



Government and Politics

A LEVEL Government and Politics: Scotland Topic Exploration Pack

November 2015

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OCR A Level Government and Politics

Topic Exploration Pack - Scotland



Contents

Introduction5

Links to Specification6

Historical background7

Devolution.....13

Questions25

Useful websites.....25

Teacher Resources.....26

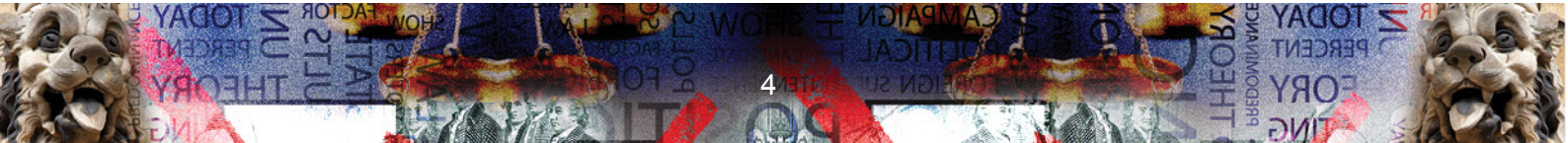
Learner Resources29



This activity offers an opportunity for English skills development.



This activity offers an opportunity for Maths skills development.



Introduction

In September 2014 the people of Scotland took part in a referendum over the issue of independence. The end of the Union appeared to be before us. To some this was unthinkable, to others a natural progression. The Government and Politics of Scotland is not a discrete part of the specification. However, it is one of the major issues in British politics today. Scottish devolution is one of the biggest constitutional changes to have taken place in the history of the Union. It also provides a wealth of different examples on the subjects of elections, party systems and referenda, which can be used in a range of examination questions. This topic exploration pack goes beyond the specification, covering the historical background to the constitutional issue in Scotland. It also covers the impact of Scottish culture, including sport and music. This will aid understanding of the issue today.

Aims and Objectives

- To understand the historical background of constitutional reform in Scotland
- To understand the use of referenda in Scotland
- To understand the Scottish Parliament elections and party system
- To understand the impact of Scottish devolution on the UK

Formative assessment

A range of tasks throughout the document to check knowledge and understanding

Summative assessment

Discuss the importance of constitutional change in Scotland since 1997

Links to Specification

AS Unit F851: Contemporary Politics of the UK

Political Parties

Party systems	One-, two-, multi-party and dominant party systems; advantages and disadvantages of various systems; the UK party system.
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Electoral Systems and Referenda

Functions	Purpose of elections and referenda
Electoral systems	Plurality systems; majority systems; proportional systems; hybrid systems.
Electoral systems in the UK	European; parliamentary; regional; local.
Electoral Reform in the UK	Recent reform; criticisms of the various electoral systems used in the UK; party attitudes to further reform.
Referenda	Types; referenda in the UK; arguments for and against.
Elections, referenda and the democratic process	Contribution to the democratic process; criticisms.
Key developments relating to electoral systems and referenda	

AS Unit F852: Contemporary Government of the UK

The Constitution

Constitutional Reform	Major reforms since 1997
Key developments in the UK constitution and constitutional reform	

Historical background

The Union of 1707

In 1603 James VI of Scotland became James I of England. For years he campaigned to create a United Kingdom. He was styled King of Great Britain. The Union Flag was created. However, Scotland and England maintained separate parliaments.

Scots were not allowed to trade with the English colonies in North America and the Caribbean. This led to the ill-fated Darien Scheme, an attempt to establish a Scottish trading colony in Panama. Darien was a disaster, bankrupting Scotland. The Scots had been forced to raise all the money themselves after King William put pressure on the City of London and investors on the Continent not to help the Scots.



This raised the possibility of Union with England. It had certain benefits. It would allow Scottish participation in the large single market of Great Britain. Scottish merchants would now have free access to the colonies. Great Britain would have a common defence policy. England and Scotland shared a common tongue, with English the language of politics, law and business in Scotland. England and Scotland shared the protestant faith.

The Scottish people were not keen on Union. There were riots on the streets of Glasgow and Edinburgh. However, the Scottish Parliament was sold on the idea. Union with England would bring 'the equivalent'. The English would give the Scots a sum equivalent to the money lost in the Darien Scheme. As the Scottish Parliament voted for the Union the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Seafield, said 'That's ane end of ane auld sang.'

