

Politics Higher Resource Sheet	
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number
<p>Scotland's reliability on the union            Scotland's long term economic/ diplomatic consequences            Leaving the UK to remain in the EU</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/mar/13/scottish-independence-why-second-vote-back-on-table-nicola-sturgeon">https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/mar/13/scottish-independence-why-second-vote-back-on-table-nicola-sturgeon</a>            "Sturgeon has to answer critical questions on which currency Scotland would use and whether it will need to accept the euro in future"            "Scotland's economy is growing more slowly than the UK's and its exports to the rest of the EU are not growing as fast as to the rest of the UK."</p> <p><a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/03/14/five-charts-show-economically-risky-scottish-independence-would/">http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/03/14/five-charts-show-economically-risky-scottish-independence-would/</a>            "The North Sea is an extremely expensive place to produce oil, with recent estimates putting the cost at \$44 per barrel. This leaves little room for profit and makes it almost impossible to compete with countries like Saudi Arabia who can produce oil for less than \$10 per barrel"            "Scotland's economy isn't exactly ailing but nor is it excelling to the extent where independence is anything other than an extremely risky proposition"</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/apr/10/independent-scotland-would-be-welcome-to-join-eu-say-green-meps">https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/apr/10/independent-scotland-would-be-welcome-to-join-eu-say-green-meps</a>            "Scotland would be most welcome as a full member of the EU, with your 5 million European citizens continuing to benefit from the rights and protections we all currently enjoy."            "The truth is that the SNP still can't say whether an independent Scotland would seek to get back into the EU" - Jackson Carlaw</p> <p><a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/02/15/scottish-independence-cameron-un-security-council_n_1279408.html">http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/02/15/scottish-independence-cameron-un-security-council_n_1279408.html</a>            "warns of the nation being marginalised at the UN Security Council and among NATO" - Cameron            "Alex Salmond is on-record as saying that an independent Scotland would not be a nuclear nation"</p>	

Q To what extent would Scotland not succeed outside the United Kingdom?

A The issue of Scottish independence has been widely and fiercely debated around all of Scotland. This topic is politically relevant as it is currently the fundamental most important Scottish political issue and has recently come to the forefront of Scottish politics as Nicola Sturgeon MSP ~~has~~ has formally requested a second independence referendum to the UK Government. Scotland joined with England into the Kingdom of Great Britain in the 1707 Act of Union and has since operated under ~~the~~ the will of the UK Government until recently when the ~~UK~~ Scotland was given a devolved parliament by the newly elected Labour Government in 1997. Independence has since been a significant political issue, ~~the~~ however, it is clear that if Scotland were to break away from the United Kingdom, then Scotland would suffer long-term economic, political and diplomatic issues which could make Scotland ~~it~~ to a large extent, less ~~the~~ powerful and prosperous ~~the~~ in perpetuity. The focus where it is clear that Scotland would not succeed outside the UK are ~~the~~ Scotland's

reliability on the one hand, the long term economic and diplomatic consequences of leaving the UK and the promise that Scotland would be leaving the UK to remain within the EU.

It is clear that the Scottish economy relies to a large extent, on oil production in the north sea as this topic was ~~highly~~ extensively debated in Scotland's first independence referendum. This means that this part of economy was seen as to a large extent, Scotland's main economic asset. However, since the result of the ~~independent~~ first referendum, oil revenue in the north sea has significantly declined. This is compounded by the fact that the price of ~~the~~ oil production in Scotland is very high. For example, an article in the telegraph stated "The north sea is an extremely expensive place to produce oil, with recent estimates putting the cost at \$44 per barrel. This leaves little room for profit and makes it almost impossible to compete with countries like Saudi Arabia who can produce oil for less than \$10 per barrel." Consequently, this shows that a newly independent Scotland would be forced to spend a significant amount of money on the production of oil as it is to a large extent, Scotland's main source

of economic capital and therefore this would mean that there would be less money to spend on social services, education and health due to an overreliance on a relatively low amount of oil revenue. However, independence campaigners would argue that there are other forms of income that a newly independent Scottish Government could invest in, such as renewable energy production. However, it is also clear that as the oil industry is, to a large extent, declining in Scotland, to such an extent that elsewhere for economic revenue would also cost a significant amount of revenue in itself. For example, the article from the Telegraph also states that "Scotland's economy isn't exactly thriving but nor is it collapsing to the extent where independence is anything other than an extremely proposition". Therefore, this evidence shows that, similarly to the "better together" argument from 2014, ~~there~~ there is too much economic uncertainty around an independent Scotland which therefore means the Scotland ~~should~~ should focus on improving its economy within the United Kingdom rather than jumping into a potentially uncertain and unknown future. Therefore, it is clear that Scotland does to a large extent, rely on its union with ~~between~~ England, Wales and Northern Ireland as the lack of ~~economic~~ economic growth





that "Scotland would be most welcome as a full member of the EU" (article from the Guardian). Therefore, this means that ~~independence~~ ~~supporters~~ ~~are~~ some independence supporters are in favour of an independent Scotland remaining part of the EU, however this assurance has not been given by the Scottish Government as Jackson Carlucci MSP points out that "The truth is that the SNP still can't say whether an independent Scotland would seek to get back into the EU" (article from the Guardian). Therefore, the position of the SNP's mandate for a referendum is untenable as the ~~first~~ Nicola Sturgeon ~~stated~~ that he has ~~not~~ formally requested a referendum on the basis that Scotland would be taken out of the EU, without its consent, however she has failed to give any assurance that an independent Scotland would rejoin the EU. This is a consequence of the minority eurosceptic wing of ~~the~~ SNP supporters including ~~other~~ prominent SNP politicians such as Alex Neil MSP and previously Tim Sillars. Therefore, this shows a hypocrisy of the SNP's EU mandate and ~~that~~ ~~it~~ creates a to a large extent, ~~lot~~ of uncertainty over whether an independent Scotland would be inside or outside the EU which means that if a referendum were to be won by ~~the~~ independence





On the one hand, Scottish taxpayers the Scottish government would be forced to pay extensive amounts of taxpayers money to ~~the~~ prop up Scottish industries as well as have to use Scottish taxpayers money to sustain ~~the~~ failing economies such as Greece in the European union. On the other hand, Scotland would be seen as loss of an economic ~~power~~ ~~the~~ diplomatic power in the world as Scottish growth is currently lower than the rest of the UK and because the union gives Scotland a significant amount of money to boost growth as well as a good diplomatic hand in negotiating deals and dealing with issues that Scottish people care about. Overall, it is clear that Scotland's economy and its position as a major power would be ruined if Scotland were to leave the United Kingdom and thus therefore Scotland could not succeed outside the ~~unite~~ UK.