

Gymnasium Oberwil

Matur 2009

Ergänzungsfach Geschichte

Kurs id2: *Scotland: From Rob Roy to Independence*

Hilfsmittel: Englischwörterbuch eigener Wahl

Examinator: Christoph Maier

This exam consists of three parts. Complete the following tasks as accurately and comprehensively as possible. Write complete English sentences.

Maximum points for each task are given in brackets after each task.

Maximum points overall: 54

Part 1: The Jacobites and the Union

Source 1: A petition from Stirling Town Council , 18 November 1706, from: *Scotland. The Autobiography*, ed. R. Goring (London, 2007), pp.110-111.

To His Grace Her Majesties high Commissioner and the Estates of Parliament.
The Address of the provost Baillies Town Councill and other Inhabitants of the
Burgh of Stirling.

5 Humbly Sheweth

That having deliberated upon the great affair of the union of the two nations, as
contained in the printed articles, we judged it our indispensable duty to the
nation, to this place, indeed to posterity, with all imaginable deference to your
10 Grace and Honourable Estates of parliament humbly to represent,

That although we desire that true peace and friendship be perpetually
Cultivated with our neighbours in England [...], yet we judge your going into this
treaty as it now lies before you will bring an insupportable burden of taxations
15 upon this land, which all the grants of freedom of trade will never
counterbalance being so uncertain and precarious while still under the
regulations of the English in the parliament of Britain, who may if they please
discourage the most considerable branches of our trade, if any way considered
to interfere with their own.

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That it will prove ruinous to our manufacturers, that it will expose our religion,
church government as established by law, our claim of right, laws, liberties and
consequently all that's valuable. To be encroached upon, indeed wholly
subverted by them, whose principles do, and supposed interest may lead
25 thereunto, that it will deprive us and the rest of the royal burghs in this nation, in
a great measure of our fundamental right of being represented in the legislative
power, that thereby one of the most ancient nations so long and so gloriously
defended by our worthy patriots will be suppressed. Our parliament is the very
hedge of all that is dear to us, extinguished and we and our posterity brought
30 under a lasting yoke which we will never be able to bear, the fatal
consequences of which we tremble to think upon [...]

Tasks:

1a Study Source 1 and explain the reaction of Stirling Town Council to the impending
Union of Parliaments. (6 points)

1b Essay: Who joined the Jacobite Rebels and for what reasons? (12 points)

Part 2: Devolution and Home Rule in Scotland (1939 – today)

Source 2: Ian Bell: "The Scottish Parliament Reconvenes, 12 May 1999", from: *Scotland. The Autobiography*, ed. R. Goring (London, 2007), pp.421-424.

'The Scottish Parliament, adjourned on the 25th day of March, 1707, is hereby reconvened.'

David Steel could not resist it. Five years to the day since the death of John Smith, nobody thought that he should. It was, said Sir David, Presiding Officer of Scotland's first democratic parliament, the start of a new song. That and more.

Dr Winifred Ewing, sixty-nine, mother of the house, had already reminded us of what was being done. In the capital's grey Assembly Hall, just after 9.30 a.m., to a half-empty chamber, she uttered the simple, astonishing truth: 'The Scottish Parliament, adjourned on the 25th day of March, 1707, is hereby reconvened.'

History is memory. This moment was memory reclaimed, a right restated, a truth reaffirmed. The nation of Scotland, with all its thrawn suspicions, numberless confusions, apathy, clumsy rivalries and disparate hopes, had remembered.

We began on a May morning in Edinburgh, high on the Mound, with thirty-five white roses, a clenched fist, 129 members sworn in with a measure of honest dissent, a Labour Party honouring John Smith's promise and a strange kind of ease. This, said the language of ritual, is what we do, ours by right, and this is how we do it. The fact was woven in neat, white letters into the very uniforms of the hall's polite, patient staff: 'Scottish Parliament'.

But then, suddenly, many strands came together. The clenched fist was Tommy Sheridan's, affirming on behalf of the Scottish Socialist Party a long tradition for a democratic socialist republic. The white roses were on the lapels of the Scottish National Party. The power was with Donald Dewar's Labour, the novelty with the Liberal Democrats, the new argument with the new Scottish Tories. Whatever else home rule may come to mean, it has already given articulacy to Scotland's diversity. We have not been here, or anywhere like it before. [...]

