

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of this question paper.

## Candidate 1

### Question 2

The candidate was awarded **11/20 marks** for this question as follows:

#### Component 1

“Turnout in the 2017 Scottish local elections easily surpassed all other recent votes in Scotland with figures showing very significant increases in all areas.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the correct component and writes this down at the beginning of the response. The candidate goes on to identify turnout as an aspect and gives examples from several votes. The candidate then goes on to give a brief interpretation of turnout by council but does identify the Shetland Islands had a drop. This is enough to gain credit. As the candidate interprets all two aspects of data, they were awarded **2 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate does not make an accurate attempt at synthesising the aspects of data identified. As a result, they were awarded **0 marks**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate does attempt to give a comment on the validity of the comment. They deal with the 2017 turnout not surpassing all previous votes. However, they do not deal with the ‘significant in all areas’ section of the component. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

#### Component 2

“Other measures of participation indicated considerable and consistent improvements.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the correct component and writes this down. Following this the candidate interprets two aspects of data. The candidate correctly uses source C to interpret data on the number of candidates standing. They then go onto interpret the number of female candidates. Whilst the candidate looks to make reference to male candidates, they have selected and interpreted the correct data from source C that relates to female candidates. They then make reference to women’s representation making it clear to the marker that this is what they are referring to. The candidate was not penalised for this. The candidate interprets two aspects correctly and was awarded **2 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate uses the term ‘as well as seeing an increase...’. This linked female candidates with the number of candidates. This was awarded **1 mark**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate attempts to make a comment on the validity of the statement. However, they do not deal with the terms ‘considerable’ and ‘consistent’. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

### Component 3

“The Conservatives were the clear winners of the 2017 Scottish local elections as they made huge gains and ended as the most popular party right across the country.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the third component and writes this down. The remainder of the paragraph is an attempt to interpret the data, synthesis and evaluate the component. The candidate correctly interprets data from source D about share of votes, council votes and seats won from source E. They do not interpret data on share of seats won. As the candidate interprets at least one aspect of data, but does not interpret all aspects of data, they were awarded **1 mark**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate attempts to link data together when they state, ‘Source E further shows...’. This is not synthesising as the data before the comment shows how the Conservative party won in council areas and the data after shows how the SNP won. It is not clear what the candidate is attempting to link. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate attempts to deal with all sections of the component by making reference to ‘clear winners’ and ‘popular across the country’. Whilst the candidate does not specifically mention the words ‘huge gains’, they do mention significant improvements. This was seen to still be a valid attempt at evaluating the statement. The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

### Component 4

“Labour was clearly the biggest loser on the night.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the component and writes it down. The candidate then goes on to deal with two of the three aspects. They interpret data on share of votes (source D) and number of seats won. They do not accurately interpret data on share of seats won from source E. As the candidate interprets at least one aspect of data, but does not interpret all aspects of data, they were awarded **1 mark**.

**Synthesis:** The attempt at syntheses is not clear enough so the candidate was not awarded any marks.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate does attempt to make a comment on the validity of the statement. However, this attempt is not accurate and fails to take into account the level of Labour losses compared to other parties. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

### **Component 5**

“In the 2019 English local elections there were similar outcomes for the two main parties.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the component and writes it down. The candidate then goes on to deal with all three aspects of data. The candidate interprets data from source F on vote share, number of seats and number of councils. The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate synthesises the three aspects of data using terms such as ‘However these votes translated’ and ‘the Conservatives also...’. The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate attempts to make an evaluation of the validity of the statement. They focus on the Conservative dominance rather than the extent to which the two parties are similar. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

## Candidate 2

### Question 2

The candidate was awarded **5/20 marks** for this question as follows:

#### Component 1

“Turnout in the 2017 Scottish local elections easily surpassed all other recent votes in Scotland with figures showing very significant increases in all areas.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the correct component and writes this down at the beginning of the response. The candidate attempts to deal with two aspects, however for the turnout aspect the candidate only compares the 2017 election with the 2012 local election. This is not interpreting the data correctly as the component states ‘votes’ and not ‘vote’. The candidate then goes on to attempt to deal with the turnout by council area. The candidate begins by identifying that local turnout increased by 7.2% but fails to identify that some councils did not increase. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate tries to synthesise by stating ‘both show an increase in turnout’. However, this is not synthesising all identified aspects of data to provide a commentary linked to this component as the marking instructions set out. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate makes an incorrect attempt at evaluating the validity of the statement. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

#### Component 2

“Other measures of participation indicated considerable and consistent improvements.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the correct component and writes this down at the beginning of the response. The candidate does not attempt to answer this section. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate does not attempt to answer this section. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate does not attempt to answer this section. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

#### Component 3

“The Conservatives were the clear winners of the 2017 Scottish local elections as they made huge gains and ended as the most popular party right across the country.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the correct component and writes this down at the beginning of the response. The candidate goes on to interpret correct data from source D on share of votes and source E: number of seats won. They do not interpret data from source D on council votes and from source E on share of seats won. As the candidate interprets at least one aspect of data but does not interpret all aspects of data, they were awarded **1 mark**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate attempts to show synthesis when they state, ‘the Conservatives did have an increase in votes and an increase in seats.’ However, the data given gives no indication on an improvement in votes. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate attempts to make an evaluation on the validity of the statement by dealing with most popular party right across the country. They do not make reference to ‘huge gains’, making reference to increase in seats. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

#### Component 4

“Labour was clearly the biggest loser on the night.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the correct component and writes this down at the beginning of the response. The candidate goes on to interpret two of the three aspects. From source E they interpret share of seats won and from source D they interpret share of the vote. The candidate does not interpret the number of seats won.

