

Baldragon Academy

Easter School 2015



Modern Studies CfE Higher Exam

April/May 2015

Exam Paper

Time: 9.00 – 11.15am (early start - be here by 8.45am)

Task: To complete **3 sections** each worth 20 marks

Remember: That's one section **every** 45 minutes!

Aim of this session: Focus of **your** exam revision

Overview Paper I

At Baldragon Academy, we do the following:

Section A – Politics in the UK:

Syllabus Area 1A – Government and Decision Making in Scotland



Paper I - Continued

Section B - Social Issues in the UK

Study Theme 2 – Wealth and Health in the UK



Examination - Continued

Section C - International Issues:

World Power: The USA



Exam Paper Overall: **60 marks**

Assignment

1 research based report (Worth 30 marks)

Overall: 90 marks in total!

Study Theme 1A: Government and Decision Making in Scotland

Role of MSP's:

Constituency work

- Hold surgeries
- Attend meetings (Joe Fitzpatrick meetings with NCR management after redundancies announced)
- Writing letters (Shona Robison wrote to National Express over fare rises)
- Attending functions

Parliamentary Work (in chamber)

- Attending Parliamentary sessions
- Suggesting and voting on motions (suggest debates/propose action)
- Participating in debates (e.g. Budget Bill 2013)
- Asking written and oral questions to Ministers at Question Time
- Suggesting legislation (Members Bills) and voting on legislation
- BUT, an MSP more likely to be effective if member of largest party (SNP)

Government and Decision Making in Scotland

Role of MSP's:

Parliamentary Work (In Committee's)

- Mandatory and Subject Committees (7-11 MSP's)
- Hold Government to account (Examine all Bills during passage through Parliament at Stages 1 and 2)
- Suggest and vote on amendments to Bills (e.g. Bill on alcohol pricing)
- Introduce new Bills if necessary
- Take evidence from public, experts and Government Ministers (Conduct enquiries and publish reports)
- All Committees 'cross-party' (full range of views)
- Petitions Committee assess public petitions (Smoking Ban started as a petition then eventually became an Executive Bill)

Limits to Committees:

- Largest party (SNP) chairs and is largest presence in Committees
- Simply rubber-stamping Bills?

Government and Decision Making in Scotland

Overview of Local Government in Scotland:

- Role: to allow local people a say in decisions which affect them.
- 29 local councils and three island councils.
- Local government provides services such as education, social work, cleansing, and leisure and recreation.
- Most of money comes as grants from Scottish Government (70%). Councils also receive a payment from Business Rates, there are charges for local services (e.g. entry to Olympia). Also council house rents, money from PFI (Scottish Futures Trust?) and European Union.
- Before 2008, councils were responsible for setting and collecting Council Tax. C.T. 'frozen' in 2008 until 2010 when, it was to be abolished (SNP has shelved Local Income Tax idea however).
- Councillors elected under system of PR (STV) since 2007. Local people have more than one councillor. Most councils No Overall Control e.g. Dundee City Council.

Issues Affecting Local Government

- **Finance:** Councils claim not enough funding resulting in cuts to services e.g. Aberdeen Council subsidy to Glencraft factory (disabled workers) but SNP-led Scottish Govt. say council budget (£11bn) allows for 'real growth' in council spending (4.2% growth next year). E.g. extra money for 1000 police officers. Scottish Govt. also claim there will be less 'ring fencing' of grants and that councils can keep any efficiency savings. 2011 cuts: £4million to education in Dundee alone.
- **Council Tax:** SG concordat to freeze CT agreed with councils for next two years (Stirling Council to cut CT). SNP & LD's wanted CT to be replaced by local income tax (LiT). Huge debate as to fairness and practicality of LiT. Worries that LiT will raise less money for councils than CT.
- **Other:**
 - 'Donald Trump Golf Resort' - Policy of 'Best Value'
 - 'Failing councils' (Scottish Borders and education budget)
 - Powers: councils want more say in education & housing matters, etc. SNP fell out with Councils over education.
 - Scrapping of Police and Fire Joint Boards. Replaced by national Police and Fire Services in 2013.

Government and Decision Making in Scotland

Voting Systems

Simple Majority Systems

1. First Past The Post (FPTP):

- Used in UK General Elections
- 650 constituencies: most votes wins each seat
- Party with the most M.P.'s (seats in the House of Commons) forms the Government.
- Voters given one ballot paper. Must mark one 'X' beside chosen candidate.



