



20 mark

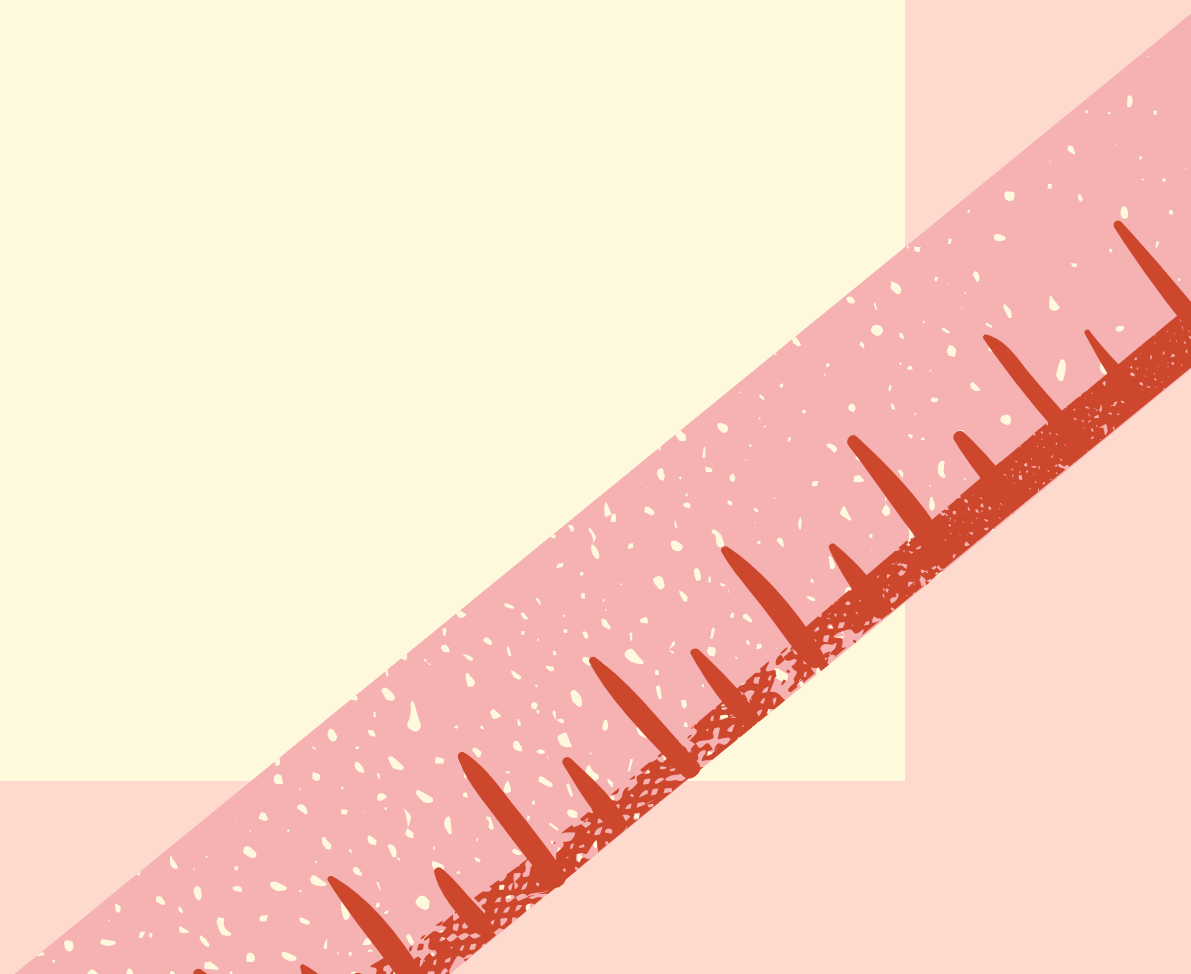
DATA HANDLING QUESTION



Paper 2

🌀 28 marks

🌀 1 hour 15 minutes



The Democrats clearly won the 2012 elections by convincingly defeating the Republicans at every level and their performance in 2012 was almost as impressive as in 2008. In the 2012 presidential election Barack Obama defeated his Republican opponent Mitt Romney by decisive margins across every area and in all sections of society. The Republican candidate in 2016, Donald Trump, performed significantly better among all voter groups compared to Mitt Romney in 2012.

Using only the information in Sources A–E

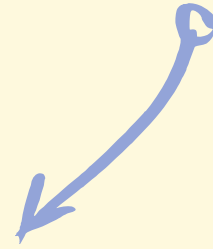
To what extent does the evidence contained in these sources support the viewpoint above?

