ESSENTIAL

SQA **EXAM PRACTICE**



STUDIES DERN

Exam Papers



Practice Questions 🚷



Practise extended questions for every question type

Complete 2 practice papers that mirror the real SQA exams

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KEY AREA INDEX GRID

Content	Practice Questions	Practice Paper A	Practice Paper B
Democracy in Scotland and the United Ki	ngdom		•
Alternatives for governance of Scotland			1a
Implications of decision to leave the EU		1b	
Effectiveness of parliamentary representatives	Exemplar		1b
Strengths and weaknesses of electoral systems	Exemplar	1c	1c
Ways of citizens to influence government decision-making		1a	
Factors which influence voting behaviour	Exemplar		
Social inequality	_	_	
Reasons why health inequalities exist	9	2b	
Effects of inequality on groups in society	13	8	2a
Individualist/collectivist viewpoint	3		2b
Effectiveness of measures to tackle inequalities	2	2a	
Crime and the law			
Legal rights and responsibilities			2c
Causes and theories of crime	4	2c	
Impact of crime on victims, offender and families	5		2d
Social and economic impact of crime on wider society	10		
Effectiveness of custodial and non- custodial responses to crime	14	2d	
World power			
Extent to which political systems allow democratic participation		3b	3b
Political institutions' ability to dominate decision-making	15		
Social-economic inequality on a specific group	11		3a
Effectiveness of government responses to socio-economic inequality	8		
International influence		3a	
World issues			
Social, economic and political causes of issue	6		3c
Effects of issue on individuals, families and communities	16	3c	
Effects of issue on governments involved and wider international community	12		3d
Effectiveness of individual countries in tackling issue Effectiveness of international organisations in tackling the issue	7	3d	

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Test your knowledge and understanding: 'Evaluate' questions	MARKS
Social issues in the United Kingdom: Social inequality 9 Evaluate the causes of health inequalities.	12
Social issues in the United Kingdom: Crime and the law	
10 Evaluate the social and economic impact of crime.	12
International issues: World power	
11 Evaluate the impact that inequality has on a specific group that you have studied. International issues: World issues	12
12 Evaluate the impact of the world issue you have studied on governments.	12
Test your knowledge and understanding:	
'Analysis' questions	
Social issues in the United Kingdom: Social inequality	
13 With reference to a group you have studied, analyse the impact of inequality on that group.	12
Social issues in the United Kingdom: Crime and the law	
14 Analyse the effectiveness of custodial sentences.	12
International issues: World power	
15 Analyse the powers of the executive branch of government.	12
International issues: World issues	
16 Analyse the impact that the world issue you have studied has had on individuals affected by the issue.	12

Paper 2

>> HOW TO ANSWER

Paper 2 contains questions that require you to evaluate the sources provided.

There are three questions on Paper 2.

- Question 1 is an **objectivity** question. This involves detecting and explaining the degree of objectivity in the sources provided. This question is worth 10 marks.
- ▶ Question 2 is a **conclusion** question. This involves drawing and supporting complex conclusions using a range of sources. This question is worth 10 marks.
- ▶ Question 3 is a **reliability** question. You must evaluate the reliability of a range of sources. This question is worth 8 marks.

Tips for success	Things to avoid
 Only use the sources provided. Use all the sources provided. Link evidence from the different sources to give a detailed argument. 	 Do not state your own knowledge or opinion on the topic. Do not just rely on one piece of evidence from a source to provide argument.
Interpret any statistical evidence to show how it links to the question being asked.	Do not just repeat the statistics without interpreting and explaining them.

Objectivity questions (10 marks)

>> HOW TO ANSWER

SQA marking guidelines

- ▶ You can gain up to 3 marks for a single developed point, depending on use of evidence and the quality of the analysis or evaluation.
- Marks are awarded where candidates synthesise information both within and between sources. For full marks, you must refer to all sources in your answer.
- ► There is a maximum of **8 marks** if no overall judgement is made on extent of accuracy of the statement.

How can you achieve these marks?

- ➤ You should provide around three arguments to **support** the statement, linking evidence from both within and between sources.
- ➤ You should then provide around three arguments to **oppose** the statement from both within and between sources.
- ➤ You must provide an overall conclusion to explain the extent to which the statement is correct.

Look at the question on the next page and see what you need to do to get full marks.

Top Tip!

Your overall conclusion should say the statement is correct to a (very) large extent or to a (very) limited extent and give evidence. Do not say something is totally correct/incorrect.

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MARKS

Question 2

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

SOURCE A

Zero-hours contracts allow employers to hire staff with no set working hours. This means employees work only when they are needed by their employer, often at short notice. Payment depends on hours worked. This benefits employers as it reduces their wage bill and can increase profits. However, it can lead to a high turnover of staff and can impact on productivity. This type of work contract is being increasingly used by employers. In 2016 the figure stood at an estimated 900,000 compared to 650,000 in 2013. This represents 3% of the UK workforce. Well-known companies such as McDonald's and Sports Direct have used these contracts, as have the NHS and charities. Zero-hours contracts are higher among young people than other age groups, with 37% of those employed on such contracts aged between 16 and 24.