Proportional Representation Systems

1. The Additional Member System (AMS)



- Used in **Scottish Parliament Elections**
- Mixture of Simple Majority (FPTP) and Proportional Representation (Party List)
- 73 Constituency M.S.P.'s elected using FPTP and 56 Regional M.S.P.'s elected using party lists (Scotland divided into 8 regions with 7 M.S.P.'s from each region)
- Voters given 2 ballot papers. Must mark one 'X' on both. (1st vote-candidate, 2nd vote party)

2. The Party List System

- Used in European Parliament elections in UK (last election in May 2009)
- UK divided into regions (Scotland is one region)
- 6 M.E.P.'s elected in Scotland (reduced from 7)
- Parties prepare list of candidates in order of preference
- Voters choose which party they want with a single 'X'
- Seats are allocated to parties in proportion to votes received
- Candidate at top of party's list allocated seat first and so on



3. Single Transferrable Vote (STV)

- Used in **Scottish Local Council elections** and Northern Ireland Assembly elections.
- Multi-member wards or constituencies (e.g. 3-4 Councillors in each ward)
- Voters rank candidates in order of preference (e.g.1-6)
- Quota worked out which must be reached for candidate to be elected
- Second, third and fourth preferences then transferred (added) to candidates totals until quota is reached and all seats are filled

Advantages/Disadvantages Of FPTP

Advantages

- Winning by clear majority means stable government able to implement policies.
- One party government means no major compromises. In 12 years Labour govt was only defeated a handful of times.
- Tried and tested, simple, cheap to run, *may* lead to higher turnout (e.g. General Elections).
- M.P.'s directly linked to constituency and accountable to constituents.
- Small parties and extreme parties don't get elected and cannot hold balance of power.

Disadvantages

- Majority govt based on minority of support. Labour 2005: 35% of vote, 55% of seats giving 66 seat majority.
- Individual M.P.'s elected on minority of support. Inverness 1992: winner got 26% of vote!
- Leads to two-party system, smaller parties lose out. Lib Dems 2010: 23% of vote but only 9% of seats.
- Poor proportionality leads to wasted votes and tactical voting.
- Regional imbalances created. Conservatives strong in South and Midlands of England.

Advantages/Disadvantages of PR Systems

AMS: Advantages

- Retains link between MSP and constituency.
- Gives a fairly proportional result in votes and seats.
- Produced strong, stable coalition government until 2007 in Scotland.
- Gives the voter at least one vote that counts.
- Small parties represented

Party Lists: Advantages

- Most proportional PR system.
- Easy to understand and use.
- Equal weighting to all votes cast. (Unlike AMS & STV)
- Voters just choose from parties.

AMS: Disadvantages

- Still has many faults of the simple majority system.
- List M.S.P.'s not accountable to voters only their party.
- Creates two types of M.S.P.'s who are not treated equally.
- Parties still have power over selecting candidates.
- 2007: 150,000 spoiled ballots

Party Lists: Disadvantages

- Voters little choice over candidates.
- No real help for small parties.
- No connection between M.E.P.'s and an area.
- Party leaders hold all power.

Advantages/Disadvantages of PR Systems contd.

STV: Advantages

- Power is in hands of voters because of preferences.
- Simple for voters to use and no need for tactical voting. SP election 2007 fewer mistakes on STV vote than AMS vote.
- Keeps Councillors linked to an area that voters identify with.
- Produces governments or coalitions with more than 50% of the votes.
- Choice of candidates from within parties.

STV: Disadvantages

- Least proportional PR system.
- Link broken between Councillors and wards in large multi-member ward.
- More time spent on local matters instead of wider priorities.
- Disliked by politicians: less secure (safe) seats.
- Counting of votes is complex and time consuming and may put off voters.
- Most Councils in Scotland are N.O.C. (No-one voted for this).

