

# Modern Studies

Nat 5

Democracy in Scotland

Questions & Answers

## **Section 1: Democracy in Scotland.**

### **Participation.**

**Describe, in detail, the ways in which people can participate in election campaigns. (6)**

PEE from:

- leafleting/ posters
- canvassing
- loud speaker cars
- driving people to polling station
- supporting candidates at meetings etc.

One way that people can participate in election campaigns is by putting up posters and handing out party leaflets. (1) By doing this you are not only advertising the candidate, but showing your support. (2) e.g. in my local constituency, party supporters put up posters supporting George Adam (SNP) / Hugh Henry (Labour) (3).

People can take part in canvassing. (1) This means that you go round the doors trying to identify your support and encouraging them to turnout to vote on election day. (2) In some cases, you may offer supporters a lift to the polling station to make sure that you get your vote out. (3)

Some supporters drive round the area in a car with a loud speaker urging people to vote for the candidate and the party.(1) This is done to both advertise the candidate and to remind supporters to vote.(2) e.g. in my area cars were going round urging people to vote for George Adam / Hugh Henry.(3)

**Describe, in detail, ways in which people can participate in politics. (6)**

PEE from:

- voting
- joining a political party / Pressure Group

- standing as a candidate
- campaigning
- attending political meetings
- Watching election Broadcasts / reading election leaflets etc.

One way that people can participate is by voting. (1) This means that you can have a say in selecting your elected representatives. For example, in Scottish Parliamentary elections, you can vote for your local constituency MSP and for the party of your choice because the AMS system gives the two choices e.g. in my area, people voted for George Adam / Hugh Henry as their constituency MSP and seven other list MSPs. (3)

People can join a political party such as Labour or the SNP (1). As a party member, you can attend party meetings, express your opinions and help to shape party policy.(2) You can help the candidates in an election campaign or perhaps be chosen as a candidate yourself in the future. (3)

You can participate in an election campaign (see previous answer).

## **Representation / Role of MSP**

**Describe, in detail, the ways in which the MSP can represent his constituents in the Scottish Parliament. (6)**

PEE from:

- taking part in debates
- asking questions at Question Time
- introduce a members bill
- lobbying members of the government
- working on committees etc.

One way an MSP can represent his constituents is by speaking in a debate in the chamber of the Scottish Parliament. (1) This gives the MSP an opportunity to act as the “voice of his constituents” and he can bring to the attention of parliament, the concerns that his constituents have told him about at their surgery visits or when they wrote to him. (2) e.g. Paisley MSP George Adam spoke up about the need to rejuvenate the local High Street. (3)

The MSP can ask a question at Question Time. (1) He can submit a question that requires only a written response or a question that requires the Minister to answer in Parliament. Often, the question is designed to “catch the Minister

out”. However, Ministers are experienced and will be prepared for this political ping-pong. MSPs can raise a question that has been a matter of concern to their constituents. (3) The most famous form of Question Time is FMQT when Opposition leaders get a chance to question Alex Salmond, the First Minister. (3+)

MSPs have two opportunities to introduce a members' bill. (1) This is a proposed law that is introduced by an MSP and not the government. The MSP may introduce a bill on a matter of great concern to himself or as a result of representation by a Pressure Group. e.g. S Maxwell MSP introduced a bill to ban smoking. (3)

### **Explain, in detail, the reasons why women or ethnic minorities are under-represented in the Scottish Parliament / politics. (6-8)**

For Women, PEE from:

- constituencies often reluctant to select female candidates
- Family responsibilities
- women don't like the “rough and tumble “ of politics
- Lack of role models

For Ethnic Minorities, PEE from:

- perceived prejudice in selection process
- Parliament still “white”
- Poorer education of BMEs and therefore lack of political engagement
- Few Role Models
- Cultural / religious obstacles

Women are often under-represented for a number of reasons. Firstly, women find it difficult to get involved politically for family reasons. Women are still seen as the main carers in the family and so find it difficult to attend political meetings held in the evenings when they have to look after the children and may not be able to arrange childcare. Without being involved at grass root level, women may find it difficult to be selected as candidates. (3)

Even when they put themselves forward as candidates, local constituency parties are often reluctant to select a female candidate due to prejudice.(1) Some still believe that politics is a “man's” job and that female candidates won't do as well against male candidates.(2) To overcome this problem, we have seen “all female” short lists introduced.(3)

Until recently, there have been few role models to inspire women in politics. (1)

This may have put women off in the past. Today, women are still under-represented in the Scottish Parliament and this is not very encouraging for women (2) Now, however, Lamont and Davidson are leaders of Scottish political parties. It is hoped that this may attract more women into politics. (3)

**Explain, in detail, the reasons why women are better represented in the Scottish Parliament than at Westminster. (8)**

PEE from:

- family friendly hours of the Scottish Parliament
- crèche facilities in the Scottish Parliament
- founding principles of Scottish Parliament
- AMS voting system
- new politics of Scottish Parliament etc.