Following 104 years of the Union of the Crowns the United Kingdom of Great Britain was established in 1707. Under the Treaty of Union a number of British institutions were created:

- A British Parliament
- A British Army and Navy
- A British single currency and single market

However, certain aspects of Scotland were protected:

- Scots Law
- The Church of Scotland

The Jacobite uprisings of 1715 and 1745 are often portrayed as Scotland v England. However, these were not attempts to regain Scottish independence. They were very much about returning the Stuarts to the throne. It is important to note that more Scots fought for the Government forces, than the Jacobites. By 1745, the benefits of Union and trade with the British Empire were clear to the merchants of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Activity 1

Identify and rank five reasons for Scottish support for the Union with England.

The late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

During the late eighteenth and nineteenth century Scotland flourished. Trade with England and the colonies fuelled economic growth, especially in Glasgow, with its tobacco lords. Scotland's parish schools and five universities led to an outpouring of intellectual achievements, led by the likes of David Hume and Adam Smith. Scots played a disproportionate part in the British armed forces and the British Empire. By the twentieth century Glasgow was the second city of the Empire, building a quarter of the world's ships and trains.

Some of the world's great inventors of the period were Scottish, for example:

- James Watt - the steam engine
- John McAdam - macadamized roads
- Thomas Telford - canal design
- Alexander Graham Bell - the telephone
- Sir James Young Simpson - anesthetics

1800 saw the union of Great Britain and Ireland. Throughout the nineteenth century there was a campaign for Irish Home Rule, and the re-establishment of an Irish Parliament. William Gladstone and the Liberals put forward a plan for 'Home Rule all round'. This would have meant the establishment of national parliaments for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, overseen by an Imperial Parliament. This idea was not popular with people in Great Britain. Home Rule was seen as the beginning of the end for the Empire. It finished off Gladstone, and for a time, the Liberals.

Administrative devolution

There had been a Secretary of State for Scotland from the Union of the Parliaments up to the 1745 Jacobite Uprising. From 1746 to 1885 responsibility for Scotland lay with the Home Secretary. It was generally exercised by the Lord Advocate. The Lord Advocate is the chief legal officer in Scotland. In the late nineteenth century Scotland experienced a form of devolved administration with the introduction of the cabinet position of Scottish Secretary and the establishment of the Scottish Office in 1885. From 1892 the Scottish Secretary sat in cabinet but it was only in 1926 when the post was upgraded to Secretary of State that cabinet membership was formally recognised.

Government functions increased greatly in the nineteenth century. Local bodies were dealing with matters such as the poor law, public health and education. The position of Scottish Secretary and Scottish Office were created to oversee the bodies involved in these policy areas. The Scottish Office was responsible for agriculture, fisheries, health, education and home affairs.



Activity 2

Produce a poster for or against Home Rule for Scotland.

The Rise of Scottish Nationalism

The Scottish National Party was founded in 1934 through the merger of the National Party of Scotland and the Scottish Party. It first won a seat at the Motherwell by election in 1945 but Dr Robert McIntyre lost the seat again at the 1945 General Election. It was not until 1967 that the SNP again won a seat, when Winnie Ewing was victorious in a by-election in Hamilton. In the

October 1974 General Election the SNP made was seemed like a real breakthrough and had eleven MPs elected.

Following the SNP victory in Hamilton, a Royal Commission was established to examine the legislature and government of the nations and regions of the United Kingdom. It started under Lord Crowther in 1969 and reported under Lord Kilbrandon in 1973. There was not a unanimous agreement, but there was support for devolved assemblies in Scotland and Wales.

The 1970s saw a surge in Scottish nationalism. As Britain and the Empire declined, oil had been discovered off the coast in the North Sea leading to SNP slogans like 'It's Scotland's Oil' and 'Rich Scots or Poor Britons'. Tartan was trendy. The Bay City Rollers and Rod Stewart rocked the charts. Scotland qualified for the 1974 and 1978 World Cups. They performed well in 1974 but Scotland was disappointed in 1978 when the Scots had been built up as one of the favourites, only to be knocked out in the first round. They did, however, defeat the Netherlands who would later reach the final.

Following the election of a Labour government again, in 1974, plans were put in place for a white paper and a bill for devolution in Scotland and Wales. This bill was withdrawn in 1977 and two separate bills were introduced. However, the devolution proposals would be subject to referendums.