Government and Decision Making in Scotland

Factors Affecting Voting Behaviour:

M	Media	Influence of newspaper, TV, etc.
A	Age	Younger or older
G	Gender	Male or female
I	Issues	Single issues e.g. Iraq War
C.	Class	Status in society
P.	Place	Where you live in UK
R.	Race	Ethnicity



Social Class as a factor affecting Voting Behaviour

- Until 1980s, was most important affecting voting behaviour.
 - Social class (various ways to measure) reflects a person's status in society from professional (class A) to semi-skilled/unskilled (classes D+E).
 - A+B mainly tend to vote Conservative (2010 - 39%) and D+E Labour (40%). Why? Cons. Support for lower taxes, etc.; Labour's support for better Social Security, public services etc.
 - Today only one quarter of electors vote according to their class (although disputed, many factors linked to class such as race/ethnicity and place/regionalty).
- 'Dealignment' is the movement away from class voting:
 - Many A+B voters pro-Labour (29%, '10) many work in public sector, etc.
 - Many D+E voters pro-Conservatives (31%) aspire to higher class, etc.



Social Class as a factor affecting Voting Behaviour

Impact of other factors including:

- Media - huge influence. Parties stress importance of publicity. Arguably, most important factor: 'spin doctors', 'soundbites', PPBs, close links between newspapers (Sun) and party leaders (Blair), etc.
- Gender - marginally more women (school gate mum's) voted Labour 2005 helping Labour to victory (child tax credits, etc.). 2010 switch back to Conservatives.
- Regionality - Only one Conservative MP in Scotland. Only three in Wales. But could be linked to class as Scotland and Wales traditionally poorer and more manual.
- 'Single issue voting' e.g. independence for Scotland, War in Iraq, Europe, growing immigration (BNP & UKIP).
- More 'floating voters' (less committed) today. Similarity of parties.
- Greater evidence of 'tactical voting'. Labour 'punished' 2005. Labour voters encouraged to vote tactically in 2010.



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The Welfare State

Based on the Beveridge Report (1942)

Five Giant Evils: *Solutions*

Want: *Social Security reform*

Disease: *National Health Service created (1948), free.*

Ignorance: *Improved education/secondary education extended*

Squalor: *Improved housing standards, more council housing*

Idleness: *Government responsible for tackling unemployment*

Social Class Structure

Registrar General's List

I Professional Occupations (A)

II Managerial/Technical (B)

III Skilled Occupations, Non-manual (C1), Manual (C2)

IV Semi-skilled occupations (D)

V Unskilled (E)

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification

NS-SEC (Used since 2001 although there are more recent classifications.
The Government's preferred measure of social class today)

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification

1. Higher Managerial and Professional Occupations:
 - Large employers / higher managerial e.g. company directors
 - Higher professional occupations e.g. doctors, lawyers
2. Lower Managerial and Professional Occupations: nurses, journalists
3. Intermediate Occupations: clerks, secretaries
4. Small Employers and Own Account Workers: publicans, farmers
5. Lower Supervisory and Technical Occupations: printers, plumbers
6. Semi-routine Occupations: shop assistants, hairdressers
7. Routine Occupations: couriers, labourers
8. Never Worked / Long-term Unemployed

Social Issues: Inequalities in Wealth

Income: Top 10% £700pw, Bottom 10% £150pw in 2003.

Below 60% of average household income classed as living in poverty: 23% in 2007/08 (risen since 2003 rate of 17%) (Source Child Poverty Action Group). At risk of poverty: The Unemployed, Children, Single-Parents, The Elderly.

Average family income around £27,000 per year. Any family earning less than £16,000 officially classed as poor.

Gender: Average wage: single women £426pw single men: £531pw

Women's income rising faster than men's (tax credits?)

9/10 single parents female, more likely to rent housing and live in public sector (council) housing, 56% single parents work compared 72% of cohabiting mothers.

Education: Link between social class background/family earnings and educational attainment. The higher social class you are the better you do at school (however the gap is narrowing).

Social Issues - Wealth and Health Inequalities

UK Welfare State support includes help for:

- **Children:** Child Benefit (£20.30 1st child & £13.40 other pw), Child Tax Credits, Sure Start Maternity Grants, Child Trust Fund, free school meals, clothing allowance,
- **Pensioners:** State Pension ('13 - single: £110.15), Pension Credit, Winter Fuel Payment, Community Care, etc.
- **Low Income Groups:** Jobseekers Allowance (over 25's: £71.70 pw), Income Support (over 25's: £71.70 pw), Housing Benefit (now including the 'Bedroom Tax'), Council Tax Rebate, access to Social Fund, etc.
- **Sick/Disabled:** Sickness Benefit, Incapacity Benefit, 'free' medical and dental care (all NHS care). Scotland: free prescription charge (England: £8.05)

UK Welfare State help for workers on low incomes include:

- National Minimum Wage (£6.31 ph), Working Tax Credits, Income Support (top-up of low wages of pt workers).