The CBI (Confederation of British Industry) argue that zero-hours contracts have played an important part in Britain's economic recovery and in having one of the lowest unemployment rates in Europe – in Spain, for example, 50% of those under 25 are unemployed. The CBI states 'flexible contracts provide opportunities for work to help people build careers. They offer a choice to those who want flexibility in the hours they work, such as students, retired people, parents and carers'. The major users of these contracts are in jobs related to accommodation and food, and in administrative and support services. Employers argue that zero-hours contracts provide affordable services to the public and provide employment. Many services in the tourist industry, for example, need this flexibility to survive, and they provide crucial employment in rural areas. The CBI also state that many employees enjoy working with these contracts.

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) argue that many workers on zero-hours contracts are at risk of exploitation and 'for many workers they mean poverty pay and no way of knowing how often they'll be working from week to week'. Again, many workers on zero-hours contracts are prevented from taking other employment even if they are only working for four hours a week as their signed contracts state that employees must be available for work. These contracts mean employers avoid redundancy pay and paying pension contributions, with workers often unable to obtain credit references, loans or mortgages. Workers on these contracts would prefer guaranteed weekly hours and a significant number would prefer more hours. Many workers who achieve limited hours of work are forced to use food banks and to take out loans with very high interest rates.

SOURCE B

Survey findings of employment satisfaction – zero-hours and non-zero-hours workers

Issue	Zero-hours contract	Non-zero-hours contract
Satisfied with job	60	59
Work-life balance	65	58
Treated unfairly	27	29
Prefer more hours	40	10

SOURCE C

Gross weekly pay and average hours per week: zero-hours and non-zero-hours workers

Issue	Zero-hours contract	Non-zero-hours contract
Gross weekly pay	250	510
Average no. of hours per week	21	32

Attempt the following question, using only the information from Sources A, B and C. To what extent is it accurate to state that zero-hours contracts benefit only the employer?

10

ANSWERS TO PRACTICE PAPER A

Paper 1

Section 1: Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom

1(a) You can be credited in a number of ways up to a maximum of 12 marks.

Credit responses that make reference to:

- groups and methods used that influence decision-making
- analysis of influence of different pressure groups.

Credit reference to aspects of the following:

- ▶ Cause or interest groups can promote a single issue (for example, Friends of the Earth) or those that represent sectional interests (for example, trade unions, UNISON). Groups with financial means and larger membership and with a cause that has government support are more successful.
- ▶ Insider and outsider groups. Insider groups such as the BMA have excellent ties with government decision-makers and are included in private discussions. Outsider groups lack official recognition and have to convert/mobilise the public or take action to assert influence for example, students protesting against the raising of student fees used marches, petitions and contacting MPs.
- ▶ Examples of successful action may include: the Gurkhas winning full citizenship rights in the UK; also the Scottish legal profession persuaded the Scottish Government to delay the repeal of corroboration in Scottish court cases. However, pressure groups can be in conflict and may use UK or European courts to block government action. The Scottish whisky industry has challenged (and blocked) the introduction of minimum alcohol pricing in Scotland.
- ▶ Examples of failed pressure group activity: tension within the coalition Government of 2010–2015 ensured groups campaigning for an elected UK second chamber did not achieve the promised reform, as a Conservative backbench revolt led to the House of Lords reform bill being dropped.

Possible approaches to answering the question:

Response 1

The methods that a pressure group uses will depend on its relationship with the Government. If it is respected and has significant influence, it may work directly with the Government. The British Medical Association (BMA) and the Scottish legal establishment are examples of insider groups.

(Total 2 marks: 1 mark KU and 1 mark analysis)

Response 2

The methods that a pressure group uses will depend on its relationship with the Government. If it is respected and has significant influence it may work directly with the Government. The BMA is an example of an insider group supporting the introduction of minimum pricing of alcohol. The BMA, given its informed and expert knowledge, is regularly contacted by the Government and contributes to government health promotional campaigns, such as moderation in drinking and participation in exercise. This highlights the success of an insider pressure group in influencing government decisions.

(Total 4 marks: 2 marks KU and 2 marks analysis)

Response 3

In contrast to insider groups such as the CBI, pressure groups who have goals that are out of step with government policies usually have limited influence. They are unlikely to be consulted by the Government and will have limited contact with the Government. These outsider groups try to mobilise public opinion and achieve media attention through marches and leaflets. In 2010 the National Union of Students of England and Wales in England marched in London against a rise in tuition fees. Unfortunately, a minority of marchers began a riot, smashing shop windows and attacking the police. The protest did not force a government U-turn, and in fact the march damaged the image of the students. Therefore, outsider pressure groups are at a complete disadvantage in influencing decision-making compared to insider groups.

(Total 5 marks: 3 marks KU and 2 marks analysis)