The 1979 referendum

By 1979 the Labour government was in real difficulty with a tiny majority, dependent on support from the Liberals, the SNP and Plaid Cymru. A Labour backbencher, George Cunningham, introduced an amendment which brought in a 40% rule: unless devolution was supported by 40% of the Scottish electorate it would not pass. 51.6% voted in support, but this represented only 32.9% of the electorate. For now, devolution was dead. The SNP withdrew their support from the Labour government which subsequently collapsed.

Another spanner was thrown in the devolution works by Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian. His famous question asked why it was right that Scottish MPs could vote on English matters but English MPs could not vote on Scottish matters. It was a question still unanswered in 2014. It does fail to consider the previous three hundred years where Scottish MPs could be outvoted by English MPs on Scottish matters. It also ignores the fact that Scottish MPs have almost never given a government a majority. There are simply too few of them. However, it is messy and rankles with many in England.



Activity 3

Identify and rank five reasons for the rise of Scottish nationalism.

The Scottish Constitutional Convention

The 1980s were a difficult time in Scotland. The Labour Party and the SNP both had disastrous elections in 1979 and 1983. The Conservatives went on to win elections in 1979, 1983 and 1987. 1983 and 1987 were landslide victories for Margaret Thatcher but not in Scotland, where Conservative support was shrinking. The politics of the New Right did not appeal to many Scots. Scotland was in decline. The shipyards were closing, as were the coal mines and steelworks.

However, there was some optimism. Scottish theatre and pop music was booming, with the likes of the 7:84 and Wildcat companies and Simple Minds and Deacon Blue. The national football team qualified for the 1982 and 1986 World Cups. The national rugby team won the Grand Slam in 1984. Glasgow held a Garden Festival in 1988 and was to be the European City of Culture in 1990. Then, Jim Sillars of the SNP won a sensational victory in the Labour stronghold of Glasgow Govan in a by-election in 1988. The SNP was back.

In 1989 the Scottish Constitutional Convention was established. It included the Labour Party, the Social and Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party. There was also representation from local authorities, the Scottish Trades Union Congress, the Small Business Federation and the Scottish churches amongst others. Devolution was back – perhaps it had never gone away. However, the SNP withdrew as the convention refused to discuss independence as an option.

In 1990 it felt that Scottish national pride was on the rise. The Scottish national rugby team defeated England in a winner takes all game for the Grand Slam, following the adoption of Flower of Scotland as the pre match anthem. Scotland again appeared at the football World Cup in 1990. In the same year that Glasgow was European City of Culture.

Scottish hopes were pinned on a Labour victory in 1992 to secure devolution but the Conservatives won a fourth straight victory. Only five Conservative MPs were elected in Scotland.

On St Andrews Day 1995 the Scottish Constitutional Convention published its blueprint for devolution, 'Scotland's Parliament, Scotland's Right'. The SNP continued to campaign under the banner of Independence in Europe. The case for independence was that the security and opportunity of the Union and the Empire no longer benefitted Scotland. Security and opportunity could be provided by international organizations such as the European Union, the IMF and NATO.

Activity 4

Give five reasons for the re-emergence of devolution during the 1980s and 1990s.

Devolution

The 1997 referendum

Following the death of John Smith in 1994, Tony Blair took over as leader of the Labour Party. He was supported by Gordon Brown. In 1997 Labour won a landslide victory over the Conservatives. No Conservative MPs were returned in Scotland. A referendum was to be held over whether there should be a Scottish Parliament and whether it should have tax varying powers. The SNP joined with Labour and the Liberal Democrats to campaign for devolution as Scotland Forward. 74.3% of those who voted supported the establishment of a Parliament and 63.5% voted for tax varying powers. The Scotland Act was passed in 1998, with first elections to be held in May 1999 and the Parliament to assume its powers on 1 July 1999.

The Scottish Parliament

Scotland's new parliament was opened in Edinburgh on 1 July 1999. A procession was made from Parliament Hall, the home of the pre Union Parliament of Scotland to the new Parliament's temporary home on the Mound. The opening included a speech by the Queen, music and readings, including 'A Man's a Man for A 'That' by Robert Burns and 'The Beginning of a New Song' by Iain Crichton Smith. Donald Dewar, the Scottish First Minister spoke the words of the founding statute, inscribed on the mace, 'there shall be a Scottish Parliament.'