Inequalities in Health

Social Class: Black Report (1980), Acheson Report (1998). Both stated that social class or poverty was the main cause of health inequalities in the UK. Greater Glasgow Health Board (1994): compare Bearsden and Drumchapel in Glasgow. Working Together For A Healthier Scotland (1998).

National Statistics (2013) 30% people in routine occupations 'not good' health compared to higher managerial/professionals 14%. Regional variations exist: The regions that generally had the lowest rates of 'Not Good' health for men and women in all NS-SEC classes were the East of England and South East respectively, whereas the North East and Wales generally had the highest rates for men and women.

Lifestyle: Choices made by individuals rather than poverty responsible for poor health. Three Cities Report (2010) on Glasgow James Report (1993) showed links between poor Scottish Diet and poor health.

Collectivist View: Improve health by improving social conditions.

Individualist: Improve health by persuading individuals to improve lifestyles.

Inequalities in Health: Gender

2015 Scottish life expectancy: males 76.5, females 80.7 years.

2011 Healthy life expectancy: 68 males, females 70.

Women have more years in poor health.

But, women tend to go to the doctor more and report conditions even minor. Men more likely to wait until serious problem occurs.

Main causes of death: men- circulatory disease (heart disease, stroke), women- cancers.

Cancer rates rising proportionally. Lung cancer growing for women.

UK Smoking rates 2008 (1974): males 22% (51%), females 19% (41%).

Overweight or obese : Adult men- 64%. Adult women- 57%.

Alcohol consumption: 50% men exceed recommended units on heaviest drinking day compared to 40% of women.

Class A drugs: 12% young men, 5% young women (16-24).

Study Theme 2 - Wealth and Health Inequalities

Individuals may take greater responsibility for their own health and well-being by:

- Improving health i.e. not smoking, reducing alcohol consumption, exercising regularly, eating sensibly (Five a Day campaign), etc.
- Making provision for their own old age: private pension, occupational pension, saving for retirement, etc.
- Educating themselves as fully as they can. On average, those with the highest education rates have the best paying jobs, etc.
- Taking out private medical insurance (BUPA) or sending their children to an independent (private) school
- Managing their personal finances carefully to avoid excess personal debt

Main Scottish Govt. Policy: Better Health, Better Care (2007)

Aims on: smoking, obesity, alcohol, drugs, pregnancy, STD's.

Social Class - Wealth and Health Inequalities

- **Gender Issues:** Divorce rising and fewer children raised in married couple household (around 1 in 5).
- Girls outperforming boys in education.
- Women working more than ever (70%) and earnings are vital to families **but**, single parents likely to live in poverty. **WHY?**
- Women stuck in low paid jobs (**The '5 C's**). **Pay gap** of 12% for ft and 35% for pt workers. Women still face barriers to top jobs (the 'glass ceiling').
- **Sex and Power Report:** 'The Missing Women' from top jobs on UK.
- Previous legislation such as the **Equal Pay Act (1970)** and amendments, the **Sex Discrimination Act (1975)** replaced by the **Equality Act (2010)**. This act forces public sector bodies to reveal pay scales, pay men and women on same rates, force private companies bidding for public contracts to reveal pay scales along with larger private companies and outlawed confidentiality clauses **BUT**, women can still be denied flexible working hours and smaller private companies do not have to reveal pay scales.
- **Successful women include:** Theresa May (Politics), Michelle Mone, Hillary Devay (Business), Elish Angiolini (Law), Justine Curran (Police), Carol Vorderman (TV).
- **BUT**, 'The Glass Cliff' is a new problem: women put in the most difficult 'top jobs' (being set-up to fail).

Social Issues - Wealth and Health Inequalities

Race Issues: In 2011, around 3.7% of the people of Scotland are from a (non-White) minority ethnic group (192,000 people) compared to around 14% of the England and Wales population (7.9m people).

