decisions it makes. |
| 2. Another role of an MSP is to sit on a committee | This means that MSPs can discuss and scrutinise upcoming legislation, often listening to expert opinions and legal information to make an informed judgement to give parliament as much information prior to any voting taking place. | For example, prior to the vote on minimum alcohol pricing, the health and sport committee took guidance and testimony from medical specialists to determine the negative effects of binge drinking and the problems that Scotland was facing due to this.  | In addition, the Scottish parliament committees have a much bigger role than in Westminster, often working closely together and leaving party loyalty aside. |
| 3.Another role of an MSP is to pass legislation | This means that MSPs can vote for bills to be passed into law at the Scottish Parliament and make a difference to the lives of the people in Scotland. | For example, in 2016 MSPs voted to pass the bill to make it illegal for adults to smoke in a car with children present. This has an impact on the health of the children of Scotland and allows MSPs to make a difference in their lives. | In addition, MSPs recently voted on a second independence referendum which would have a huge impact on the people of Scotland. |

1. Describe, in detail, the work of the Scottish Parliament.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One power of the Scottish government is to provide a check. | This means that parliament can question the decisions made by the executive. | For example, Ruth Davidson questioned Nicola Sturgeon recently on her determination for a second referendum which meant that the SNP had to justify their reasons to the Scottish people. | In addition, the SNP have had to justify their spending on public services such as in Education as the Conservative party have continually questioned their decisions on school curriculum policies and spending. |
| 2. Another power of the Scottish Parliament is the passing of laws in devolved areas | This means that in the area of health, members of the Scottish parliament can debate and then vote on introducing laws which will benefit the health of the Scottish people. | For example, following committee review and debate, the Scottish Parliament voted on the Minimum pricing of alcohol in 2012 to ensure that Scots would find it more difficult to obtain large volumes of cheap alcohol and suffer the health and social implications. | In addition, the Scottish parliament passed the smoking ban in public places before any other part of the UK as they wanted to protect the Scottish people from the effects of passive smoking as they became more widely known.  |
| 3.Another power of the Scottish parliament is to discuss issues of concern to the Scottish electorate | This means that the Scottish Parliament will take a Scottish viewpoint, and look at ways to benefit the people of Scotland. | For example, when the UK government introduced the Bedroom tax and it became clear that this would be detrimental to a number of Scottish people. The Scottish Parliament discussed ways to remove the negative impact and put money into a fund to offset the economic disadvantages on the Scottish people.  | In addition, the Scottish Parliament has been discussing the implications of Brexit on the people of Scotland and having discussions with representatives in Europe to ensure that the people of Scotland are not adversely affected.  |

1. Describe, in detail, the powers of the First Minister in the Scottish Government.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One power of the First Minister is to appoint ministers. | This means that she can decide which MSPs should have responsibility to head areas of the Scottish government where key decisions are examined and made.  | For example, after the 2016 Scottish election, John Swinney was given the position of education secretary.  | In addition, Nicola Sturgeon has spoken about education and the attainment gap being a top priority so it was important to find the right person to oversee and head this department. |
| 2. The First Minister also chairs the Scottish Cabinet. | This means that the cabinet are responsible for creating and directing Scottish government policy. The first minister can use her position as chair to decide the agenda and time allotted to each area ensuring that her priorities are dealt with. | For example, Nicola Sturgeon can decide theCabinet’s strongest focus such as enabling a second independence referendum and direct discussion and direction towards these areas.  | In addition, the first minister can give less time to areas that she does not feel are as important, ensuring that they do not have the same time or discussion. |
| 3.The First Minister also takes First ministers questions in the Scottish Parliament. | This means that MSP’s ask the first minister about current issues every Thursday at noon for half an hour. The  | For example inFebruary 2016 Nicola Sturgeon was asked to explain her government’s record on education as a report c was published showing the poor rating of Scotland in Europe regarding attainment. | In addition, the First minister has to defend her government’s position to prevent the Scottish people loosing trust in her decisions.  |

