

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question.

Candidate 1

Question 1(c)

To what extent can UK voting behaviour be fully explained by the age of voters? (20 marks)

The candidate sets the scene in their opening paragraph by mentioning age, media and social class. No marks were awarded for this but will be considered when structure marks are allocated at the end of the essay.

In paragraph 2, the candidate discusses the influence of age on voting behaviour. From 'A person's age' until '...supported conservatives', the candidate makes a valid point about party preference, although there was no election in 2020 – **1 knowledge mark awarded**.

For the remainder of the paragraph, the candidate discusses the role of age on voting behaviour. They make some comments with regards to 'younger people voting conservative' and a 5% difference in how people vote above and below the age of 40 and an attempt at an analytical comment that 'age is starting to lose its influence' followed by an evaluation that 'age of voters is influential to a low extent'. These comments by the candidate were seen to not be accurate and not a reflection of current voting influences in the UK.

In paragraph 3, the candidate goes on to discuss the impact of social class on voting behaviour. This is a 'stand-alone' paragraph where the candidate does not try to link social class with age, but the wording of the question makes this valid. The candidate mentions some election statistics, but it is unclear which election they refer to. The figures given by the candidate are not 'ballpark' when considering the last two elections and so no knowledge marks were awarded here.

The comment in the last few lines of the paragraph, 'Which show that social class is decreasing in influence and is no longer effecting voting behaviour' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

In paragraph 4, the candidate discusses the role of the media, particularly social media, in voting behaviour. The candidate does attempt to link this factor with age of voters. The following marks were awarded:

- The comment, 'Social Media is used by party leaders' until '...gather more supporters.' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The comment 'This shows that social media is a popular and reliable way to promote and catch attention of younger voters, gaining more votes.' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- The mention of, 'Also, things such as memes, gifs.....personality' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**

The remainder of the paragraph is too vague to be awarded any further marks and does not reflect recent electoral data.

In paragraph 5, there is an attempt by the candidate to pull various factors together, but the candidate's analysis is not reflective of the role that age currently plays in influencing how people vote.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 3

Analysis: 2

Evaluation 0

Structure 1

Total: 6 out of 20 marks

Question 2(c)

Criminals are not born, they are created by the society in which they live. Discuss. (20 marks)

The candidate sets the scene with an opening paragraph and frames a coherent line of argument. No marks were awarded for this but will be considered when structure marks are allocated at the end of the essay.

In paragraph 2, the candidate discusses alcohol and drugs as a cause of crime.

The reference to, 'Alcohol and drugs in the main reason for', until the end of the paragraph '...there is a clear link' – **2 knowledge marks awarded.**

In paragraph 3, the candidate discusses the 'social situations' or 'instances' that contribute towards the impact of alcohol on crime. A quite sophisticated point that initially reads clumsily but it makes the case that it isn't just alcohol that can cause crime but the combination of alcohol, who it is consumed with and where.

From 'However, social instances' until 'to 3am' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

The midnight to 3am example is not fully correct (majority of crimes happen from 7pm to 3am).

For 'Overall, this shows... to impact on these individuals' at the end of the paragraph – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

In paragraph 4, the candidate discusses the role of poverty in causing crime. The following marks were awarded:

- The discussion of link between poverty and shoplifting, from, 'Another cause' to, 'Dundee which is a place of high poverty' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The argument 'However, not everyone in poverty' until the end of the paragraph is a justifiable argument as to why some people in poverty avoid criminal acts – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

In paragraph 5, for comments on the impact of education on crime, the candidate was awarded the following mark:

- From 'Another cause' to, 'underfunded' in line 4 of the paragraph – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**

The candidate then goes on to discuss impact of biological factors but is vague, poorly developed and not creditworthy.

The final paragraph (beginning 'In conclusion') was awarded **1 evaluation mark** for the last three lines from 'However,' to 'commit crime'.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 4

Analysis: 2

Evaluation 2

Structure 2

Total: 10 out of 20 marks

Question 3(b)

Evaluate the government's success in responding to socio-economic inequalities. (12 marks)

The candidate has incorrectly labelled their response to question 3(b) as 3(a). However, it is clear from the response they were answering question 3(b) and not question 3(a).

The candidate sets the scene in a short three-line introduction.

In paragraph 2, the candidate introduces income inequality. The following marks were awarded:

- For, 'This could be due...opportunities' (lines 2-4) – **1 knowledge mark awarded**. No marks were given for the comment, 'For example, over 50%...growing up' (Lines 4-6) as this is inaccurate. The real figure is 22%. While a slight inaccuracy of figures can be allowed this figure was too far out.
- For the description of US rescue plan (possibly ARRA): From 'However, there has been' to 'millions of jobs' – **1 knowledge mark awarded**.

The last two sentences were awarded **1 evaluation mark** for 'This shows that the government... in the USA'.