- Around 6.5m are also from Eastern European countries.
- Different forms of racism: direct, indirect, institutional & Islamophobia.
- Racism occurs in the community (e.g. name calling, graffiti, threats & violence), in education (Pakistanis and black afro-Caribbean's do worse at school and are less likely to attend university) and in employment (ethnic minorities more likely to be in low-paid work).
- **'Glass Door':** invisible barrier preventing minorities getting certain job opportunities and achieving their full potential.
- **Race Relations Acts 1965, 1976, 2000 & 2003** – These laws make it illegal to discriminate on grounds of colour, race or ethnic/national origin in public places.
- **The Equality Act 2010** - The Act will allow companies to discriminate in favour (i.e. **'positive discrimination'**) of ethnic minority candidates of equal ability, though companies would not be forced to use positive discrimination. Replaced previous laws on race.
- Unemployment 18% for Blacks and 11% for Asians compared to 8% for Whites in 2009. **BUT**, organisations like the NHS could not function without ethnic minorities. Eastern Europeans willing to do low paid jobs.
- Racist crimes have risen overall since 2004 (**but** carry longer jail term).
- Successful people include Chukka Umuna (MP), Amaer Anwaar (law).

World Power - The United States of America

Powers of the US president:

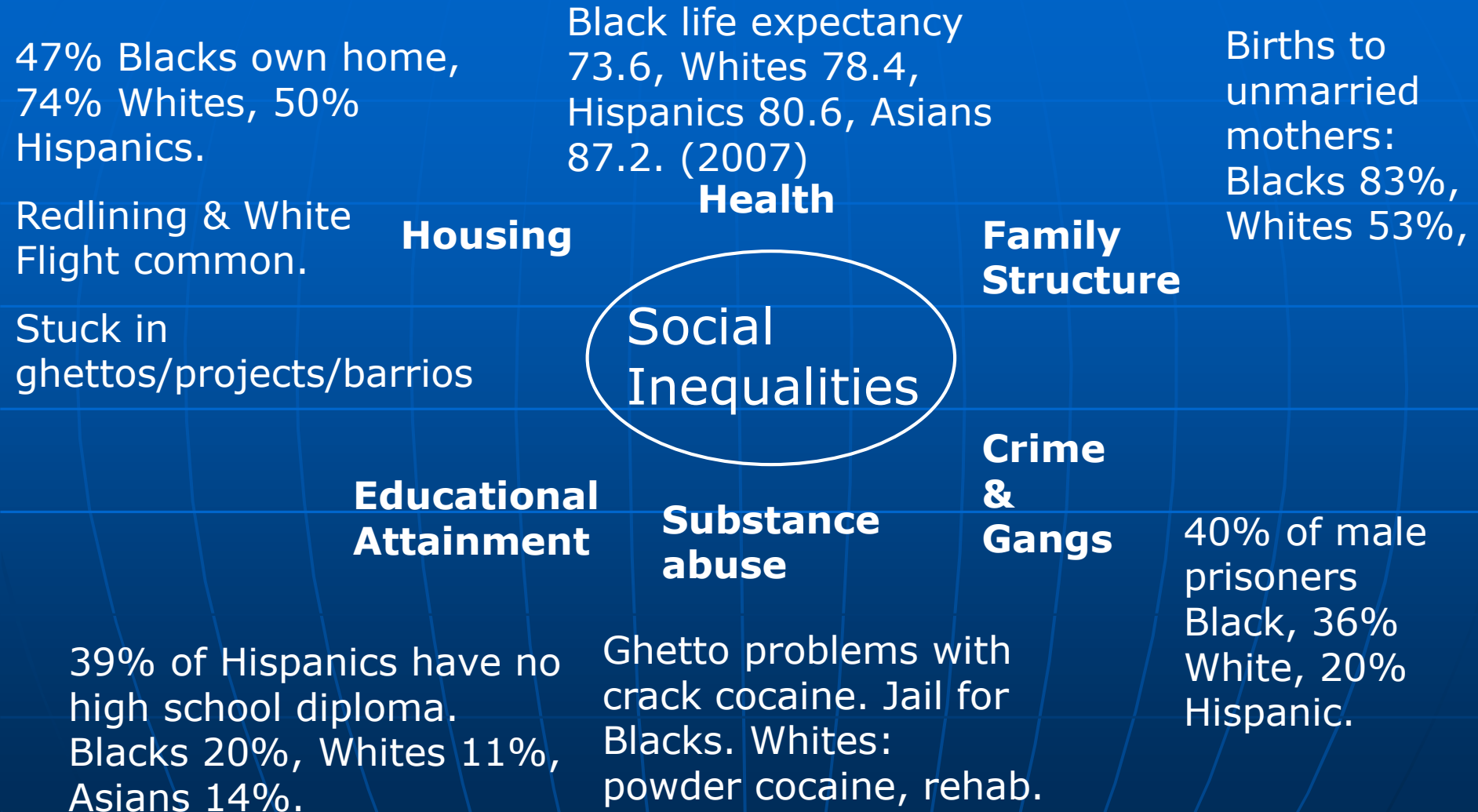
- Determines foreign policy (Iraq), appoints ambassadors and diplomats.
- Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces; can call out National Guard.
- Makes treaties e.g. Bush signed National Space Policy Treaty 2006.
- Runs federal government; nominates appointments to federal government (Senate confirms) e.g. President appoints a Cabinet.
- Issues 'Executive Orders' which carry force of law e.g. Creation of Dept. of Homeland Security. Obama outlawed 'waterboarding'.
- Appoints Supreme Court Judges (with Senate approval)
- Can adjourn or recall Congress.
- Recommends legislation to Congress e.g. Obama's recent \$787 billion fiscal stimulus plan.
- Can veto bills passed by Congress e.g. Bush vetoed bill which would have stopped CIA using 'water-boarding' interrogation technique.