1. Describe, in detail, the ways in which people in Scotland can participate in democracy in Scotland.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One way that the people can participate is to Vote.  | This means that Scottish citizens over 16 can vote in Scottish Parliament elections and in referenda to get the government and decisions they want.  | For example, Scottish people voted No to independence in the 2014 referendum. | This meant that the people were able to decide the outcome of the referendum where 84% of people took part and 55% decided that Scotland would remain as part of the union. |
| 2. Another way that people can participate is to join pressure groups.  | This means that Pressure groups are a group of people with a shared belief or aim and who try to collectively pressure the Government to change a law or keep an existing law. | For example, the pressure group, The Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems campaigned for the introduction of the minimum pricing of Alcohol legislation. This group provided relevant and accurate evidence to the government on the dangers of binge drinking to persuade the government to back this legislation. | In addition, Legislation to introduce a Minimum Unit Price of 50p was passed without opposition by the Scottish Parliament in May 2012. The legislation was due to come into force in April 2013 but was delayed until October 2016 due to opposition from the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) who have fought its implementation every step of the way as it against their interests. The SWA continue to fight its implementation. |
| 3. People can protest / march / demonstrate.  | This shows the government the strength of public feeling on an issue and they may feel they need to respond if lots of people are protesting on an issue, making them look bad and losing voters support. | For example, supporters of Scottish independence gathered and demonstrated in public areas such as George Square in Glasgow to increase public awareness and support for their cause. | This played a large part in the engagement of the Scottish people, leading to a massive 84% turnout of the electorate. |

1. Describe, in detail, the rights and responsibilities of citizens in Scotland when participating in democracy.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.People have a right to vote | This means that Scottish citizens over 16 can vote in Scottish Parliament elections and in referenda to get the government and decisions they want. But they have the responsibility to ensure that they gather information to make an informed choice. | For example, Scottish people elected an SNP minority government in 2016 and voted No to independence in the 2014 referendum.  | This shows the effect of this right and the need for it to reflect the will of the people as these decisions affect the people of Scotland for many years. |
| 2. People have a right to join pressure groups  | Pressure groups are a group of people with a shared belief or aim and who try to collectively pressure the Government to change a law or keep an existing law. But they have the responsibility to stay within the law and not hurt anyone during their protest. | For example, the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) campaign are against nuclear weapons in Scotland. Many of the supporters have been involved in chaining themselves to the gates of the Faslane base in Scotland and have been arrested. | The campaigning methods mean that it is difficult to have discussion with the government as they are continually on the wrong side of the law.  |
| 3.People can protest / march / demonstrate. | This shows the government the strength of public feeling on an issue and they may feel they need to respond if lots of people are protesting on an issue, making them look bad and losing voters support. But they have the responsibility to not incite violence and to inform the police before a protest to ensure that it can be as safe and unobstructed as possible. | For example, supporters of Scottish independence gathered and demonstrated in public areas such as George Square in Glasgow to ensure that this could increase public awareness and support for their cause. | In addition, this was a key reason that there was such a high turnout in the independence referendum (84%). |

1. Explain, in detail, why many people in Scotland choose to vote in elections.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One reason that people vote is to ensure that changes are made which benefit them.  | This means that people who wanted to have independence in Scotland would vote for the SNP.  | For example, the 46.7% of people who voted for the SNP with their constituency vote will support the SNP in their quest for a second independence referendum as this would benefit their interests. | In addition, the people who voted for the SNP may also agree with other policies such as free tuition fees and want these to continue as it would benefit them. |
| 2. Another reason that people vote is to ensure that radical parties do not gain power. | This means that people will make sure that their vote will count against parties which have ideas which the majority of the public would not agree with, such as UKIP. | For example, in the 2016 Scottish election, even though 46,426 people voted for UKIP in the list seats, they did not gain any seats as more people voted for other parties.  | In addition, some people will vote tactically and vote for another party to ensure that a party which they do not want to have any power cannot get elected.  |
| 3.Another reason that people vote is because they feel that they have a democratic right to vote. | This means that Scotland is a country which gives its people a say in who governs and makes decisions but that people must take part and vote for full democratic rule.  | For example, in the 2016 Scottish election 55.6% of Scots voted. This means that just over half of the people of Scotland had a say in their government and who can make decisions on their behalf. | However, it also means that just under half of Scots did not vote and are not represented. This was the first Scottish Parliament election which allowed 16/17 year olds the right to vote and have a say in their government.  |

