

# SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTION - 3 MAY 2007

## EDUCATION POLICY MANIFESTO ANALYSIS

	Scottish Conservatives	Scottish Labour Party	Scottish Liberal Democrats	Scottish National Party	Scottish Green Party
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Commission to be established to investigate the future funding of universities and colleges and to investigate the issue of student debt and finance</p>	<p>Investment in schools, colleges and universities will increase every year between now and 2011 by at least double the rate of inflation</p> <p>Invest further in further education estates, creating first class facilities in the heart of local communities</p>	<p>Commit to 3% per year real terms increase to further education funding over the next spending review</p> <p>Work with colleges and universities to consider the options for a matched funding scheme to lever in additional private investment</p> <p>Increase the level of bursaries given to the poorest students above inflation</p> <p>Abolish the Graduate endowment</p>	<p>Abolish Graduate Endowment Tuition Fee and replace the Student Loan system with means tested grants</p> <p>Remove the debt repayment owed by Scottish domiciled and resident students</p>	<p>Scrap the current graduate endowment and bring back student grants. This would form part of moves towards a national citizen's income scheme, guaranteeing a minimum income for students. Further education students also need greater financial support while studying at college.</p> <p>Scrap the top-up fees currently in place for medical students from other parts of the UK. Reject top-up fees as a method of funding higher education.</p> <p>Further education students also need greater financial support while studying at college.</p>
<b>Skills</b>	<p>Pilot a city academy in Glasgow specialising in vocational skills, music, drama, arts, sports, science or anything else for which there is demand</p> <p>Local authorities to be required to produce a strategy for the teaching of science and technical subjects in partnership with local head teachers and further education colleges</p> <p>Establish a Scottish Skills Agency, with an annual budget of £170m, to oversee Modern Apprenticeships and Skillseekers</p>	<p>100 Skills Academies to be created in every part of Scotland</p> <p>Increase the number of Modern Apprenticeships to 50,000 by 2011</p> <p>Merge Skill Seekers programme into Modern Apprenticeships</p> <p>Create an Advanced Modern Apprenticeship Award to recognise the high level of skills required to achieve level 4 5 MAs</p> <p>Oil and Gas Academy to be created in Aberdeen to support training and skill conversion</p>	<p>More support for partnerships between schools, colleges and businesses to expand range of vocational training available from age 14</p> <p>Set a target of 50,000 Modern Apprenticeships by 2011</p>	<p>Focus the skills strategy on real, marketable skills and ensure the strategy is demand led</p> <p>Review Modern Apprenticeships programme to make sure skills being taught address the skills gap and that the system is flexible to encourage maximum participation</p> <p>Increase the number of small businesses taking part in Modern Apprenticeships. Relax the age restrictions on Modern Apprenticeships</p> <p>Support the creation of a Scottish Life Sciences Institute</p>	<p>Rejection of the current model for skills academies</p>
<b>Schools</b>			<p>Colleges should work far more closely with schools and a higher priority to be given to vocational courses</p> <p>Build links between further and higher education science departments and schools</p> <p>Roll out 'Skills for Work' across Scotland</p>	<p>Expand schools college partnerships for S3 and S4 so all pupils can experience vocational learning</p>	<p>Develop formal links between schools and the further education sector</p>

# COMPARISON OF PARTY ELECTION MANIFESTOS (continued)

	Scottish Conservatives	Scottish Labour Party	Scottish Liberal Democrats	Scottish National Party	Scottish Green Party
<b>NEET</b>		<p>Make leaving school at the ages of 16 &amp; 17 conditional on a young person being in education, employment, training or full time volunteering by 2012</p> <p>Create a full employment agency tasked to reduce NEET and increase economic activity and employment rates</p>		<p>Align Careers Scotland more closely with the education sector to tackle the high number of 16–19 year olds currently NEET, and deliver a greater focus on apprenticeships in key core skills</p>	
<b>Sector Bodies</b>			<p>Merge Careers Scotland and Learndirect Scotland</p>	<p>Use the new Skills Committee of the SFC to ensure that the Further Education Sector is geared up to deliver the required local and national skills</p>	
<b>Lifelong Learning</b>		<p>90% of the Scottish population to be level 2 or above by 2020</p> <p>50% of the Scottish population to be level 4 by 2020</p> <p>Improve access to part time study, initially with a full review of part-time student financial support</p> <p>Establish alliance between colleges, learning providers and Learndirect Scotland to promote part time learning, learning to those over 50 and work based learning</p>		<p>Revitalise life-long learning agenda to recognise the key role colleges play in the economy and in their communities and help them develop this role</p> <p>Ensure people of all ages can access relevant, valued and quality assured training opportunities throughout their working lives</p>	<p>Create strategy for widening access to and improving access in further and higher education, including greater support for part time study</p>
<b>Parity</b>	<p>End to all unnecessary direction in the activities of universities and colleges</p>		<p>Work towards greater parity of esteem through a Scottish credit framework</p>	<p>Vocational skills to have parity of esteem with academic qualifications</p>	
<b>Economic Advantage</b>		<p>Increase number of places in colleges and universities, specifically increasing number of science degrees</p>	<p>Pilot new business incubators in schools and colleges, in partnership with corporate Scotland</p>	<p>Provide practical support to help employers tackle skills shortages</p> <p>Work with national agencies, training agencies, the voluntary sector and local community enterprises to promote activities which help increase the employability of individuals.</p>	
<b>International</b>				<p>Will review the situation of part-time and post-graduate students and support efforts to attract more international students.</p>	<p>Cut the cost of international student visas</p>
<b>Sport</b>		<p>Create a University of Sport</p>			