20

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

The Democrats clearly won the 2012 elections by convincingly defeating the Republicans at every level and their performance in 2012 was almost as impressive as in 2008. In the 2012 presidential election Barack Obama defeated his Republican opponent Mitt Romney by decisive margins across every area and in all sections of society. The Republican candidate in 2016, Donald Trump, performed significantly better among all voter groups compared to Mitt Romney in 2012.

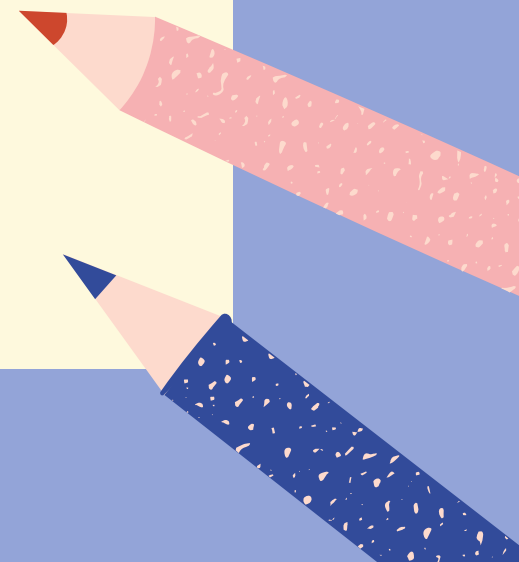
The Viewpoint



2 parts



5 components






The first part of the viewpoint:

Component 1:

The Democrats clearly won the 2012 elections by convincingly defeating the Republicans at every level

Component 2:

...their performance in 2012 was almost as impressive as in 2008.





The second part of the viewpoint:

Component 1:



In the 2012 presidential election Barack Obama defeated his Republican opponent Mitt Romney by decisive margins across every area

Component 2:

in all sections of society.

Component 3:

The Republican candidate in 2016, Donald Trump, performed significantly better among all voter groups compared to Mitt Romney in 2012.



The first part of the viewpoint:

Component 1:

The Democrats clearly won the 2012 elections by convincingly defeating the Republicans at every level

Component 2:

...their performance in 2012 was almost as impressive as in 2008.

The second part of the viewpoint:

Component 1:

In the 2012 presidential election Barack Obama defeated his Republican opponent Mitt Romney by decisive margins across every area

Component 2:

in all sections of society.

Component 3:

The Republican candidate in 2016, Donald Trump, performed significantly better among all voter groups compared to Mitt Romney in 2012.

Key

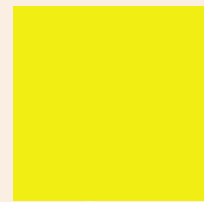
Colour code the component parts of the viewpoint.

You would need 5 different colours.