1. Describe, in detail, the rights and responsibilities of citizens in Scotland related to voting.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.Citizens have the right to vote and the responsibility to use it. | Scottish citizens over 16 can vote in Scottish Parliament elections and in referenda to get the government and decisions they want. But they have the responsibility to firstly register to vote then to use their vote. If they don’t use their vote, some may say they have lost their right to complain about government decisions.  | For example, Scottish people elected an SNP minority government in 2016, but turnout was just 56%, meaning 44% of the electorate never used their right to vote but have ended up with an SNP Government they may disagree with. | It can be argued that the complicated AMS system may be a barrier to some people in Scotland voting. |
| 2. Right to vote, responsibility to make sure you know what you are voting for | There are a number of ways people can inform themselves about what candidates or parties stand for so they are voting for a party / candidate that shares their beliefs. People should read newspapers, watch TV news and debates, read campaign leaflets, and read party manifestos to find out what each party is promising so they can make an informed choice. | For example, in the 2016 election, the SNP were promising to keep university tuition free so people who agreed with that may have voted SNP, and the Conservatives were promising to oppose a second independence referendum, so people who agreed with that may have voted Conservative.  | Some people claim that the only information that they receive before a campaign is biased and that lies are always told. This makes them disengage with the voting process as they do not know who to believe. |
| 3.Right to vote, responsibility to understand how the voting system works | Scottish Parliament elections use a complicated proportional system of voting called AMS where voters get 2 votes so people need to understand the difference between the votes before voting so they do not make mistakes.  | The first vote is a constituency vote that elects a constituency MSP and the second vote is to elect 7 additional regional MSPs to represent a larger region, so people need to be aware of this to avoid making mistakes like in 2007 where over 140,000 ballot papers were ‘spoiled’. Many were filled in incorrectly because many people did not understand how AMS worked.  | Some people may feel that having too many representatives make it difficult to decide who to vote for and to understand the purpose of these representatives. |

1. Describe, in detail, the ways in which the media tries to influence the Scottish Government.

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.One way the media tries to influence the Scottish government is by online petitions | Social media can attract millions of people to support a cause. If the petition can attract a significant amount of signatures and show public support then the government may feel compelled to act in the interests of the public.  | For example, Greenpeace are running an online petition to persuade the Scottish government to introduce a bottle deposit return scheme in Scotland to help deal with the plastic pollution problem, explaining that up to 12.7 million tonnes of plastic waste enters the ocean every year, killing marine life, threatening ecosystems and contaminating seafood.  | Greenpeace are hoping to convince Scottish people that a deposit return scheme will work by charging a little bit extra when you buy a bottled drink, then refunding it when the bottle is returned. Then more bottles that are returned, the more can be re-used or recycled, reducing the amount that end up as litter, in our oceans and in landfill. As Scotland was the first in the UK to introduce a plastic bag charge - now there’s a chance it could lead the way on tackling plastic bottle pollution and set an example to the rest of the UK. |
| 2. Another way that the media can influence the government is by newspaper coverage. | This means that newspapers have a wide public readership with some newspapers reaching millions of homes and the government may feel that they have to respond to negative publicity. | For example, on the run up to the 2014 Independence referendum, newspapers were predicting a Yes vote and this led the No campaign parties to pledge the VOW to allow and agree with the Scottish government to give greater powers to Scotland.  | The high engagement of the public in the 2014 independence referendum and the fear that this would result in a YES vote, is one reason that parties came together to VOW more powers to the Scottish devolved government following a No vote. This has resulted in Scotland having more tax powers than before the referendum showing the impact that newspapers can have on the government.  |
| **3.**Another way that the media can influence is by campaigning for issues**.** | This means that social media such as twitter, facebook and Instagram can be used to highlight campaigns which the government feel pressured to respond to.  | For example, an online petition was used to generate support to oppose the closure of the One Stop shop autistic facility in Motherwell and force the Scottish government to provide additional funds. | This was not successful but did highlight the issue and instigated the Scottish government to provide funds for other autistic support in the community. |