BUT: Obama still had to accept changes made to his Healthcare Reforms in order for it to pass in the Senate.

Limits on the powers of the US President

- 'Separation of Powers'. In 2008, Democrats in majority in both Senate and HoR. Bush was a Republican President. President Obama on the other hand is a Democrat and there was a Democrat Congress. Obama was in a powerful position pre-Nov 2010.
 - Congress can reject presidential bills e.g. the HoR voted against extending the Protect America Act (2007); Congress can override the Presidential veto if there is a two-thirds majority in both houses e.g. on a bill authorising spending on water projects.
 - Congress can impeach the president or declare Executive Orders unconstitutional.
 - Congress controls the budget. Delay in agreeing budget in 2014.
 - Congress declares war not President. No troops committed into conflict for more than 90 days without Congressional approval.
- But** • Some argue Constitution prevents Congress from passing laws limiting powers of the President.
- H. Clinton stated US President too powerful.

Social and economic inequalities faced by ethnic minorities include:



Blacks (27%) and Hispanics (26%) nearly 3 times as likely to be poor as Whites (10%). Asians 12% (2010).

Poverty

Blacks (12.0%) almost twice as likely to be unemployed as Whites and Asians (5.9%). Hispanics 8.1%. (2012)

Unemployment

Economic Inequalities

Welfare Dependency

Food Stamps:
18.5% of Blacks
5.5% of Whites
12.2% of Hispanics
3.5% of Asians

Promotions

Black professionals earnings 62% of White professionals

Income

Median (2012)
Blacks: \$33,321
Whites: \$57,009
Hispanics: \$39,005

Examples of Social and Economic progress include:

- Growing Black middle class. More than half (60%) of all Blacks and Hispanics are middle class.
- Blacks have benefited from Affirmative Action Programmes the most.
- Marked decrease in Black and Hispanic poverty since 1990 (near 10% drop). Slight rise from 2007 onwards (credit crunch).
- Income has risen during this time for Blacks and Hispanics.
- Middle class Blacks and Hispanics live in 'Vanilla' suburbs.
- Growth in two-parent families within middle classes.
- Black and Hispanic dropout rates are falling.
- Differences in Hispanic sub-groups: Cubans better off than Puerto Ricans and Mexicans.
- Cubans benefit from Miami as 'gateway' to Central & South America.
- Only 17% of Cubans in poverty, compared to 25% Puerto Ricans and 24% Mexicans.
- Asians doing best out of all race or ethnic groups including Whites, particularly in educational attainment.

Recent important issues in the USA.

Healthcare Reform Act: Reforms made to health insurance market

- No-one can be dropped by an insurer because of 'pre-existing' health conditions.
- No more life-time cap's on coverage.
- All Americans (except illegal immigrants) required to take out insurance (32 million out of 49 million uninsured) currently.
- Govt subsidies for those earning up to \$88,000 per year (working poor).
- Vey poorest offered Medicaid.
- Insurers must offer plans which meet minimum govt requirements.

Arizona Migrant Law (Blocked by Federal Judge)

New state law in Arizona will give the police the power to charge and impose penalties on illegal immigrants for 'trespassing' in the state of Arizona. It will also allow Police to detain suspects, outlaws citizens from employing day labourers and makes it illegal to transport any illegal alien in the state.

Remember!

- Point
- Explain
- Example

However,

- Point
- Explain or
- Example

Sub-Conclusion.