The family friendly or normal working day hours of Holyrood has encouraged greater female participation (1) and many women are now prepared to put themselves forward as candidates. This contrasts with the much longer hours of Westminster that put many women off becoming MPs.(2) Furthermore, most MSPs are within normal travelling distance of Edinburgh and so being an MSP is really no different to being a working woman elsewhere. However, London is 400 miles away and Scots have to stay in London. This puts many women off because of family responsibilities (4)

The Scottish Parliament has crèche facilities to help working mothers. (1) This means that women can continue with their political work knowing that their children are being looked after. (2) This is in contrast with Westminster where no such facilities exist. (3)

The voting system of the Scottish Parliament, AMS, has a proportional element and PR systems tend to encourage parties to put more female candidates forward and, as a result, more get elected. (2) This contrasts with Westminster which uses FPTP and is not known for encouraging more female candidates. (3)

The “new politics” of the Scottish Parliament with consensus politics appears more attractive to women than the confrontational “ya-boo” politics of Westminster which puts many women off. (2)

## **Right To Vote**

**Explain, in detail, why it is important for people to use their right to vote. (6)**

PEE from:

- if you don't vote, you can't complain
- You should have a say on who spends your taxes
- low turnout might allow an unrepresentative government in
- failure to vote could allow extremists to win seats
- Respect the right that others fought for

If you don't vote, you cannot complain about the result. (1)

Failure to vote might allow extremist parties to win seats. (1) Turnout is very low at elections for the European Parliament and as a result, extremist parties like the BNP have won seats. (2) Many find the racist views of the BNP objectionable. However, by not voting, they allowed them to get elected. (3)

A democracy only works properly if people participate. If they don't, only extremists will stand for election and vote. (1) People may then end up with representatives that do not reflect the views of the majority of the electorate. (2) e.g. The BNP and UKIP do not reflect the views of the majority of the British people, but have still got MEPs elected. (3)

By not voting, we are disrespecting the memory of those who struggled to obtain the vote. (1) At the start of the last century, women did not have the vote and Suffragettes campaigned to win the vote for women. Likewise, many gave their life in ww2 in the fight against Nazi Germany to defend democratic rights. If it was not for their struggle, we may not have a vote. (3)

## **Electoral Systems**

**Explain, in detail, the advantages (disadvantages) of AMS (8)**

For Advantages, PEE from:

- the number of MSPs each party gains is in proportion to the vote
- smaller parties have a greater chance of representation
- more choice : vote for candidate and party (2 votes)

- more chance of electing women or BME candidates under PR system

For Disadvantages, PEE from:

- Too many -120 is a top heavy system
- two-tier system : constituency and List MSPs
- More complex voting system –difficult to understand
- retention of FPTP element still allows certain parties to dominate

One advantage of AMS is that it has a proportional element. This means that the number of MSPs that a party gets elected is in proportion to the vote it received. e.g. The number of Conservative MSPs in the Scottish Parliament is very closely related to the percentage of the votes the party received. If it was not for the proportional element, the Conservatives might get few, if any, MSPs elected. (3)

AMS gives the voter more choice. The voter can vote for a constituency MSP in the first ballot and a party of his choice in the second ballot. Voters can vote for the same party or a different party e.g. voters can vote for the Labour candidate and for the Green party in the second ballot. Voters also have a choice of MSP to contact with a problem e.g. they can contact their constituency MSP or one of the List MSPs. (4)

AMS, being partly proportional, allows smaller parties a greater chance of gaining representation, especially in the second ballot. As a result, there have a number of Green MSPs elected and this would not have happened under FPTP as the Greens are unlikely to win a constituency in the first ballot. (3)

Advantages of STV: PEE from:

- no wasted votes. Votes are reallocated.
- smaller parties have greater chance of gaining representation
- larger parties are less likely to dominate
- greater choice for voter : vote between and within parties
- several elected representatives to contact –more choice
- STV encourages more women and ethnic minorities
- STV more likely to result in coalitions forcing parties to work together

Advantages of FPTP – PEE from:

- simple and easy to understand
- delivers quick results

- fair – candidate with most votes wins
- each constituent has a personal link with single constituency MP
- no confusion over who to contact as with multi-member constituencies
- Usually provides a clear winner nationally, allowing one party to form a strong government without need to make deals as is the case with coalitions.