1. Describe, in detail, the rights and responsibilities of pressure groups when participating in democracy in Scotland:

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| **Point**  | **Explanation** | **Example** |  |
| 1.Pressure groups have the right to campaign for a cause  | They can participate and pressurise governments to do what they believe in, but they have a responsibility to do so within the law; they must act peacefully, non-violently and legally, not intimidating members of the public who may disagree with them.  | e.g. Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) campaign against nuclear weapons and want Trident submarines carrying them in Scotland to be scrapped, but some members have been arrested for protesting illegally by blockading the nuclear base at Faslane and trying to prevent workers at the base from going in.  | This can attract publicity to gain more support and put pressure on the government to support their campaign.  |
| 2. Pressure groups have the right to organise public marches and demonstrations | But they have the responsibility to inform the police and council in advance of planned large demonstrations to allow them to plan for rerouting vehicles in the area safely and to supervise the demonstration to ensure public safety.  | For example, in 2016 supporters of Scottish independence including members of ‘Yes Scotland’ group demonstrated in George Square, Glasgow, but they needed the permission of Glasgow council and police before the event could go ahead.  | The attention that these groups gained was one factor in the engagement of the Scottish people in the referendum which was shown in the 84.6% turnout which is the highest in any UK election since 1918. |
| 3.Pressure groups have the exert pressure on the government to make legislation for their cause | But they have the responsibility to engage respectfully with the government and to argue their cause truthfully instead of resorting to misleading with lies.  | For example, the pressure group, The Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems campaigned for the introduction of the minimum pricing of Alcohol legislation. This group provided relevant and accurate evidence to the government on the dangers of binge drinking to persuade the government to back this legislation. | Legislation to introduce a Minimum Unit Price of 50p was passed without opposition by the Scottish Parliament in May 2012. The legislation was due to come into force in April 2013 but was delayed until October 2016 due to opposition from the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) who have fought its implementation every step of the way as it against their interests. The SWA continue to fight its implementation. |

1. Describe, in detail, how the media influences elections and democracy in Scotland.

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| Point  | Explanation | Example |  |
| 1. One media influence on democracy are Newspapers as they can be biased. | Newspapers are allowed to openly support or oppose parties, which may influence how their readers vote and their opinions on politics. Biased means being one sided or unbalanced.  | For example, before the 2016 Scottish Parliament election, the Scottish Sun newspaper supported the SNP who then won the most seats in the election.  | In addition, in the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, the Herald backed Yes and the Scotsman backed No. These newspapers used their influence to persuade their readers and newspapers have been criticised for scaremongering to persuade the public to vote No in the referendum and led to the No victory. |
| 2. Another way that media can influence democracy is by Newspapers supporting political campaigns. | This means that newspapers can urge readers to sign a petition to pressurise the Scottish Government to do something and influence the government to act as they do not want to lose potential voters and do not want to attract the criticism. | For example, in 2013 the Daily Record newspaper launched a campaign to tighten the laws on dangerous dogs, and urged readers to sign a petition calling on the Scottish Government to tighten the law.  | In addition, The Government then responded by announcing plans to licence and microchip all dogs in Scotland to prevent attacks on people happening and to hold dog owners more responsible. This shows the influence that newspapers can have on democracy. |
| 3.Another way that the media can influence democracy is through TV which can inform and educate Scottish citizens. | This means that TV media is a format used by parties to justify their decisions to the public as it has such wide audience. They can influence politics by reporting on Scottish politics informing voters about the issues affecting elections and interviewing politicians to make them justify their decisions.  | For example, before the 2016 Scottish Parliament election, SNP leader and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was interviewed on BBC’s Reporting Scotland and asked to justify her government’s record on education and their pledge to close the school attainment gap. | In addition, TV leadership debates are an important way that politicians can get their policies and personality across to influence the electorate to vote for their party and put them in power. This shows the importance of the media in influencing democracy. |

World power-USA:

1. Describe, in detail, the political rights and responsibilities of the citizens of a world power you have studied

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| Point | Explanation | Example | Expand |
| 1 One right people have in the USA is the right to vote in State and Federal elections | This means that citizens can decide who they wish to make decisions for them in areas of government. However, the responsibility is to register and use their vote. | For example, the turnout in elections is quite low in the USA for some minority groups as they feel that voting makes no difference and they become disengaged. | In addition, it can be difficult to register to vote due to the amount of documentation that some states require and this is often more difficult for citizens living in poverty to complete. |
| 2 Another right In the USA you also have the right protest | This means that citizens can act together to influence the government to change laws or policies. The responsibility when protesting is to do it peacefully and obey the law | For example, the Interest Group Black Lives Matter have organised mass demonstrations against the discrimination of Black people in the USA criminal system.  | In addition, They often take part in illegal methods which can turn the public and government against their methods and stop their group being effective at influencing the government. |
| 3 Another right is the freedom of speech. | This means that you have the right to criticise the work of the Federal and State Governments. The responsibility is to do so fairly and not to tell lies and be offensive. | For example, Obama introduced the Affordable Care Act which aimed to help those with no health insurance. Obama’s government have been criticised over this as many people feel it is too costly. | In addition, criticism over this health care act has been blamed on influencing the public to vote against the Democrat party in the 2016 presidential election and so can make a key difference to the country.  |

1. Describe, in detail, ways citizens from a world power you have studied can participate in politics

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| Point | Explanation | Example |  |
| 1 One way American citizens can participate is by voting for a representative to make decisions on their behalf in government. | This means that in America, people must register to vote for their president and then on Election Day people can participate by turning out to vote for the Presidential candidate of their choice. | For example in November 2016, people voted through the electoral college system to elect Donald Trump the 45th president of the USA | In addition, in federal elections, you vote for the President (e.g. Donald Trump) every 4 years and Congress every 2 years giving citizens a regular chance to influence the decision making in their country. |
| 2 Another wayAmerican citizens can participate is by Campaigning for a party during election time | This means that in America citizens can help to promote the party that has the policies that they want to influence the country in government and help that party to persuade people to vote and put them into power.  | For example, party members can get involved in election campaigns by handing out leaflets detailing what the candidate will do if elected and attending party rallies where they can show support for the candidates for the particular party and going door to door to talk to the public about the policies that will help them if they vote for a particular party such as the Republicans.  | In addition, campaigning by the republican party in the 2014 midterm elections led to the Republican having huge gains in congress and gaining the power to block many of the Obama led changes such as on gun control. |
| 3 Another way that citizens can participate is through becoming a candidate, | This means that eligible citizens can put themselves forward to become a government representative and influence the government to make changes that they believe in.  | For example, in 2016 Donald Trump who had no political experience decided that he wanted to make America great again and make changes himself to do this, so put himself forward as a candidate to be president and won. | Donald Trump is now able to put forward policies that he believes will make a difference in America such as changing the health care system. |

1. Explain, in detail, the structure of the government in a world power you have studied

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| Point | Explanation | Example |  |
| 1 One of the structures of the US Government is the executive branch | This means that the executive branch is made up of the president and vice president and executive departments and its function is to carry out and enforce laws.  | For example, the President (Currently Donald Trump). Has been using this power to ensure that government agencies such as the FBI are deporting illegal immigrants under the immigration laws of the country. | In addition, a President is elected every 4 years. This means that the people can change the head of the executive branch after 4 years if they do not like the decisions made. |
| 2 Another of the structures of the US Government is Congress. | This means that the legislative branch is made up of the two houses of Congress—the Senate and the House of Representatives. The most important duty of the legislative branch is to make laws. Laws are written, discussed and voted on in Congress. | For example, congress voted and discussed the Affordable Care act to change the way that health insurance companies could work and passed this act meaning that 30 million more Americans could access health care. | In addition, Congress is split into the Senate(100 Senators) and the House of Representatives (435) American citizens have the right to vote for Senators and Representatives through free, confidential ballots.•Senate – There are two elected Senators per state, totalling 100 Senators. A Senate term is six years.•House of Representatives – There are 435 elected Representatives, which are divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. A Representative serves a two-year term. |
| 3 Another institution of the US Government is the Supreme Court | This branch of the US Government is sometimes called the judicial branch and the judges determine whether a law passed is Constitutional.  | For example, in 2013 The Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, which established a formula for Congress to use when determining if a state or voting jurisdiction requires prior approval before changing its voting laws.  | The Supreme Court consists of 9 judges (justices) who are appointed by a President when a previous judge dies or retires. |

1. Explain, in detail, causes of social and economic inequalities in a world power you have studied.
2. Explain, in detail, why some groups from a world power you have studied experience social and economic inequality.