Powers

- The Scottish Parliament has control over devolved powers
- The UK Parliament retains power over reserved matters
- Housing
- Foreign policy
- Tourism and economic development
- Local government
- Some transport, including Scottish roads, bus policy and ports and harbours
- Planning and the environment
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Sport and the arts
- Miscellaneous matters including statistics and public records
- Social security
- Immigration and nationality
- Some transport - railways, safety and regulation
- Regulation of professions such as medicine and dentistry
- Energy
- Employment legislation
- Others such as data protection, broadcasting, gambling and the National Lottery
- Constitutional matters
- Defence and national security
- Health
- Education and training
- Law, the prosecution system and the courts
- Social work
- Economic and monetary policy

Activity 5

Sort the reserved and devolved powers.

Scottish Parliamentary elections

The Scottish Parliament has fixed term elections every four years. It is elected using the Additional Member System, a form of proportional representation. The 72 Westminster constituencies would become 73, with separate MSPs for Orkney and Shetland. These 73 constituencies would elect MSPs under the first past the post system. A further 56 MSPs would be elected by a top up system from the existing European constituencies using party lists. This system was specifically designed to prevent any party, primarily the SNP, gaining an absolute majority. We have not seen a fragmentation of the Scottish party system, in that there remain four major parties. The fortunes of the Scottish Socialists and Greens have actually declined from a high point of 10 seats in 2003.

This type of voting system has **advantages**:

- greater proportionality
- better representation of the electorate
- better representation of women and minorities
- includes smaller parties
- compromise required to form governments
- greater legitimacy
- constituency link retained

And **disadvantages**:

- the prevalence of minority and coalition governments;
- the status of regional list members
- no choice between members of the same party on the regional lists

The Scottish party system

Scotland had long had a four party system, with the SNP securing Westminster representation. The first Scottish Parliament elections also saw representatives elected from the Scottish Socialist Party, led by Tommy Sheridan and the Scottish Green Party. As predicted no party had an absolute majority, so a coalition was formed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats under Donald Dewar who was elected First Minister by the Parliament. 2003 saw a repeat. However, in 2007 the SNP emerged as the biggest party and decided to form a minority government. Being a minority government meant that the SNP needed support from other parties so consensus building was still key.

In 2011 Alex Salmond and the SNP 'broke the system'. They decimated the Labour Party in the constituency vote. They also did well in the second votes. Alex Salmond was able to form the first



single party majority government in Scotland. In the period there has been no further fragmentation of the Scottish Party system, as can happen with proportional representation systems. There are now four main parties, with the Scottish Greens the most significant minor party.

Scotland is a multi-party system - a number of parties exist, but none is normally able to form a government without the support of another.

There can be **advantages** to this:

- moderation
- consensus building

And **disadvantages**:

- generally lack of strong, single party government
- problems of minority and coalition governments

1999 Election Results

Party	Constituency %	Constituency seats	Region %	Region seats	Total seats	Total seats %
Labour	39	53	34	3	56	43
SNP	29	7	27	28	35	27
Conservative	16	0	15	18	18	14
Liberal Democrat	14	12	12	5	17	13
Scottish Green	0	0	4	1	1	1
Scottish Socialist	1	0	2	1	1	1
Independent	1	1	1	0	1	1

2003 Election Results

Party	Constituency %	Constituency seats	Region %	Region seats	Total seats	Total seats %
Labour	35	46	29	4	50	39
SNP	24	9	21	18	27	21
Conservative	17	3	16	15	18	14
Liberal Democrats	15	13	12	4	17	13
Scottish Green	0	0	7	7	7	5
Scottish Socialists	6	0	7	6	6	5
Others	3	2	8	2	4	3

2007 Election Results

Party	Constituency %	Constituency seats	Region %	Region seats	Total seats	Total seats %
SNP	33	21	31	26	47	37
Labour	32	37	29	9	46	36
Conservative	17	4	14	13	17	13
Liberal Democrats	16	11	11	5	16	13
Scottish Green	0	0	4	2	2	2
Independent	1	0	1	1	1	1

2011 Election Results

Party	Constituency %	Constituency seats	Region %	Region seats	Total seats	Total seats %
SNP	45	53	44	16	69	53
Labour	32	15	26	22	37	29
Conservative	14	3	12	12	15	12
Liberal Democrats	8	2	5	3	5	4
Scottish Green	0	0	0	2	2	2
Independent	1	0	0	1	1	1

Activity 6

Make a table or line graph showing party fortunes in Scotland 1999–2011.