## Scottish Parliament

### Describe, in detail, the powers / role of the Scottish Parliament. (6)

PEE from:

- passing laws on devolved issues e.g. health, education, housing
- discuss issues of concern to the Scottish electorate
- represent the Scottish people in parliament
- scrutiny of the Scottish Government
- power to alter rate of income tax by up to 3p in £

The Scottish Parliament can pass laws on a range of devolved issues. The Scottish Parliament passed laws creating a National Police Force and a National Fire and Rescue Service for Scotland. (2)

In recent years the Scottish Parliament has passed laws on health issues. (1) Scotland has a poor public health record and is known as “the sick man of Europe.” The Scottish Parliament can adopt Scottish solutions for Scottish problems. Thus, the Scottish Parliament passed a law banning smoking in public places to reduce the effects of passive smoking and to encourage people to give up smoking. (3)

The Scottish Parliament has the power to discuss issues of concern to the Scottish electorate. (1) MSPs have expressed the concerns of the Scottish people on issues such as the “bedroom tax.” (2)

The Scottish Parliament has the power to scrutinise the work of the Scottish Government. (1) In their committees, MSPs can hold Ministers to account over their departmental spending or actions. (2) e.g. MSPs expressed concern about



the Scottish Government's intention to abolish the need for corroboration in criminal trials. (3)

**Explain, in detail, why some people want to increase the powers of the Scottish Parliament. (6-8)**

PEE from:

- to give parliament more powers over own affairs
- more powers of taxation to spend on devolved areas
- more power to lessen the influence of the UK government
- has proved itself trustworthy and now needs more power
- SNP see election victory as mandate for more powers

Some people want increased powers for the Scottish Parliament because they believe that too many important matters on issues that Scots have strong feelings about are still reserved to Westminster. (1) Issues such as immigration, welfare and defence are reserved and this has caused conflict as MSPs are unable to act on these matters (2) For example, in recent years, MSPs have been critical of dawn raids on asylum seekers; the presence of Trident in Scottish waters and the controversy surrounding the "bedroom tax". (3) These matters are reserved, but still affect Scots. (4)

Some supporters of the union want more powers so that the Scottish Parliament can have even greater influence (Devo Max), yet Scotland can remain within the UK. (1) On the other hand, supporters of independence want more powers to further lessen the influence of the UK government in Scotland. (2) Therefore, although both sides of the debate want more powers, it is for very different reasons. (3)

More powers are already being transferred to the Scottish Parliament such as powers over air guns and speed limits. It makes sense to transfer even more powers on issues that affect Scotland to the Scottish Parliament. (2)

Some want more powers of taxation so that Scotland can take greater responsibility for spending in Scotland. (1)

**Describe, in detail, the powers of the First Minister. (6)**

PEE from:

- leader of the Scottish Government

- directs policy in the Scottish Parliament
- spokesperson for the Scottish Government
- Picks Scottish cabinet
- takes questions at FMQT
- represents interests of Scotland with other governments and overseas
- focus of media attention

The FM, Alex Salmond, appoints members to the Cabinet and Scottish government. (1) This means that like a football manager, he appoints the “team” that he thinks will be most successful in governing Scotland. (2) e.g. Alex Salmond appointed Kenny MacAskill to Justice and Alex Neil to Education. (3)

The FM is the spokesperson for Scotland at home and abroad. (1) This means that he speaks up for Scotland in Europe and attracts foreign businesses and investment to Scotland (2). Alex Salmond takes part in “Tartan Week” in the USA and played a part in getting the Commonwealth Games for Glasgow. (3)

The FM speaks up for the Scottish Government at FMQT. (1) Opposition leaders have a chance to question the FM and will try to attack the Government’s record. However, the FM will be prepared to defend his government’s record. (2) He can use FMQT to champion his government and boast of their achievements e.g. the introduction of free prescriptions. (3)

**Explain, in detail, why some believe that a majority government works well in Scotland and explain, in detail, why some believe that a majority government does not work well. (6-8)**

Majority Government works well: PEE from:

- able to put policies into effect
- clear, decisive decision making
- no need to make deals with coalition partners
- able to keep election promises

Majority Government does not work well: PEE from:

- government may be too powerful and ignore views
- unresponsive to wishes of electorate
- unwilling to compromise

- able to introduce extreme or unpopular policies.