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| Point | Explanation | Example |  |
| 1 One reason why some groups in the USA experience social and economic inequalities is due to education | This means ethnic minorities tend to have a poorer education compared to Whites. Blacks and Hispanics tend to live in poorer inner city areas, referred to as ghettos or barrios, and so attend schools which are not well equipped as in richer areas. Many white children attend state of the art schools with high quality sports and educational facilities, Blacks and Hispanics often attend run-down schools with little in the way of facilities as school funds are determined by the wealth of the area. | For example this leads to poorer employment opportunities for ethnic minority groups. High School drop-out rates are higher for blacks and Hispanics (Black (58%) and Hispanics (46%) having the smallest percentage of high school graduates compared to whites at 81%) and because educational attainment is lower, many end up either unemployed or in low-paid work. Because minorities are less likely to have university degrees because they cannot afford fees or failed to gain a scholarship, they end up working in jobs with lower pay and less chance of promotion. | In contrast, many white Americans attend top universities like Harvard and Yale and gain degrees which give them the chance to enter high paying jobs in areas such as Law and Medicine. This reinforces the inequality in income which is a problem for disadvantaged groups in the USA. |
| 2 A reason why some groups in the USA experience inequalities is due to housing. | This means that the American welfare system is not as generous as the UK system and so if Americans are unemployed or on low wages they can only afford to live in the cheapest housing available. | For example, having less money means that poorer Americans may end up in housing which is overcrowded or damp, leading to health problems making work harder and so making it difficult to afford a better house.  | In addition, in some poorer areas there are higher levels of drug abuse with “crack dens” common in poorer parts of cities like Baltimore and Newark.  |
| 3 Another reason that Americans suffer inequalities is due to health. | This means that those on a low income may not afford health insurance and may not have access health care so are less likely to be diagnosed or treated early. Many Americans struggle to make enough money to provide for themselves and their families and so do not buy health insurance. This means an uninsured American may not seek treatment as they cannot afford it. | For example, those Americans with well paid jobs are more likely to have health care as a benefit of their job and are then more likely to receive high quality health care which would help them stay in good health. They can also afford a healthy diet and activities to extend lifespan which will make them more likely to have better health than those on low or no incomes.  | Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to be in poverty linked to education and health. Poor health acts as a barrier to a good job or education. Blacks and Hispanics are less likely to have access to healthcare meaning that they have lower life expectancies compared to Whites. Obama had reformed healthcare to make it more affordable but health inequalities still exist. |

1. Explain, in detail, consequences of social and economic inequalities in a world power you have studied (responses)

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| Point | Explanation | Example |  |
| 1 One way to deal with the issue of unemployment and poverty are welfare to work schemes |  This means that the government give financial help to people in poverty while proving that they are trying to work. | For example, Welfare to Work operates by the Federal and State Governments tying support to finding work poor are given welfare support such as Medicaid health insurance, child care and food stamps but this is only available to those actively seeking employment or who have taken up employment. | Supporters of Welfare to Work claim that more people have been ‘encouraged’ into work and this has increased the incomes of the poorest It has also reduced the cost of the welfare budget. Opponents claim that is has forced many people to work for very low wages (‘burger flipping jobs’) and not reduced poverty in the USA. |
| 2 Another way to help poverty is the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) | TANF is Federal financed but State run, and is the main policy to tackle child poverty in the US by getting as many single parents back to work as possible.  | For example, TANF is only available for a maximum of five years in a person’s life and the welfare benefits like transport and childcare are linked to finding or looking for work.  | Supporters of TANF claim the child poverty rate among single parents has fallen proving the ‘push’ provided by TANF to get single parents into work has been a success. Opponents argue that the level of child poverty in the US is still one of the highest in the developed world. |
| 3 Another way to improve education is the No Child Left Behind policy (NCLB). | NCLB requires schools within each state to reach a certain standard in basic skills if the state is to continue to receive federal funding for education | For example, by setting high standards in education and better tracking students’ progress, standards would be forced up and this should tackle education inequalities as poorer people should not have a poorer standard of education.  | Supporters of the Act claim reading and maths have improved at their fastest rate for many years and that results for Black and Hispanic children are at an all-time high making the gap between Black/Hispanic children and White children’s the lowest ever. Critics claim that tests have been inflated and NCLB has narrowed the curriculum as States focus resources on reading and maths to get funding. |
| 4.Another way to tackle inequalities is “Affirmative Action”. | This policy was introduced due to low numbers of minorities who are in top universities and promoted posts. | For example, it gives preferential treatment to minority applicants for university or jobs allowing minorities to get jobs over Whites who may be better suited/qualified. | This policy is controversial but it has increased the numbers of minorities attending university and getting better jobs which has helped to reduce racial inequalities in the USA. |

1. Explain, in detail, why some citizens may criticise their government for the limitations placed on their political rights.

