

### Women in politics

#### A very suitable job

- 1 The women thing is back. Last week the MP for Thanet, Laura Sandys, announced that she had decided not to stand in 2015, citing the demands of the job and the conflict with responsibilities in her personal life. The news that a talented backbencher for whom promotion was often forecast was giving up was the cue for a familiar narrative, much of it intended to be sympathetic but all of it contributing to one impression: politics is an unsuitable job for a woman.
- 2 So far, 36 MPs are standing down at the next election. Nine of them are women, which reflects almost exactly the percentage of women there are in parliament. The facts just don't support the widely held view that women can't stand the heat.
- 3 Perhaps there is a lesson for campaigners in the way the facts are so often distorted. Many of those who have worked so tirelessly to get fairer representation of women have emphasised the barriers to success. But there are other aspects of parliament that are as tough for men as they are for women. Take the way it works — the long and sometimes unpredictable hours, or the confrontational nature of the chamber of the Commons — which is often blamed for making life for women MPs particularly difficult. But many men would confirm that it's a rough job for anyone. New MPs come in expecting to work 60 hours a week and find it's 90. They imagine glamour, or at least purpose, and find constituents' drainage issues. They are among the most reviled and abused members of society.
- 4 Of course, there is still a lot to do. But it's time to celebrate the success of women in politics. There's plenty of it.

adapted from *The Guardian Weekly*, 2013

## Tekst 9 A very suitable job

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- 1p 35 “The women thing is back.” (alinea 1)  
Wat wordt er in dit artikel bedoeld met “the women thing”?  
Leg uit in je eigen woorden.

- 2p 36 “The facts just don’t support the widely held view that women can’t stand the heat.” (laatste zin, alinea 2)  
Geef van elk van de volgende citaten aan of dit bovenstaande bewering wel of niet illustreert.

- 1 “a talented backbencher for whom promotion was often forecast was giving up” (alinea 1)
- 2 “the long and sometimes unpredictable hours, or the confrontational nature of the chamber of the Commons” (alinea 3)
- 3 “They imagine glamour, or at least purpose, and find constituents’ drainage issues.” (alinea 3)

Noteer “wel” of “niet” achter elk nummer op het antwoordblad.

- 1p 37 Which lesson can campaigners learn according to paragraph 3?  
They should
- A admit their defeat.
  - B be honest about the obstacles women face.
  - C realise that statistics are often twisted.
  - D shift their focus of attention.

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### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.