A majority government works well because the governing party can keep its manifesto promises. With a working majority in Parliament, the government knows that the bills introduced will become law. For example, the SNP promised to introduce an Independence Referendum Bill. With a majority, they did so and Scotland will have a referendum in September 2014. (3)

A majority government can carry out policies without having to make “deals” with Coalition partners. With a majority government, the SNP introduced their Minimum Pricing on Alcohol and it became law despite opposition from other parties. However, in the last Labour –Lib-Dem Coalition, Labour, the largest party was forced to introduce STV in order to keep the Coalition together. (3)

However, some think that a majority government is not good for Scotland because it could become unresponsive to the wishes of the electorate and ignore the views of parties who represent a majority of the electorate. e.g. Some think that the SNP pushed through a Referendum Bill even although the unionist parties were opposed to it and opinion polls showed that most Scots at the time were opposed to independence. (3)

**Explain, in detail, why some people think that a Coalition Government is the best way to govern Scotland. (8)**

PEE from:

- made up of two or more parties, so a larger proportion of the electorate are represented in government
- more democratic / reflects the wishes of electorate
- two parties working together so new ideas and compromise more likely
- more talent to draw on for Ministerial Office
- consensus – not confrontational style of government
- proved to be stable between 1999 and 2007.

The Scottish Parliament was set up with an electoral system where Coalitions would be the norm to avoid the unfairness of the Westminster system in which majority governments were elected on a minority vote. Coalitions were thought to be a good idea because with two parties in government, the views of a greater share of the electorate were represented in government.

Coalitions are viewed by some as more democratic as they represent the views

of a more voters. The last Labour – Lib-Dem Coalition represented the views of a large number of Scots. (3)

In coalitions, parties work together in the best interests of the country and not one party. Compromises are necessary to get a broad agreement and there is government by consensus. In the first Coalition, Labour was forced to abandon tuition fees. However, these were really un popular in Scotland and the public was happy with the Coalition for dropping tuition fees. (3)

A Coalition government, made up of two parties, has more talented MSPs to draw on when considering the Cabinet or Ministerial positions. This means that able MSPs from the Coalition partner will be brought into Government. For example, a number of Liberal Democrats featured in the first two Coalitions such as Jim Wallace (Deputy FM) and Nicol Stephen. These were viewed as able Ministers who added quality to the Labour led Coalition. (4)

**Explain, in detail, why some believe that devolution is the best way to make decisions in Scotland and explain, in detail, why some think independence is the best way to make decisions. (8)**

Devolution is best way: PEE from:

- gives control of key matters affecting Scotland: Education, Health etc.
- still part of UK so bigger say on world matters
- still part of UK so greater financial security
- devolution has worked well and is what majority want
- able to share cost of reserved matters such as defence
- disruptive to break up the union which has been successful for 300 years

Independence is best way: PEE from:

- would have control of all matters , including those presently reserved
- better off economically as Scotland is rich in resources
- could change unpopular Westminster policies e.g. bedroom tax
- independence is the obvious next step
- other small countries are independent and do well

Some believe that devolution is best for Scotland because it has worked well since the creation of the Scottish Parliament. Devolution gives Scotland control of matters affecting Scotland such as health and Education. Therefore, Scottish solutions to Scottish problems can be adopted: Scotland has different health

priorities from the rest of the UK and devolution allows Scots to set their own health agenda e.g. free prescriptions, no Foundation Hospitals. (3)

Devolution still keeps Scotland within the UK and so offers financial security. Many countries in the Eurozone suffered badly in the financial crisis such as Ireland and suffered much more stringent cuts than Scotland. Many doubt that Scotland and Scottish Banks would have survived on their own without the support of the UK government. (3)

Many believe that devolution gives Scotland the best of both worlds: control over key devolved issues that matter to Scots and the protection of the UK government on reserved matters. Many claim that this is what the majority of Scots want as opinion polls have always suggested a majority favouring devolution and against independence. Furthermore, some argue that it is crazy to vote for independence when issues such as currency and membership of the EU have not been settled for an independent Scotland. (3)

