

Politics Higher Resource Sheet	
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number
	<p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13297573 - av referendum surprising results</p> <p>http://www.ukpolitical.info/Turnout45.htm</p> <p>https://www.uk-engage.org/2013/06/what-are-the-advantages-and-disadvantages-of-using-the-first-past-the-post-voting-system-2/</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2015/results -BNP gaining 1667 votes, extremist party, strong beliefs in abolishing immigration</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/election2011/region/html/36143.stm - 4 different parties gaining regional seats conservatives won 12% of the list vote and 11% of the list seats more proportional system</p> <p>Ams=hybrid system</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2016/scotland/results snp votes are accounted for</p> <p>https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/sites/default/files/2007-local-authority-elections-in-scotland.pdf ballot papers being destroyed and labours gaining success</p> <p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/av-referendum/8485118/David-Cameron-why-keeping-first-past-the-post-is-vital-for-democracy.html</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/election2011/region/html/scotland.stm msps less accountable because of confusing system</p>

To what extent is the current voting system used in the UK ~~unproportional~~ unproportional and unrepresentative, ~~(compare)~~ compared to another system (80 marks)

It is important to have a system which is representative of the public's views and desires. The current system of

(FPTP) First past the post is deemed to be highly ineffective and does not proportionally support the views of the people. The Additional Member System (AMS) used in Scottish Parliament elections, this system is seen to be far more effective in representing the ~~major~~ majority of the public and is known for creating far more proportional results. Many people believing that changing the current system used in the United Kingdom would be far more beneficial in representing the views of the people. For example in 2011 AV referendum showed that a majority of the people voted to change from using FPTP to the new Alternative Vote, however ~~this~~ the new alternative vote was seen to be ~~at least~~ ~~proportional~~ no better than ~~the~~ FPTP if not worse than what is currently used.

AMS is a hybrid system which is made up of both FPTP and AMS. This system is far more proportional as the percentage of votes match up more equally to the percentage of seats therefore showing that the system is more proportional within parliament. This system gives smaller parties a chance to be represented and have their say within parliament. For example the British Independent Party gained 10% of votes within this 4 different parties gained regional seats under the AMS system in 2011 election, this shows that AMS is far more proportional towards smaller parties and shows that it does not over/under represent the main parties unlike FPTP. With the first past the post system it is more likely to favour two main political parties for example Conservatives and Labour. Therefore meaning if you do not vote for one of these parties it will mean your vote is not accounted for leaving you unrepresented, therefore creating a two party system. This then results in voters using tactical voting in order to best represent their views. David Cameron has said that keeping the FPTP system is

Vote for democracy, However this is because this particular system follows his party and best benefits him in the long run whereas if the system were to change to AMS it would represent a wider variety of smaller

✓ of extremist parties

With AMS using first past the post also this makes the system into the only mostly proportional. As under AMS gives voters two votes one for the system party and one for to choose for the regional list. The regional list is what makes this system more effective within representation than FPTP, however the first vote is used under the regional FPTP system therefore meaning that many votes are still wasted and does not reflect the views of the public.

which

are a

extremist

party who

are strong

opponents in

debating

migration

AMS provides maps which are less accessible. With this system providing two votes it makes it extremely difficult for people when voting. With AMS the second vote within AMS these are 7 regional maps however the voters do not know who they are as they are much less accessible, which therefore causes consequences for people within that constituency as they are unable to reach their MP, ~~leading~~ meaning that they are not doing their job right and are not fully representing the views of the public. This is where FPTP is slightly better as it does not provide the second vote and provides maps which are much more accessible and are able to provide better services to their constituents, however this does not mean that FPTP is fairer in representing the views of the people or providing more proportional results.

~~Within FPTP~~ When using FPTP as the particular voting system many people see or believe it to be a waste of time and effort going to vote as they already have made their mind up and know that their vote will not count. This even means that not only has someone wasted their chance to vote

participate in politics, and ~~have~~ ~~an~~ ~~idea~~ ~~of~~ ~~what~~ ~~it~~ ~~means~~ ~~to~~ ~~participate~~ ~~in~~ ~~politics~~. It means that the final results will be far less proportional and not represent the majority of the public. ~~The~~ ~~UK~~ ~~has~~ ~~made~~ ~~sure~~ ~~that~~ ~~most~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~votes~~ ~~are~~ ~~counted~~ ~~for~~ ~~and~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~majority~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~public~~ ~~are~~ ~~happy~~. For example in 2016 Scottish election SNP's votes were counted for and they won a majority ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~government~~, however anyone who voted for them in the UK general election will have wasted their vote as SNP are not one of the ~~advancing~~ ~~parties~~ under the FPTP system which reinforces the fact that it is a system which ~~is~~ ~~creates~~ ~~unfair~~ ~~and~~ ~~unequal~~ ~~results~~ ~~and~~ ~~also~~ ~~does~~ ~~not~~ ~~best~~ ~~benefit~~ ~~the~~ ~~views~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~public~~. However FPTP is an easy system to understand and use as ~~the~~ ~~voters~~ ~~are~~ ~~only~~ ~~required~~ ~~to~~ ~~place~~ ~~an~~ ~~'x'~~ ~~in~~ ~~a~~ ~~box~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~party~~ ~~of~~ ~~their~~ ~~choice~~ ~~this~~ ~~makes~~ ~~the~~ ~~system~~ ~~quick~~ ~~and~~ ~~easy~~ ~~to~~ ~~use~~ ~~and~~ ~~also~~ ~~less~~ ~~confusion~~ ~~for~~ ~~voters~~, whereas ~~the~~ ~~two~~ ~~votes~~ ~~which~~ ~~are~~ ~~a~~ ~~little~~ ~~more~~ ~~complex~~. The first vote is ~~just~~ ~~easy~~ ~~and~~ ~~simple~~ ~~as~~ ~~it~~ ~~uses~~ ~~FPTP~~ ~~however~~ ~~the~~ ~~second~~ ~~vote~~ ~~is~~ ~~more~~ ~~complex~~ ~~for~~ ~~voters~~ ~~to~~ ~~understand~~ ~~as~~ ~~you~~ ~~are~~ ~~given~~ ~~7~~ ~~regional~~ ~~maps~~ ~~with~~

is slightly more confusing for the public.

Overall, ~~Amis~~ although Amis is only slightly ~~more~~ mostly proportional it does reflect the views of the public more proportionally than the system used in the UK & right now. FPTP provides unfair results and ~~does not~~ ~~match~~ up the ~~percentage~~ ~~wasted~~ the majority of the public's ~~the~~ votes. Therefore meaning that it is highly unproportional between parties and is ~~not~~ representative of the people's views. Therefore showing that to a greater extent Amis is for ~~more~~ better within representation and proportionality and is a much fairer and equal system that should be used

↳ Within the UK as it reflects the general views of the public and allows ~~elections~~ parties which would be highly under represented within FPTP a chance to be represented and ~~more~~ allows for more opinions people opinions and views to be heard within providing significantly better representation within Parliament.