First part of the viewpoint

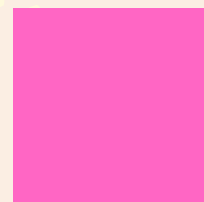


Component 1

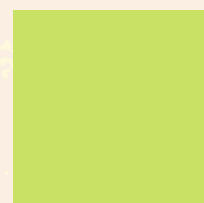


Component 2

Second part of the viewpoint



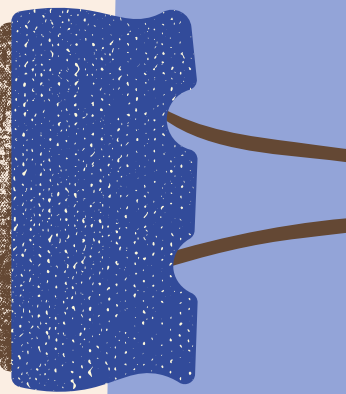
Component 1



Component 2



Component 3

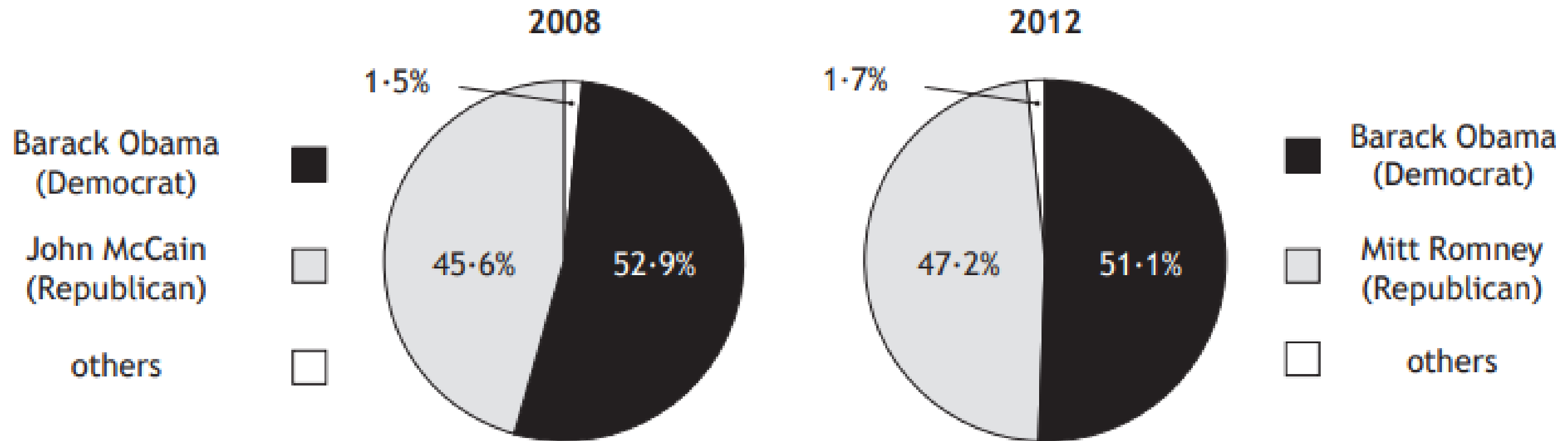


First component of the first part of the
viewpoint

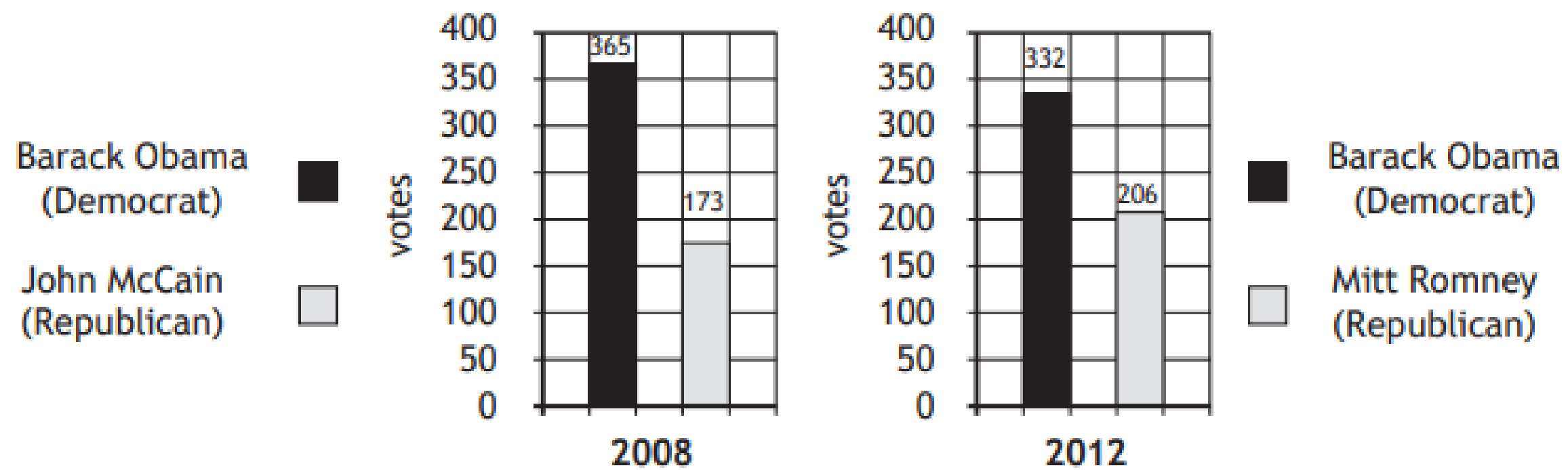
The Democrats clearly won the 2012 elections by convincingly defeating
the Republicans at every level

Source A Presidential election data (2008 and 2012)