As the candidate interprets at least one aspect of data but does not interpret all aspects of data, they were awarded **1 mark**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate states ‘decrease in seats and votes.’ This was linking the identified aspects of share of seats and share of vote. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** Whilst the candidate does attempt to give an evaluation of the validity of the statement, the attempt does not provide any further information than the previous section. So taken together this attempt is accurate but does not give enough supporting justifications as set out in the marking instructions. The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

#### Component 5

“In the 2019 English local elections there were similar outcomes for the two main parties.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the correct component and writes this down at the beginning of the response. The candidate goes on to interpret two of the three aspects. From source F they interpret data on number of seats and also from source F they interpret data on number of councils. They do not deal with the vote share.

As the candidate interprets at least one aspect of data but does not interpret all aspects of data, they were awarded **1 mark**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate states 'both had a decrease in seats and councils won.' The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

**Evaluation on the validity of the statement:** The candidate attempts to make an evaluation on the validity of the statement. This attempt is not correct and inaccurately states that the Conservative party did a lot worse than the Labour party. This is inaccurate as the Conservative party had more total seats and more councils won. The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

## Candidate 3

### Question 2

The candidate was awarded **18/20 marks** for this question as follows:

#### Component 1

“Turnout in the 2017 Scottish local elections easily surpassed all other recent votes in Scotland with figures showing very significant increases in all areas.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate identifies the first component of the first part of the viewpoint. Whilst this is at the start of the second paragraph, it is still clear that this is the section the candidate is dealing with. This candidate then goes on to accurately interpret the information in source A relating to turnout in other votes. The candidate then goes on to correctly interpret the information in source B relating to turnout by council area. As the candidate interprets all two aspects of data, they were awarded **2 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate does not display synthesis between the two aspects identified and as a result they do not gain a synthesis mark.

**Evaluation of the validity of the statement:** This candidate attempts to evaluate the validity of each component separately. This is a valid approach and if completed accurately would be awarded marks.

The candidate correctly states that the statement is not accurate regarding turnout, they compare 2017 with the independence referendum and the previous council election and correctly identify that turnout was not higher in all recent votes. The candidate accurately identifies that there were not very significant increases in all areas as some of the increases were less than 3% and some council areas had a decrease in votes.

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** as they give a correct evaluation with supporting justification.

#### Component 2

“Other measures of participation indicated considerable and consistent improvements.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the second component and interprets data correctly on the number of candidates (source C) and the number of female candidates (source C). The candidate interprets all two aspects of data and was awarded **2 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate makes a basic attempt at synthesising the two aspects when they state, ‘local elections and a higher percentage.’ This links the two aspects together. The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

**Evaluation of the validity of the statement:** The candidate correctly evaluates the statement is incorrect (there was not consistent improvement in the number of candidates) and gives supporting evidence with the Labour party. The candidate continues to correctly evaluate the statement relating to the considerable improvement not being across all parties, the candidate makes reference to female candidates standing. The candidate was awarded **1 mark** as they gave a correct evaluation with supporting justification.

### Component 3

“The Conservatives were the clear winners of the 2017 Scottish local elections as they made huge gains and ended as the most popular party right across the country.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the third component and writes this down. The following paragraph correctly identifies four aspects. Whilst the candidate does not mention first preference vote, it is clear that this is the data that they are referring to when they state vote share (source D). The candidate continues to interpret the data on share of votes in councils (source D), number of seats won and share of seats won (source E). As the candidate interprets all four aspects of data, they were awarded **2 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate synthesises by using the words ‘and they did’ and ‘but’. This is linking the data previously mentioned and is worthy of credit. As the candidate links all identified aspects of data, they were awarded **1 mark** for synthesis.

**Evaluation of the validity of the statement:** The candidate correctly evaluates the statement is incorrect due to the Conservatives not being the clear winners; the SNP were. They continue to correctly identify that the Conservatives did see huge gains, however, they were not the largest party across the country. As the candidate deals with all three (clear winners, huge gains and across the country) parts of the component they receive credit. The candidate was awarded **1 mark** as they give a correct evaluation with supporting justification.

### Component 4

“Labour was clearly the biggest loser on the night.”

**Interpretation:** The candidate correctly identifies the fourth component and writes this down. The following paragraph deals with the relevant aspects of data. The candidate correctly identifies Labour lost share of vote (source D) and lost in number of seats (source E). The candidate then briefly mentions the decrease in share of seats won and correctly identifies the correct data from source E. As the candidate interprets all aspects of data, they were awarded **2 marks**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate synthesises share of votes and seats with the use of the words ‘and they also failed.’ The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

**Evaluation of the validity of the statement:** The candidate accurately evaluates that the component is correct, and Labour were the biggest loser on the night. They justify this by referring to the extent of Labour's loss compared to other parties and comparing Labour's position from previous elections. The candidate was awarded **1 mark** as they gave a correct evaluation with supporting justification.

### **Component 5**

"In the 2019 English local elections there were similar outcomes for the two main parties."

**Interpretation:** The candidate identifies two out of the three aspects. They identify the number of seats from both parties and correctly identify data on the number of councils lost. They do not identify data from source F on the vote share. As the candidate interprets at least one aspect of data but does not interpret all aspects of data, they were awarded **1 mark**.

**Synthesis:** The candidate does synthesise all aspects identified, in this case two aspects when they state, 'lost many seats and councils' and 'local election and lost'. **1 mark** was awarded.

**Evaluation of the validity of the statement:** The candidate does accurately identify that the component is not accurate. They go on to give supporting justifications. Whilst they missed out one aspect in the interpretation of data section, they can access the mark for evaluation as long as it meets the criteria outlined in the marking instructions. The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.