However, many believe that independence is best. They argue that independence gives Scotland control of all matters, including those currently reserved such as immigration and welfare. These are areas of conflict and many don't agree with Westminster's current welfare reforms and issues such as Trident. Independence would allow Scots to make their own decisions on these matters. (3)

Many believe that Scotland would be better off economically as an independent country. They claim that Scotland is rich in oil and renewables. As a result, Scots would be financially better off. Some look to other small countries that have been successful and believe that an independent Scotland could also be very successful and that only an independent Scotland will take decisions that put Scotland first. (3)

## **Local Councils.**

### **Describe, in detail, (two) ways Scottish Councils can raise money. (4-6)**

PEE from:

- Council Tax
- non-domestic rates
- allocation of funds from Scottish Government
- charges for services

- Public-Private Partnership arrangements for capital projects

Although most of the money Councils receive comes from the Scottish Government, there are means of generating income. The Council Tax is a tax on property. The amount paid depends on the value of the house, with homes in the highest valuation bands paying the most. The Council tax brings in around 12% of income. (3)

Councils can raise money by charging for services. (1) People must pay a charge to use the service provided by the council such as a charge to use the Council run leisure centre. (2) People who live in Council Houses must also pay rent to the Council. (3)

To pay for large capital projects such as new schools, Scottish Councils have used Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). (1) This is a partnership between the public and private sector. Under this system, for example, the private sector (private businesses) build a new school and lease it back to the public sector (Council ) (2) e.g. In 2008, Renfrewshire Council used the system to build ten new schools. The Council will pay back £135m over the next thirty years. (3)

**Describe, in detail, (two) services local Councils are responsible for providing in their local areas. (4-6)**

PEE from: Education; Social Work; Cleansing, Housing etc.

The services councils provide are either mandatory or discretionary. Mandatory services are services that councils are required to provide by law, whereas discretionary services are provided by the Councils choice. An example of a discretionary service is when Renfrewshire Council organised a Christmas Concert and paid pop star Stacey Solomon to turn on the lights.(3)

The Council provides services such as education. (1) The Council is responsible for the provision of nursery, primary and secondary schools within the region. The Council is responsible for the resourcing and staffing of the schools and for delivering appropriate levels of education. e.g. Renfrewshire Council directed the implementation of CfE within Renfrewshire schools. (3)

Some Councils provide affordable housing for rent. (1) The Council has to maintain and improve the housing stock and provide tenants with benefits advice. (2) The Council also works towards eradicating homelessness in the region. (3)

**Describe, in detail, (two) ways in which decisions made about local services by Councils can affect the lives of people in Scotland. (4-6)**

PEE from:

- decisions about education can affect school provision
- decisions about housing can affect the standard of housing
- decisions about cleansing make areas cleaner and greener
- decisions about social work affect the support given to vulnerable groups
- decisions about Council Tax affect how much people pay

Decisions about cleansing can have an impact on the local community. If the Council decide to cut back in the frequency of refuse collection, it may mean that the area is not so clean. (1) On the other hand, many Councils are now directing attention to recycling or “greener” ways of reusing waste. This may have an impact on the environment. (2) For example, many residents now have different coloured bins for household, garden and food waste in an effort to go “green”. (3)

Decisions about school closures or mergers have a big impact on local communities. (1) With falling numbers, the Council may decide to close a local school or to merge it with another school. However, such decisions are often unpopular with local parents who do not wish to see the closure of a local resource and to see their children having to travel much further to another school. Often, the Council faces angry protests from parents. (3)

**Describe, in detail, the role of a Councillor / ways in which Councillor represents local people. (6)**

PEE from:

- attend local meetings / events
- meet with people at surgery. write letters, send emails
- contact officials in various Council departments on behalf of constituents

- be a member of a Council committee
- attend meetings of the Council
- contact MSP / MP
- use media to attract attention to local issue

A Councillor can hold a surgery. (1) Here he can meet with local people and listen to their problems and issues. He may be able to help by contacting the local Council department. (2) e.g. Someone may complain that their rubbish is not being uplifted and so the house is smelling. The Councillor can contact the appropriate official in the Cleansing department and remedy the problem (3)