Percentage of votes



Electoral College votes

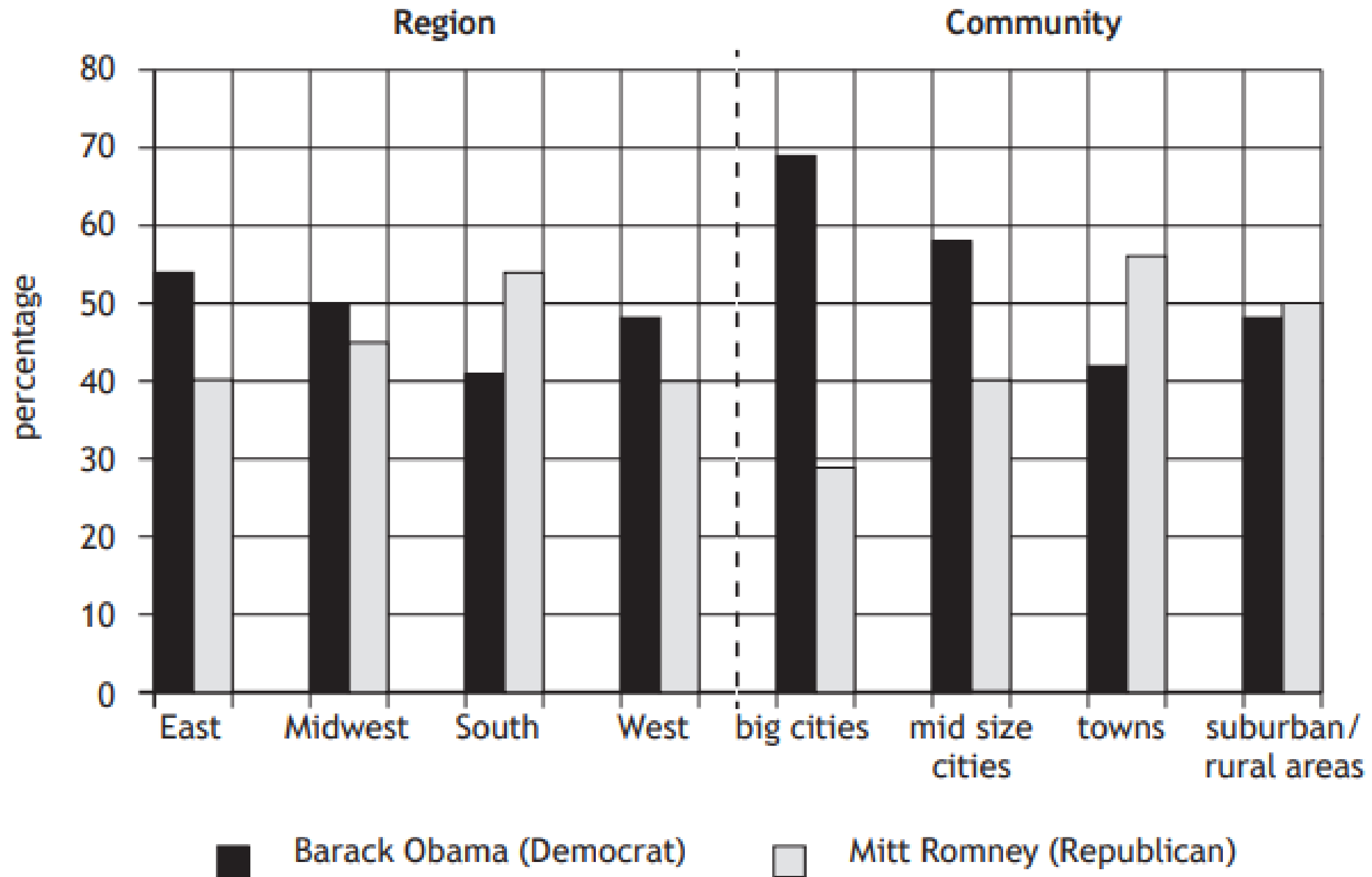


Source B Congressional election data for Democrats and Republicans (2008–2012)

		Senate (100 members)			House of Representatives (435 members)		
		Pre- election	Post- election	Change	Pre- election	Post- election	Change
2008	Democrats	51*	59*	+8	236	257	+21
	Republicans	49	41	-8	199	178	-21
2010	Democrats	59*	53*	-6	257	193	-64
	Republicans	41	47	+6	178	242	+64
2012	Democrats	53*	55*	+2	193	201	+8
	Republicans	47	45	-2	242	234	-8

(*includes independents who vote with the Democrats in the Senate)

Source C 2012 presidential election: voting by region and community



Source D 2012 presidential election: voting for the two main candidates by gender, age, ethnicity and income