This is what we are; this is what we do. Mr Salmond spoke for the collective strength of the SNP when he said, before swearing the oath: 'For the Scottish National Party parliamentary group, loyalty is with the people of Scotland, in line with sovereignty of the people.' [...]

It became what the glib call a defining moment: almost one-third of Scotland's first democratic parliamentarians put on record their belief that sovereignty resides, as old doctrine and the Claim of Right once supported by Labour says, with the people of Scotland, not with the Crown. Mr Canavan said it; the SNP said it; Robin Harper of the Greens said it; Mr Sheridan of the SSP said, loud and clear, that he took the oath under solemn protest. [...]

This was a small parliament in a small country, and none the worse for it. The spin-doctors were conspicuous, if not by their absence then at least by their silence. How to enlarge or diminish what was taking place? It may be

sullied in the months and years to come but Scotland's parliament pledged itself into existence with what seemed, in the measure of these things, honest intent.

45 Mr Dewar is there for the sake of his own belief and for John Smith's promise. Mr Canavan is there for his principles, Mr Sheridan for his people, Mr Salmond for a new nation, Mr Harper for the planet, Mr McLetchie for the Union. Scotland is represented, male and female, from a sixty-nine-year-old to a twenty-five-year-old. In the closes, wynds and pends off the Royal Mile, new politics, a new
50 democracy, came to an old city and an old country.

It is too easy, now, to be cynical. On the Mound yesterday something new did happen, just for once, without self-consciousness, from beneath the weight of history, with a sense of honest purpose. This process will take us only where we want to go. Just for once, we cannot say that we have seen it all before.

55 Yesterday, for a moment, Edinburgh was the only place in the world to be.

Tasks:

2a Study Source 2 and explain the particular problems Ian Bell hints at for home rule in Scotland after the establishment of the new Scottish Parliament. (6 points)

2b Essay: What were the main stages of the process towards devolution between 1939 and 1999? (12 points)

3 Scottish Independence

Source 3: The Scottish National Party on Independence, extracts from: www.snp.org/node/240

Normality

The SNP wants Scotland to have what other countries take for granted – the freedom to decide what kind of society we want to live in and how we want to interact with the world around us. In other words, normality.

5 As individuals, we value our own independence. We accept that it is entirely natural to make our own decisions, to earn and spend our own money, and to take responsibility for our own lives. Why should we settle for anything less for our country?

10 As a nation, we accept the independence of other countries as normal. We do not think it strange that the people of Norway and Denmark run their own affairs. We would not expect the people of Ireland or Sweden to ask another nation to take decisions for them because they didn't feel up to the job. Why should the people of Scotland be any different?

15 Most of us also want our communities to have more independence. We want to have a greater say in deciding how our public services should be funded and delivered, we want to participate in decisions which affect the environment around us and we want to contribute more to the communities we live in. That too is normal - but it won't happen unless we start by taking control of our country and taking decisions for ourselves.

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Progress

The SNP campaigned for devolution because it was a move in the right direction. Devolution has improved the way that Scotland is governed but it is not the same as independence.

25 The Scottish Parliament has brought a new level of democracy to our country but under devolution its powers are limited - so there is a limit to how much it can achieve.

30 With devolution, Westminster has kept control of crucial areas like the economy, taxation, benefits, pensions, immigration and asylum, broadcasting, defence and international affairs.

The SNP wants to see the Scottish Parliament, rather than Westminster, having these powers. This would give us equality with other nations. With independence the Scottish Parliament would be able to take decisions on all matters which affect Scotland, not just some of them.

35 The 300-year old Union is no longer fit for purpose. It was never designed for the 21st century world. It is well past its sell by date and is holding Scotland back.

The SNP believe Scotland and England should be equal nations – friends and partners - both free to make our own choices.

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Success

45 Independence would enable Scotland to become more successful. Other small European countries have higher levels of economic growth and living standards than Scotland. Independence gives those nations the powers to shape their country for the better. Scotland could have this too.