The Councillor can act as the “voice “of the local community and speak up on their behalf at a meeting of the full Council or as a committee member. (1) In this way he ensures that the views of local people are not ignored. (2) e.g. As a member of the Licensing Committee, he may have been contacted by angry residents who are complaining about the noise and disturbances from local pubs or clubs. He may draw this to the attention of the committee if there are more applications for late night licenses. (3)

Local Councillors often attend local events and festivals to show their support for the community and to meet the people.(1) Sometimes they open new facilities and help to attract media coverage.(2) e.g. Glasgow Councillor Gordon Matheson opened the new Emirates Arena and this featured in the TV news and press, bringing publicity to the arena.(3)

**(For question about increasing pay or full time Councillors)**

PEE from:

- reflects the importance of the job – making decisions affecting many people
- reward for the amount of time and effort put into role
- full-time councillors can devote more time and energy to the interests of the community
- attract people of a higher standard to the job
- may attract younger people to the job

**Pressure Groups.**



## **Describe, in detail, (two) methods used by Pressure Groups.... (4-6)**

PEE from:

- protest marches / demonstrations
- petitions; e-petitions
- activities / stunts to attract media attention
- lobbying of officials /Parliament etc.
- Direct Action

Pressure Groups organise protest marches or demonstrations. (1) This means that they will organise thousands of people to take part in the protest to show their strength of feeling on an important issue and they may decide to march to Parliament. (2) One of the biggest protests in modern times was the “Not In My Name “ anti –Iraq war demonstration organised in London and in other areas including Scotland / CND demonstrations outside Faslane against Trident. (3)

Pressure Groups often decide to lobby Parliament to influence law makers. (1) The aim of this is to win the support or backing of law makers and persuade Parliament to take action.(2) e.g. Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) decided to lobby the Scottish Parliament to ensure all year round sewage treatment at popular surfing spots along the Scottish coast.(3)

Sometimes Pressure Groups decide to take Direct Action to gain maximum publicity or because they feel nothing else has worked and they are being ignored. (1) F4J supporters decided to climb onto the roof of the Scottish Parliament at the launch of F4J in Scotland. As a result of the media coverage of the stunt, huge publicity was generated for Fathers seeking Justice. (3)

## **Describe, in detail, the rights people have when opposing the introduction of new laws. (6)**

PEE from:

- demonstrate / protest outside Parliament/ Government buildings
- lobby elected representatives
- send letters / emails to MSPs etc.
- organise petition or e-petition
- media campaign

Pressure Groups have a number of rights when opposing the introduction of new laws. They can organise a demonstration outside Parliament. (1) This lets lawmakers know their strength of feeling on the matter. e.g. The Christian Alliance organised a protest against Gay Marriage outside the Scottish Parliament. (2)

Pressure Groups have the right to lobby elected representatives. (1) This means that the group put their case to the representatives and try to win their support and get them to act on their behalf in Parliament. (2) e.g. SAS decided to lobby MSPs to ensure that they recognise the interests of water users when passing laws affecting the interests of surfers. (3)

Pressure Groups can organise media campaigns to highlight the issue of concern and in an attempt to win support. (1) This means that they will contact media outlets and attempt to get news coverage. This in turn brings the issue to the attention of more people and some may be persuaded to join the cause. (2) e.g. CND (Scotland) contacted the main news outlets when organising their protest against Trident at Faslane and this ensured that the issue of nuclear weapons was discussed in the press.(3)

**Describe, in detail, the responsibilities a Pressure Group has when campaigning about an issue. (6)**

PEE from:

- informing Police prior to protest march / large demonstration
- stay within law when taking action
- not to slander
- be truthful when presenting information
- respect the views of others

Pressure Groups have the responsibility to stay within the law when campaigning (1). This ensures that the action can take place peacefully and without affecting the safety or rights of others. (2) For example, SAS organised a peaceful demonstration outside the Scottish Parliament about the rights of surfers. This is in contrast to the student demonstrations in London about tuition fees that turned into a riot. (3)

Pressure Groups have the responsibility to inform the Police prior to taking part in large demonstrations. (1) This gives the Police time to organise matters to protect the marchers ; ensure the safety of the public and to divert traffic.(2) e.g. Trade Unions organised large demonstrations by public sector workers against “cuts” and changes to Pensions throughout the country and these required a large Police presence to ensure public safety(3)