		Male	Female
Gender (%)	Obama (Democrat)	45	55
	Romney (Republican)	52	44

		18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
Age (%)	Obama (Democrat)	60	60	55	48	47	44
	Romney (Republican)	36	38	42	50	52	56

		White	Blacks	Hispanics	Asian	Other
Ethnicity (%)	Obama (Democrat)	39	93	71	73	58
	Romney (Republican)	59	6	27	26	38

		Under \$30,000	\$30-49,999	\$50-99,999	\$100-199,999	\$200-249,999	\$250,000+
Income (%)	Obama (Democrat)	63	57	46	44	47	43
	Romney (Republican)	35	41	52	54	52	54


Source E 2016 presidential election: voting for the two main candidates by gender, age, race and income

		Male	Female
Gender (%)	Clinton (Democrat)	41	54
	Trump (Republican)	53	42


		18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
Age (%)	Clinton (Democrat)	56	53	51	46	43	45
	Trump (Republican)	35	39	40	50	53	53


		White	Blacks	Hispanics	Asian	Other
Ethnicity (%)	Clinton (Democrat)	37	88	65	65	56
	Trump (Republican)	58	8	29	29	37

		Under \$30,000	\$30-49,999	\$50-99,999	\$100-199,999	\$200-249,999	\$250,000+
Income (%)	Clinton (Democrat)	57	51	46	47	48	46
	Trump (Republican)	41	42	50	48	59	48




The first component of the first part of the viewpoint states that "The Democrats clearly won the 2012 elections by convincingly defeating the Republicans at every level".






Evidence from Source A provides information relating to the presidential election.


The Democrat candidate easily won the Presidential election with 332 to 206 electoral college votes. Obama won with just over 50% of the votes compared to Mitt Romney's 47.2%.






This links to evidence in Source B which identifies election data for the Senate.


The evidence identifies that the Democrats defeated the Republicans to keep control of the Senate by winning 55 seats to the Republicans 45. They made a net gain of 2 seats to increase their majority.







Source B also highlights data for the election in 2012 within the House of Representatives.

The data shows that although the Democrats made a net gain of 8 seats in the House of Representatives they were still behind the Republicans. The Republicans won the election for the House of Representatives beating the Democrats by 234 to 201 seats.






In terms of both the Presidency and the Senate, the Democrats clearly won the 2012 election but in some ways it was tight in terms of the share of the vote in the presidential election and so it might not be seen as convincing. However, despite making gains the Democrats lost the House of Representatives.





Second component of the first part of the
viewpoint

The performance of the Democrats in 2012 was almost as impressive as in
2008.




The second component of the first part of the viewpoint points to the performance of the Democrats in 2012 being almost as impressive as in 2008.






Evidence from Source A provides information relating to the presidential election.


In 2008 the Democrats won the Presidency by a bigger margin than in 2012. They had a greater share of the vote (52.9%) and won by a bigger margin in the electoral college votes by 365 to 173 compared to 332 to 206.






This links to evidence in Source B which identifies election data for the Senate.

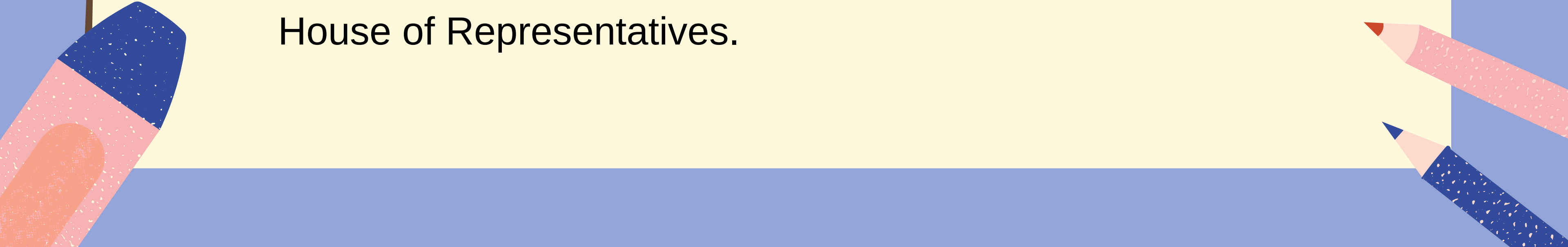
The evidence identifies that the Democrats performed more strongly in 2008 — they elected a higher number of Senators, 59 compared to 55, and they also made bigger gains — 8 in 2008 compared to 2 in 2012.






