

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 6

The candidate evidence shows the following marks for each question.

Section 3

Question 11a

Describe the economic arguments for and against Scottish independence.

The answer was awarded 10 marks (out of 10) for this question for:

- ◆ suggesting having control over budgets, and currency
- ◆ suggesting having control over oil and gas assets
- ◆ suggesting the ability to create a sovereign wealth fund
- ◆ suggesting the ability to rejoin the EU
- ◆ suggesting the ability to control immigration to deal with labour shortages
- ◆ suggesting the loss of the block grant
- ◆ giving a statistic about the block grant
- ◆ suggesting difficulties with which currency to use
- ◆ developing currency with problems with government borrowing
- ◆ suggesting a reduced standard of living

A further 4 marks for statistics about standards of living*, paying part of UK national debt, possibility of recession, possibility of a hard border would all have been awarded had the candidate not already reached full marks for this question.

* This statistic mark was not awarded in Q11a (when the candidate had given more than 10 marks worth of answer), so that the second statistic mark (of the two allowable over the whole question) could be awarded in Q11b.

Question 11b

Discuss the impact of high energy prices on the UK economy.

The answer was awarded **8 marks** (out of 8) for this question for:

- ◆ suggesting being the cause of high inflation
- ◆ giving data about the rise in energy prices (statistic mark)
- ◆ suggesting the need for increased government with energy bills leading to a worsening budget deficit
- ◆ suggesting business failures in the energy sector
- ◆ suggesting lower standards of living and increased poverty
- ◆ suggesting high profits and increased regulation for energy firms
- ◆ suggesting low income households are having to choose between food and fuel
- ◆ developing this to an increase in wealth inequality

The point about increasing the budget deficit is a repeat.

The point about energy prices leading to a fall in real wages became dis-jointed and off-topic and therefore does not gain a mark.

The point about increased national debt is too weak a link to government energy support payments to be gain a mark.

Question 11c

Analyse the possible measures which the UK government could apply to reduce the negative impact of high energy prices.

The answer was awarded **7 marks** (out of 7) for this question for:

- ◆ suggesting setting a maximum price for energy to protect consumers
- ◆ suggesting the government energy price cap was per unit and not in total so did not protect lower income households
- ◆ suggesting nationalising UK energy generators to remove the profit motive from firms
- ◆ suggesting nationalised industries are not as efficient as those in the private sector
- ◆ suggesting government should cover the difference between cost and selling price for firms
- ◆ suggesting this could lead to firms being inefficient
- ◆ suggesting the government should invest in sustainable energy to reduce future risk

The diagram did not show maximum price setting and therefore did not gain a mark.

A further mark for a high initial cost of investing in sustainable energy would all have been awarded had the candidate not already reached full marks for this question.

The candidate achieved **25 marks** out of 25 for section 3 (question 11).