The impact of constitutional change

The UK has seen major constitutional changes since 1997, making it more democratic. Devolution is one of the most significant aspects of this. There have been further developments: the introduction of the Human Rights Act; some reform of the House of Lords; the establishment of the Supreme Court; the use of proportional representation in elections and the increased use of referenda.

Referendums

Three referendums have now been held in Scotland on the constitutional question: on devolution in 1979 and 1997 and on independence in 2014.

There are **advantages** to referenda:

- allowing the electorate to express a view on a specific issue
- taking an issue out of party politics and allowing it to be considered on its merits
- the increased legitimacy of the final decision
- stimulating interest in the issue

and **disadvantages**:

- agreeing on what issues to hold referendums
- the wording of the question
- problems created by low turnouts, close results and regional variations
- the complexity of many of the issues
- the tyranny of the majority
- Impact on the sovereignty of parliament

Activity 7

Rank the advantages and the disadvantages of referenda

Administrations

The first government of Scotland was formed by a coalition of Labour and Liberal Democrats. Donald Dewar was to be First Minister, and Jim Wallace Deputy First Minister. Henry McLeish was appointed First Minister in 2000 following the death of Donald Dewar. Jack McConnell succeeded Henry McLeish in 2001 after McLeish's resignation. This coalition continued under Jack McConnell following the 2003 election.



One of the most significant measures taken by the first administration was the abolition of university tuition fees in Scotland and their replacement with an endowment. Fees had been introduced by Labour under the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998. The Liberal Democrats made tuition fees a 'non-negotiable' element of their manifesto and as such, a condition for forming a coalition. Following the findings of the Cubie Report the Dewar government decided that tuition fees would be abolished in Scotland. Students would pay £3000 worth of fees when their earnings hit £25 000.

Other key achievements included:

- The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 established Scotland's first National Parks
- In 2001 Scotland won the right to host the 2014 Ryder Cup
- Free personal and nursing care was introduced in 2002
- The Land Reform (Scotland) Act of 2003 created three important rights
 - a public right of responsible access to land
 - a right of first refusal for local communities over land when it is put on the market
 - a right of crofting communities to buy land at any time
- Scotland was the first part of the UK to ban smoking in public places in 2005
- Free eye and dental checks were introduced in 2006
- Concessionary bus travel – all pensioners have had free bus travel since 2006

In 2007 the SNP emerged as the largest party and formed a minority government. Alex Salmond was elected First Minister. In 2011 the SNP won an absolute majority and formed the first single party government, again under Alex Salmond.

In the summer of 2007, the Scottish Government proposed the Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill that would scrap the graduate endowment altogether. It meant that no future students would pay the endowment and that would also apply to graduates who graduated on or after 1 April 2007. On 28 February 2008 the bill was approved in a move which restored free higher education in Scotland.

Other key measures included:

- In November 2007 Glasgow was awarded the 2014 Commonwealth Games
- Council tax rates have been frozen in Scotland since 2007-2008
- Bridge tolls were scrapped in 2008
- Prescription charges were abolished in Scotland in 2011
- The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act was passed in 2014

On 1 May 2012 the Scotland Act 2012 received Royal Assent. This Act gives the Scottish Parliament substantial new powers, in particular new financial powers. It was passed unanimously by the UK and Scottish Parliaments.

Activity 8

Identify and rank five top achievements of the Scottish Parliament and Government

The 2014 referendum

Following the SNP victory in 2011 plans were announced for a referendum. On 15 October 2012 the Edinburgh Agreement was made between the Scottish and UK Governments. It provided for a single-question referendum on Scottish independence to be held before the end of 2014. The referendum would be held in September 2014. The Scottish people would answer the question:

'Should Scotland be an independent state?'

It was to be a long campaign. In the months before the referendum stories appeared in the press that an independent Scotland would be excluded from international organizations. It would not be considered a successor state to the UK and would have to apply to join organisations such as the EU and NATO. There was a suggestion that Scotland would have to join the back of the queue and its applications could be rejected.

The White Paper on Scottish Independence was published on the 26 September 2013. It set out the Scottish Government's plans for independence. One new policy was to seek a currency union with the 'Rest of the UK' following independence. All three major UK parties said that this would not happen. Another policy focused on broadcasting. There would be a Scottish Broadcasting Service, but a relationship with the BBC would continue. This led to scare stories that there would be no EastEnders in an independent Scotland.