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| Point | Explain | Example | Extension |
| Some citizens may criticise the American government because of difficulties with voter registration. | This means that Americans must be registered if they want to vote in elections.Sometimes this can be difficult and so many potential voters are unable to vote | Many Americans, especially Hispanics, do not register to vote in elections which prevents them from taking part in the democratic process. In 2016 only 53% of Hispanics voted in the presidential elections. This may be due to language barriers as Spanish rather than English is some people’s first language making registering difficult. | It is clear that the US government has not done enough to tackle this issue meaning that almost half of all Hispanic voters are unable to vote in elections. |
| Another criticism is in relation to the lack of choice of political parties in the USA | Politics in the USA is dominated by the “big two” – the Democrats and Republicans. Although other parties such as the Libertarian Party exist, they have little or no representation at state or federal level.  | For example although some groups have broken away from the mainstream political parties such as the “Tea Party” movement which consists of Republican supporters who disagree with some of the Republican Party’s views. This means that realistically voters in the US can only choose between two parties in elections. | This means that citizens do not have the level of choice that other countries have and this threatens the idea of a true democracy. |
| Another criticism is that the US does not always allow for freedom of speech. | This means that the US government have been accused of punishing people for criticising the government when it is a right on the US constitution. | For example, In 2013, a US man named Edward Snowden who worked for a Government agency called the NSA (National Security Advisory) released state secrets to newspapers. As a result he has been threatened with a lengthy prison sentence that he fled the country and now lives in Russia. | Although he broke US law some people think that he should have the freedom to say what he wants. |
| Another criticism is *corruption when it comes to campaign finance.* | This means that political parties receive donations from individuals and private companies like oil companies giving billions of dollars in donations in return for laws being made which benefit them. | For example, in 2010, the big oil companies gave the Republican Party $21.8billion in donations. | This can be seen undemocratic as it means that rich companies can have an unfair influence on the law in the USA. |

1. Describe, in detail, two ways the World Power you have studied has had an impact on other countries

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| Point | Explanation | Example |  |
| 1 The USA can impact other countries through its military power | This means that the USA has such a large military force that it has the power to take on any other country and enforce its will or act as a peacemaker, righting wrongs in different parts of the world. | For example, the USA as the richest country in the world can afford to spend more on the military than any other country, for example in 2016 it spent $1686 billion on its military budget. This means that it can afford the most sophisticated weaponry which gives it a huge advantage over other countries. | This means that other countries can feel intimidated or threatened by the USA’s power and either agree to follow the USA or increase their own army to defend themselves against the USA such as North Korea and Russia. |
| 2 The USA can impact through its role in world organisations. | This means that the USA was one of the original countries that set up NATO in 1949 and still remains its most influential member, as it provides far more than any other country in terms of finance, troop and resource commitments.  | For example, the USA has played the lead role in NATO’s mission to Afghanistan (ISAF) which was the only time NATO invoked its common defence clause, Article Five, after 9/11 when the USA was subject to a major terrorist attack and the organisation was led by the USA to declare war in Afghanistan. | This led to sacrifices of more than 1,000 European and Canadian soldiers killed in the Afghanistan war. |
| 3 The USA remains the richest country in the world and this economically impacts other countries. | This means that the US has the highest GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in the world at $16.2 trillion and It is the second largest trading nation in the world behind China and is the world’s largest manufacturer. | For example, many of the world’s biggest companies are American, including, Exxon Mobil, Wal-Mart, Chevron, Ford, General Motors, Hewlett-Packard, Apple, Microsoft and these companies employ and finance people in countries around the world. | The 2008-2009 recession following a collapse of the economy in the USA led to economic crisis in countries around the world including the UK. |