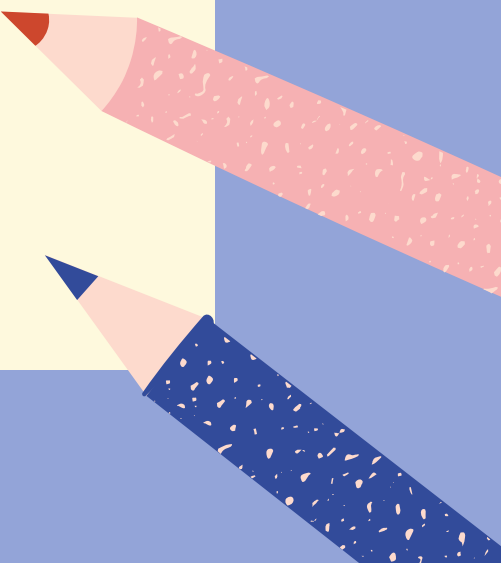

Source B also highlights data for the elections within the House of Representatives.

The data shows that the Democrats easily won the House of Representatives in 2008. The Democrats had 257 members compared to 178 for the Republicans. They also made 21 gains compared to only 8 gains in 2012 when they did not even win the House of Representatives.





By every measure the performance of the Democrats was less impressive than in 2008, they got a smaller share of the vote in the presidential election and also won a smaller proportion of the electoral college. They had a smaller majority in the Senate and won fewer seats than in 2008. They also lost the House of Representatives and had fewer seats.




Evaluation of the first part of the viewpoint





The Democrats clearly won the Senate in 2012 and were also victorious in the presidential election although President Obama won with just over 50% of the vote. However, Obama still convincingly won the electoral college. On the other hand, the Democrats lost the House of Representatives to the Republicans and so this was a defeat at this level. As a result, it cannot be said that the Democrats convincingly defeated the Republicans at all levels, they were victorious at some levels but not in others and the presidential election can be seen in some ways to have been not quite convincing in terms of the share of the vote.

The performance of the Democrats can be said to have been less impressive as in the presidential race they got fewer votes and won by a smaller margin in the electoral college than they did in 2008. In the Senate and House of Representatives they also won fewer seats than they did in 2008 and made fewer gains. In 2008 they won all three elections but in 2012 they only won two. Therefore, this is not as impressive as it is a worse performance than 2008 where they lost the House of Representatives to the Republicans and only just won the Presidency.




The first component of the second part of the viewpoint states that "In the 2012 presidential election Barack Obama defeated his Republican opponent Mitt Romney by decisive margins across every area".






Evidence from Source C provides information relating to regions.


Obama easily beat Romney in both the East and the West although he did get less than half the votes in the West. He beat Romney by a closer margin in the Midwest but he was easily defeated by Romney in the South.






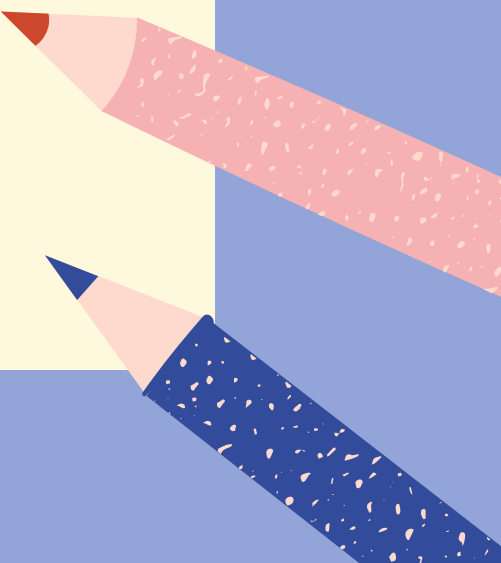

Evidence from Source C also provides information relating to communities.


Obama easily defeated Romney in big and mid-sized cities but Romney beat Obama in towns and suburban/rural areas.







Obama's support was strongest in the East and Midwest and he also won the West. He clearly won big and mid-sized cities, but Romney beat him in the South, towns and suburban/rural areas. This could not be considered to be Obama defeating Romney decisively across all areas.






The second component of the second part of the viewpoint states that "In the 2012 presidential election Barack Obama defeated his Republican opponent Mitt Romney by decisive margins in all sections of society".






Evidence from Source D provides information relating to gender.