Two debates were held in the run up to the referendum between Alex Salmond, First Minister and Leader of the SNP, and Alasdair Darling, former Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer. Darling won the first debate where he demanded an answer on the currency question from Salmond. Darling repeatedly asked Salmond what his Plan B was if Scotland could not use the pound. Salmond refused to countenance a Plan B. In the second debate Salmond made his comeback. He had produced three Plan Bs. He completely dominated the proceedings.

About ten days before the referendum the Yes campaign took an unprecedented lead in the polls. The No campaign made an offer of 'devo max' if there was a no majority. Gordon Brown, the former Prime Minister, produced a plan for Home Rule days before the election. David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband made a vow to extend devolution in the event of a No vote.



In the following days the Scottish banks announced contingency plans to move their registered offices to England. Standard Life said they would move operations. A number of retailers announced that prices would rise in an independent Scotland including John Lewis, Waitrose and Marks and Spencer.

Business and celebrity support played its part in the referendum. Jim McColl of Clyde Blowers and Brian Souter of Stagecoach were the most significant business figures backing independence. A concert was held at the Usher Hall in the week of the referendum featuring the likes of Franz Ferdinand, Amy McDonald and Ricky Ross and Lorraine McIntosh of Deacon Blue. Just before the referendum Wimbledon and US Open Champion Andy Murray, who had won Olympic Gold for Great Britain at London 2012, came out in support of independence. Most contemporary sports people stayed out of the campaign. Two national 'teams' of former players from the sports of football and rugby came out in support of the Union – many had played at World Cups for Scotland. In the week of the referendum Scotland was the centre of attention for the world's media. It hit the front pages of Time, Newsweek, the Economist and the New York Times.

In the event the turnout was very high with a turnout over 85%:

- 45% voted Yes
- 55% voted No

The next day, just after seven o'clock in the morning, David Cameron spoke outside Downing Street. He brought up the subject of 'English votes for English laws'. The suggestion was made that stronger devolution in Scotland would be hand in hand with UK reform. In the afternoon Alex Salmond announced that he was to resign as First Minister and leader of the SNP, but he warned that promises would have to be kept. Ed Miliband was opposed to reform in Scotland being dependent on English reform. Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister, warned that David Cameron, as Prime Minister must keep his promise. Gordon Brown stepped in and warned that promises will be kept.

On the Sunday following the referendum Alex Salmond claimed No voters had been tricked by Cameron. A referendum would not be necessary to declare independence - a majority at Holyrood could be sufficient. SNP insiders have said that further referendums could be held - they would not be need to honour Salmond's initial promise. On Monday, following a weekend at Chequers, William Hague confirmed that further devolution in Scotland would not depend on English reform.

On the next day in the Scottish Parliament Alex Salmond confirmed he would abide by the Edinburgh Agreement. He stated that referendums are important – they recognize the sovereignty of the Scottish people. In the case of Scotland this is a key point. Unlike England, which views parliament as sovereign, in Scotland it is the people who are sovereign. This was established in the Declaration of Arbroath, 1320, and is echoed in the American Declaration of Independence of 1776.

Lord Smith of Kelvin, who had headed the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, was appointed to head the commission. It would be his job to reach a new devolution settlement. Work began straightaway.

There are ongoing constitutional questions around a number of issues:

- The West Lothian Question
- The role of the Secretary of State for Scotland and its cabinet status
- The number of Scottish MPs at Westminster – already reduced since 1997 from 72 to 59
- Scotland's share of the budget as determined by the Barnett Formula

The Smith Commission reported on St Andrew's Day. Its proposals were not met with universal support. The Unionist parties were in support, whereas the SNP claimed it fell short of the 'Home Rule' that had been promised. SNP membership has rocketed – it is now the third largest party in the United Kingdom with over 100 000 members. Alex Salmond announced his intention to stand for the Gordon constituency in the 2015 General Election to re-enter the fray at Westminster. Nicola Sturgeon replaced Alex Salmond as leader of the Scottish National Party and as First Minister. She went on a tour of Scotland meeting the SNP's new members in a series of events at massive venues including the Hydro in Glasgow. She has proven to be a popular leader north and south of the border.

Sturgeon was recognised as one of the winners in the UK Leaders Debates before the 2015 General Election. However, few expected the result in Scotland, where the SNP won 56 out of 59 seats – an increase from six in 2010. The Conservatives, to the surprise of many, won an absolute majority, albeit a very small one, with 330 seats. Post-election analysis suggested that the fear of some sort of Labour-SNP pact gained support for the Conservatives, from Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters in England. Labour won 232 seats and the Liberal Democrats won eight – down from 56.

