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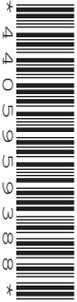
Monday 1 June 2015 – Afternoon

AS GCE HUMANITIES

G102/01/I People, Community and Power

INSERT – SOURCES FOR QUESTIONS 1 AND 2

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- You must use your own knowledge and the sources in this Insert to answer Questions 1 and 2.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- This document consists of 4 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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Sources for Question 1

Source A: The Principle of Self-determination**What is self-determination?**

The right to self-determination is the right of a people to determine its own future. In particular, the principle allows a people to choose its own political system and form of government and to determine its own form of economic, cultural and social development. Exercising this right can result in a variety of different outcomes ranging from political independence through to full integration by a minority within a state. The importance lies in the right of choice, so that the outcome of a people's choice should not affect the existence of the right to make a choice.

Adapted from United Nations site.

Source B: A United Kingdom?**THE UNITED KINGDOM****Source C: Independence for Scotland**

If Scotland became independent it would face greater financial risks, lose the security of the UK, and gain little that further devolution would give. It would rely on a foreign bank and be in damaging competition with its closest, larger neighbour.

The future, however, looks much more uncertain. This is a stormy economic world, and an independent Scotland would be a small, vulnerable part of it. It would depend on oil for some 18% of its GDP, making it subject to shifts in global commodity prices. Though high oil and gas prices have pushed up tax revenues, if they drop, production receipts would plummet. The richest reserves have already been exploited, leaving inaccessible oil that becomes uneconomic when prices fall. North Sea production has been falling by about 6% a year for the past decade. Eventually the oil will run out entirely and Scotland might go the same way as Greece.

A small country is more vulnerable to other shocks. In 2008 the British government had to bail out the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and HBOS, Scotland's two biggest banks, or they would have gone bankrupt. England would have no need to help an independent Scotland.

Adapted from *The Economist*

Sources for Question 2

Source D: Representative Democracy

There has long been a debate as to whether our MPs are representatives, free to decide for themselves how to vote in Parliament, or delegates, who have to vote as their voters (and paymasters!) tell them to. John Stuart Mill, a great 19th century political thinker, argued that ‘... the best government must be the government of the wisest, and these must always be few ...’, while an 18th century political thinker, Edmund Burke, argued that an MP had a duty to listen to his constituents, but then make up his own mind on the merits of the issue before Parliament. The MP, he argued, should analyse the issue, looking at the interests of the nation as a whole, and then use his own judgment when it came to voting. MPs were entitled to ignore the prejudices and often narrow views of local constituents.

Original material

Source E: Direct Democracy – the Welsh Devolution Referendum

Welsh devolution referendum, 1997		
I agree that there should be a Welsh Assembly		
Election results		
Yes or no	Votes	Percentage
✓ Yes	559,419	50.3%
✗ No	552,698	49.7%
Turnout of electorate		50.1%

Results of the Welsh Devolution referendum 1997

Source F: Direct Democracy

Direct democracy in the form of referendums is approved of by governments when they know that they can win them. Referendums are then seen as democratic and a great opportunity for citizens to demonstrate their involvement in the political process, or ‘direct’ democracy. However, there is a much greater reluctance by governments to use this form of direct participation by the voters when they feel they might not get their own way or have a decision imposed on them which they know to be wrong. A classic example of this is a referendum on the continuing membership of the UK in the EU. The government knows full well that membership is vital for economic stability; departure would mean disaster for the UK’s already fragile economy. However, the public, heavily influenced by a strongly anti-EU press (largely foreign owned and very hostile to the EU because of the threat the EU makes to its profits and influence), might well vote for leaving the EU. This is an example of a government becoming much keener on representative democracy when it decides the merits of the case!

Original material

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