Pressure Groups must ensure that the literature they distribute and the information on their websites is truthful and accurate.(1) They have the responsibility to inform , not mislead, the public.(2) e.g. SAS consults with other agencies and issues guidelines on developments to ensure that the interests of surfers are taken into account. It is therefore, important that their information is accurate or their reputation will be damaged. (3)

**Explain, in detail, why many people get involved in Pressure Group activities. (6-8)**

PEE from:

- feel very strongly about issue
- effective way of making views known
- strength in numbers
- way to influence political decision makers between elections
- less time required than membership of political party
- decline in party membership

People have become involved with Pressure Groups because they feel very strongly about an issue. (1) This means that they can join with others who have a similar view and can express their collective strength of feeling to the government or other decision makers. (2) For example, many Scottish surfers joined SAS so that they could effectively lobby MSPs about the interests of surfers in Scotland. (3)

General Elections take place only every four years in Scotland. Pressure Group campaigns are one way of trying to influence politicians between elections. (1) This means that some people will use their democratic right to join a Pressure Group and lobby Parliament on issues of concern (2) For example, Trident Ploughshares campaign outside the Trident nuclear base at Faslane in an attempt to persuade the government to remove nuclear weapons from Scotland. (3)

Some people have become disenchanted with conventional politics because they believe that politicians don't listen or are ineffective. (1) Many fathers joined F4J because of their failure to improve the rights of fathers in Scotland and the UK by conventional means. They discovered that the stunts performed by F4J supporters in climbing onto Buckingham Palace or the roof of the Scottish parliament generated more publicity about their concerns than years of conventional methods. They believe that Pressure Group action is the best way forward for them. (3)

**Explain, in detail, the reasons why Pressure Groups use a variety of methods to achieve their aims. (6-8)**

PEE from:

- mass protests and petitions in order to show extent of public support
- lobbying of Parliament to gain direct access to those in power
- direct action to create disruption and gain media attention
- Insider groups use different approaches to Outsider groups
- methods chosen depend on targets of action

Some Pressure Groups will organise large protest marches and demonstrations in an attempt to show the extent of their public support and to attract media coverage. (1) A large demonstration marching on the Parliament is much more likely to generate media coverage than a letter campaign. (2) For example, CND (Scotland) protest outside the Faslane base in an attempt to secure the removal of Trident. (3) The demonstration is covered by the media and results in the issue of nuclear weapon being discussed and debated. (4)

Some Pressure Groups decide to lobby Parliament to gain direct access to political decision makers. (1) This means that they will put their case and attempt to win the support of the politicians. (2) For example, Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) lobby the Scottish Parliament to ensure the safety of surfers in Scottish waters. (3)

Some Pressure Groups will take Direct Action to ensure the maximum amount of disruption and the maximum amount of publicity for their cause. (1) Frustrated that they could not persuade the government to strengthen the rights of fathers, many men joined F4J because they believed that the group generated the publicity needed to force the government to address the issue

of fathers' rights. Certainly stunts at Buckingham, Palace and the Scottish Parliament did generate national publicity and got the issue discussed and debated. (3)

**Explain, in detail, why Pressure Groups use campaign methods which will attract media attention. (6-8)**

PEE from:

- large protests / Direct Action more likely to be newsworthy and so attract media attention
- media attention will get message to large numbers who watch TV or read papers
- media attention / support will force government to take more account of the Pressure Group due to influence of public opinion and voting intentions.

Pressure Groups know that massive demonstrations are much more likely to be newsworthy and so generate more media coverage. People see events on TV or read the newspapers and so the issues are discussed and debated. Indeed, people may show their support by donating to or joining the Pressure Group. For example, CND protests at Faslane, covered by the media, have attracted young people into the movement. (3)

Many people were unaware of the issue of fathers' rights until F4J started to carry out a number of high publicity stunts such as climbing into Buckingham Palace dressed as Batman or onto the roof of the Scottish Parliament dressed as Santa. The resulting publicity brought F4J to the attention of the British Public and many fathers who were in a similar position realised that there was a group fighting for their cause. Furthermore, the issue of fathers' rights became the subject of discussion and debate. (3)

Pressure Group actions, covered by the media, may make the government think twice about their plans. Governments are sensitive to public opinion, especially in the run up to elections and often have one eye on the opinion polls. Sometimes, if the government senses that their policies are very unpopular, they may change them. This is not always the case and Pressure Groups do not always get their way. At the moment, the "Bedroom Tax" is

unpopular with some poverty groups, but the government do not show any sign of changing things at the moment. (3)