A command paper was published in January 2015 putting forward draft legislative proposals for further devolution for Scotland. A Scottish Parliament committee report in May criticised the proposals, saying they did not meet the recommendations of the Smith Commission. The Scotland Bill 2015-16 was announced in the May 2015 Queen's Speech. Debates rumble on over 'English Votes for English Laws' with the possibility raised that Scottish MPs votes could be restricted by a change to Standing Orders. SNP support continues to rise. The story continues...

Questions

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the use of referendums
2. Discuss the view that Scotland has a multi-party system
3. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the electoral system used to elect the Scottish Parliament
4. Discuss the importance of constitutional change in Scotland since 1997

Useful websites

<https://www.gov.uk/devolution-of-powers-to-scotland-wales-and-northern-ireland>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Factfile/18060/11550>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Scottish_devolution

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/higher/modern/uk_gov_politics/gov_sco/revision/1/

Teacher Resources

Activity 1

Identify and rank five reasons for Scottish support for the Union

- Trade with rest of single market of Great Britain
- Trade with British colonies
- Security and defence
- Common language
- Shared protestant faith

Activity 2

Produce a poster for or against Home Rule for Scotland

Students should be encouraged to produce quality posters. Encourage them to study contemporary and historical advertising and political posters. Students should bear in mind the size of the franchise in the late nineteenth century.

Activity 3

Identify and rank five reasons for rise of Scottish nationalism

- Rise of cultural nationalism – including music and sport, especially football
- British and imperial decline
- Discovery of North Sea Oil
- Scottish civic society
- Continuation of Scots Law, the Church of Scotland and Scottish education system post union

Activity 4

Give five reasons for the re-emergence of devolution during the 1980s and 1990s

- Opposition to Margaret Thatcher and Conservative New Right policies
- Decline of Scottish heavy industry
- Continued cultural renaissance and success for national football and rugby teams
- Re-emergence of SNP
- Establishment of Scottish Constitutional Convention

Activity 5

Sort the reserved and devolved powers

The Scottish Parliament has control over devolved powers:

- Health
- Education and training
- Local government
- Law, the prosecution system and the courts
- Social work
- Housing
- Tourism and economic development
- Some transport, including Scottish roads, bus policy and ports and harbours
- Planning and the environment
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Sport and the arts
- Miscellaneous matters including statistics and public records

The UK Parliament retains power over reserved matters:

- Constitutional matters
- Defense and national security
- Foreign policy
- Immigration and nationality
- Economic and monetary policy
- Energy
- Employment legislation
- Social security
- Some transport - railways, safety and regulation
- Regulation of professions such as medicine and dentistry
- Others such as data protection, broadcasting, gambling and the National Lottery

Activity 6

Make a table or line graph showing party fortunes in Scotland 1999 – 2011

Party	1999	2003	2007	2011
Labour	56	50	46	37
Conservatives	18	18	17	15
Liberal Democrats	17	17	16	5
SNP	35	27	47	69
Scottish Green	1	7	2	2
Scottish Socialist	1	6	0	0
Others	0	4	0	0
Independent	1	0	1	1
Total	129	129	129	129

Activity 7

Rank the advantages and disadvantages of referenda

Discuss student ranking as a class.

Activity 8

Identify and rank five top achievements of the Scottish Parliament and Government

Discuss student ranking as a class.