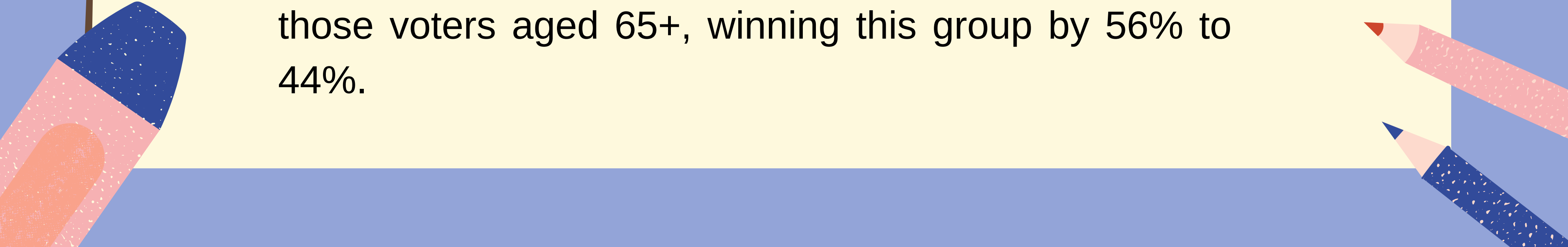
Obama won female voters by a sizeable margin (55% to 44%) however, Romney defeated Obama easily among male voters though by not as large a margin (52% to 45%).






Evidence from Source D provides information relating to age.


Obama won all three voter groups under 40 by significant margins, for example he won 18–24 year olds by 60% to 36%. Romney won all three voter groups 40 and over. He performed most strongly in those voters aged 65+, winning this group by 56% to 44%.






Evidence from Source D provides information relating to ethnicity.

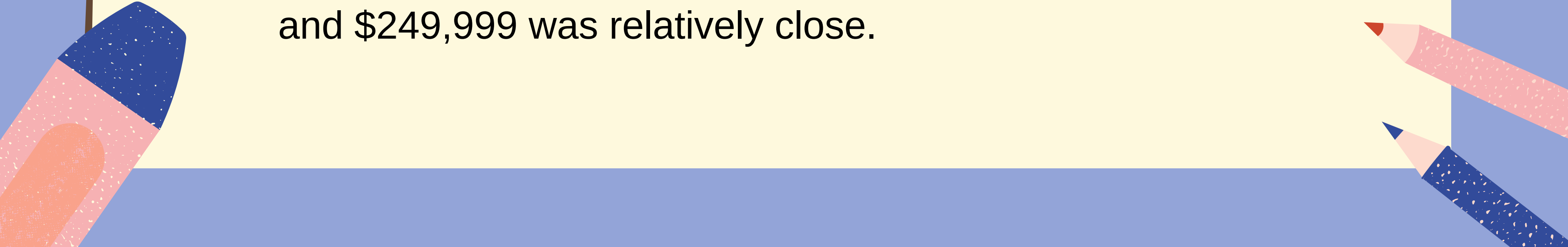
Obama won the Black, Hispanic and Asian vote by huge margins, for example he won Blacks with over 90% of the vote. Romney however beat Obama among White voters by 20%.







Evidence from Source D provides information relating to income.

Obama beat Romney easily in voters with income under \$50,000, winning those under \$50,000 by over 30%. Romney won all voter groups with income \$50,000 and over although those between \$200,000 and \$249,999 was relatively close.






Obama's support was strongest among females, minorities, the young and lower income groups but Romney beat Obama among males, Whites, older voters and higher income groups. This could not be considered to be Obama defeating Romney decisively in all sections of society.





Third component of the second part of the
viewpoint

The Republican candidate in 2016, Donald Trump, performed
significantly better among all voter groups compared to Mitt Romney in
2012.




The third component of the second part of the viewpoint states that "The Republican candidate in 2016, Donald Trump, performed significantly better among all voter groups compared to Mitt Romney in 2012."






Evidence from Sources D and E provide information relating to gender.


in 2016 Trump won the majority of male votes with 53% and got 42% support from females. In 2012 Romney got 52% support from males and 44% from females.






Evidence from Sources D and E provide information relating to age.


Romney performed better among voters aged 18–24, 30–39 and 65+ but Trump performed better than Romney among 25–29 and 50–64 year olds, while they both got similar levels of support from 40–49 year olds.






Evidence from Sources D and E provide information relating to ethnicity.