50 Off our east coast lies Norway, the second most prosperous country in the world. Off our west coast lies Ireland, the fourth most prosperous country in the world. Off our north coast lies Iceland, the sixth most prosperous country in the world.

These independent countries represent an arc of prosperity - and Scotland has every bit as much potential as any of them. We have abundant natural resources, an educated and skilled workforce and a globally recognised identity and reputation for quality and integrity.

55 With independence, Scotland could join this arc of prosperity. We could pursue economic policies designed specifically for our circumstances, to give us a stronger economy, better public services and a fairer society.

Why our economy needs independence

60 There is no question that the Scottish economy has been underperforming under devolution. The Scottish Parliament does not have the economic powers that our competitors have, powers which are necessary to tackle Scotland's cycle of low economic growth.

65 Rather than accept this state of affairs, the SNP wants to implement an economic policy that moves our country forward. Independence would give the Scottish Parliament the powers to transform Scotland into a high growth economy and a prosperous society.

70 With the right policies in place we could make Scotland a much more competitive place to do business. Policies such as cutting corporation tax to 20 per cent, reducing business red tape and implementing a distinctive immigration policy to target migrants with the skills we need.

75 As part of a wider economic strategy, these measures would boost economic growth and produce more wealth to invest in the public services we value in Scotland, without any need to increase taxes. This approach has worked in other countries – there is no reason why it should not work in Scotland too.

Making the most of our natural resources

Independence would give us full control of energy policy – and bring home Scotland's share of North Sea oil and gas revenues.

80 More than 90 per cent of the UK's oil revenues come from the Scottish sector of the Continental Shelf. So it really is Scotland's oil.

85 Over the past thirty years over 35 billion barrels have been extracted from the UK sector of the North Sea, producing a cash windfall for the UK government of over £200 billion. There is plenty of potential left in the North Sea, with as much as half of the oil yet to come and new opportunities opening up for the oil industry to the north and west of Scotland.

As an independent country Scotland could follow the example of Norway and invest a share of our future oil revenues in a fund to benefit future generations. By investing just part of our oil wealth, Scotland could have an Oil Fund worth billions within a decade.

90 In addition to oil, we have vast renewable energy potential. Scotland has 25 per cent of Europe's wind and tidal capacity and 10 per cent of its wave power. There are huge, untapped opportunities for offshore energy production and for clean carbon technologies like carbon capture. The SNP is determined to harness this potential and turn it into a successful and sustainable industry.

95 Oil and renewables - along with a set of pro-Scottish business policies – can help transform Scottish prospects over the next 30 years. They are far too important to be left to London. It is time to move on so Scotland's precious natural resources can help fuel our nation's future prosperity.

100 **Why Scotland needs a voice in Europe**

For too long Scotland has been forced to look on while other nations gather to discuss and tackle global issues.

As part of the UK, Scotland has had no direct role in shaping the decisions of the European Union, decisions that directly affect us and have a crucial impact on key industries like fishing and agriculture.

105 To become part of the decision-making process in Europe, and gain the power to stand up for our vital national interests, Scotland needs to become a member state. To become a member state, Scotland has to become independent.

110 We will be in good company. More than half of the new EU member states have populations similar to or smaller than Scotland. If Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania can have a seat at the top table of Europe, then why not Scotland?

Scotland in the world

115 Independence would give Scotland a voice on the international stage; a voice we can use to promote peace, reconciliation and fairness.

The SNP will always uphold the rule of international law. An SNP government in an independent Scotland would never send Scottish soldiers into an illegal conflict, like the Iraq war.

120 Independence would also enable us to honour our commitments to international development aid. With independence, an SNP government would meet the UN recommended aid contributions level of 0.7 per cent of national income as well as supporting reform of international trade bodies like the World Trade Organisation to create a more level playing field between developed and less developed nations.

Tasks:

3a Study Source 3 and summarize the SNP's arguments for independence in your own words. Distinguish between domestic, foreign and economic arguments.
(6 points)

3b Essay: How likely are the SNP's chances of achieving independence? Take into account the positions of the other major political parties on independence.(12 points)