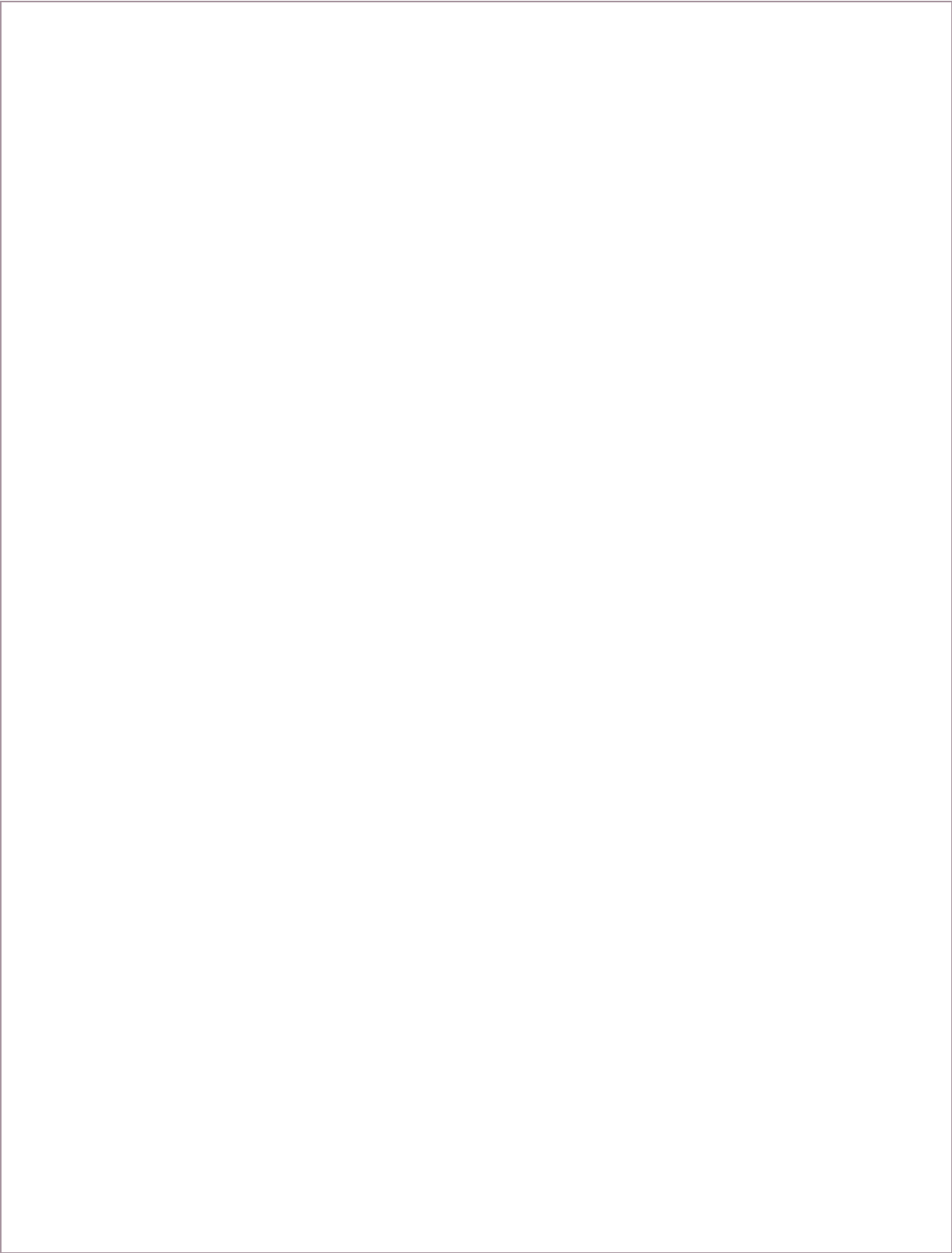
Learner Resources

Activity 1

Identify and rank five reasons for Scottish support for the Union

Activity 2

Produce a poster for or against Home Rule for Scotland



Activity 3

Identify and rank five reasons for the rise of Scottish nationalism

Activity 4

Give five reasons for the re-emergence of devolution during the 1980s and 1990s

Activity 5

Sort the reserved and devolved powers

The Scottish Parliament has control over devolved powers

The UK Parliament retains power over reserved matters

Housing

Foreign policy

Tourism and economic development

Local government

Some transport, including Scottish roads, bus policy and ports and harbours

Planning and the environment

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

Sport and the arts

Miscellaneous matters including statistics and public records

Social security

Immigration and nationality

Some transport - railways, safety and regulation

Regulation of professions such as medicine and dentistry

Energy

Employment legislation

Others such as data protection, broadcasting, gambling and the National Lottery

Constitutional matters

Defence and national security

Health

Education and Training

Law, the prosecution system and the courts

Social work

Economic and monetary policy

Activity 6

Make a table or line graph showing party fortunes 1999–2011

Party	1999	2003	2007	2011
Labour				
Conservatives				
Liberal Democrats				
SNP				
Scottish Green				
Scottish Socialist				
Others				
Independent				
Total				

Activity 7

Rank the advantages and disadvantages of referenda

Activity 8

Identify and rank five top achievements of the Scottish Parliament and Government



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