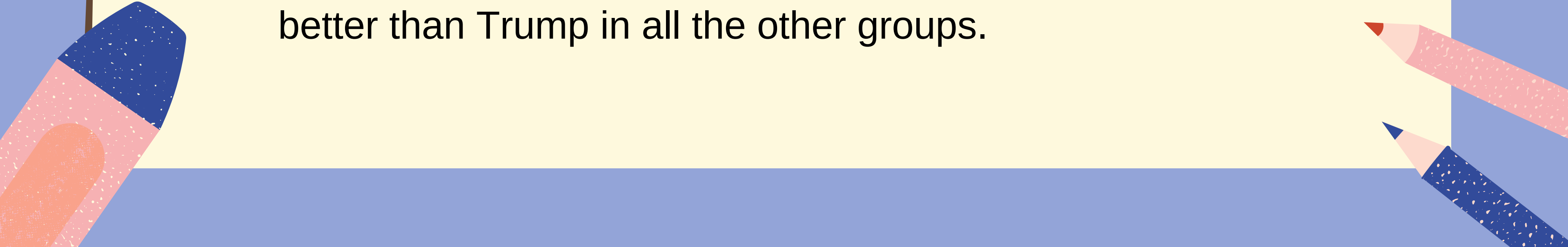
Romney got better support than Trump from White voters but Trump performed better than Romney among Black, Hispanic and Asian voters. However, among other groups Romney performed better than Trump.







Evidence from Sources D and E provide information relating to income.

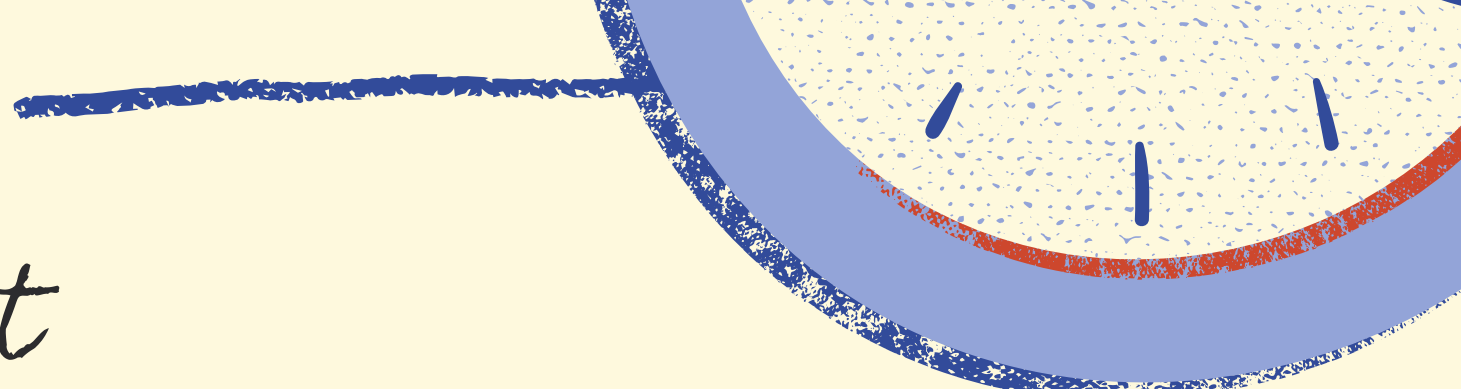
Trump performed better than Romney among those with income under \$50,000 particularly those below \$30,000, Trump also performed much better than those earning between \$200–249,999 but Romney did better than Trump in all the other groups.





Trump did perform better than Romney in some voter groups — for example, males, the very poorest, some minority groups and some age groups but in others Romney actually performed better than Trump.





Evaluation of the second part of the viewpoint

The viewpoint states that Barack Obama defeated his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, by decisive margins in every area.

In the East and West he decisively beat Romney but in the Midwest it was much closer and although he still beat him by 5% this was not as decisive. However, in the South, Romney easily beat Obama so it cannot be said that Obama beat him in every area. Also, Obama decisively beat Romney in big and medium sized cities, but he narrowly lost suburban/rural areas and was heavily defeated in towns. So Obama did not beat him decisively in every area — he again lost to Romney in some areas. So overall the statement is not correct.

In addition, the view states he decisively beat his opponent in every section of society.

Obama did record decisive victories among minorities, the poorest income groups, younger voters and females but in every age group above 40 Romney beat him. Romney also easily beat Obama among male voters as well as white voters and he beat Obama in every income group \$50,000 and above. As a result, this part of the statement is also not correct. Obama beat Romney in certain groups of voters but Romney beat Obama among other groups.