In paragraph 3, the candidate discusses crime inequality. They give a description of inequality and an attempt to address the question but there is no attempt by the candidate to either discuss/describe responses or evaluate their success. The question focus is not about describing inequality but an evaluation of policies and their impact. No marks were awarded for his paragraph.

In paragraph 4 (lines 1-6), the candidate discusses education inequality. The candidate could have been awarded 1 knowledge mark but has already been credited for this comment earlier in the second paragraph with regards to education. The candidate was however awarded the following marks:

- For, 'However, there has been a recent' to, 'completing education' – **1 knowledge mark awarded**.
- for the sentence 'For example...recent years' – **1 knowledge mark awarded**
- For the last four lines of the paragraph – **1 evaluation mark awarded**.

No marks were awarded for the final paragraph beginning 'In conclusion'.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 4

Analysis: 0

Evaluation 2

Structure 0

Total: 6 out of 12 marks

Overall, the candidate was awarded 22 out of 52 marks for the question paper.

Candidate 2

Question 1(a)

To what extent do views differ about the most effective way to govern Scotland? (20 marks)

In paragraph 1, the candidate sets the scene and outlines the options to be covered later. No marks were awarded for this but will be considered when structure marks are allocated at the end of the essay.

In paragraph 2, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- From (lines 1-6) the candidate explains the term independence and gives details of how this would impact the governance of Scotland until ‘immigration and defence.’ In the next 4 lines, until ‘would allow this.’ – **2 knowledge marks awarded**
- For the reference to political parties and nuclear weapons – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- In the next three lines from ‘After Brexit’ to ‘re-apply independently’ – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- For the last 4 lines of the paragraph from ‘A recent poll...’ – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

In paragraph 3, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- From the start of the second paragraph until line 3 - ‘it choose not to.’ –**1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The next section to the end of the paragraph, constitutes a detailed and quite sophisticated attempt to analyse the differences of opinion concerning trident – **2 analysis marks awarded.**

In paragraph 4, for details of devo max (lines 1-3) and of a poll concerning its lack of popularity (lines 3-7) – **2 knowledge marks awarded.**

In paragraph 5, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- The first three sentences despite the slight inaccuracy ‘direct London rule’. In the next two sentences from ‘This option means’ to ‘island communities’ – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- For the comments concerning Scotland’s government and the link to the EU referendum – **2 analysis marks awarded.**

A further 1 knowledge mark could have been awarded, however the candidate has reached the ceiling of 8 marks for knowledge.

In the final paragraph of the response starting ‘In conclusion’, the candidate addresses the difference between the options identifying defence and international issues as big issues – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

2 structure marks were awarded.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 8

Analysis: 5

Evaluation 1

Structure 2

Total: 16 out of 20 marks

Question 2(b)

Government measures have failed to reduce inequalities. Discuss. (20 marks)

In paragraph 1, the candidate sets the scene and outlines the options to be covered later. No marks were awarded initially for this but will be considered when structure marks are allocated at the end of the essay.

In paragraph 2, no marks were awarded for the first sentence as it was too vague. The candidate however was awarded the following marks:

- In the next two sentences from 'This helps reduce' to 'well paid jobs' the candidate refers to consequences of the FSM policy – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- The final two sentences of the paragraph from 'However, child poverty' for the comment about child poverty and the judgement that the policy has been 'slightly effective.' – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

In paragraph 3, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- for the reference to the equality act and its purpose, providing exemplification – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The next sentence beginning 'This significantly reduces' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- The remainder of the paragraph considers a weakness of the Equality Act – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

In paragraph 4, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- The first two sentences – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The third and fourth sentences made references to the consequences of the policy on the young and the elderly – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- The final two sentences of the paragraph make a judgement that for some the policy has 'somewhat failed' – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

In the final paragraph of the response, the candidate provides an overall judgement on the success of government measures and gains **1 evaluation mark.**

2 Structure marks were awarded.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 3

Analysis: 3

Evaluation 4

Structure 2

Total: 12 out of 20 marks

Question 3(a)

Analyse the ability of one branch of government or political institution to dominate government decision-making. (12 marks)

In paragraph 1, the candidate displays knowledge of the powers of the POTUS and provides a recent example – **2 knowledge marks awarded.**

In paragraph 2, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- The first five lines to ‘two thirds majority’ – **2 knowledge marks awarded.**
- for the next section beginning ‘However,’ and ending ‘difficult to achieve’ on the last line of the page – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- From the section beginning, ‘For example’ to ‘decision making’ on line 3 of the new page – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- The next five lines of the paragraph were credited for knowledge of the judicial branch to ‘the president unconstitutional.’ – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The sentence beginning ‘However...’ on line 7 of the page was awarded **1 analysis mark** for reference to bias among supreme court justices.
- Similarly, the next sentence beginning ‘The judicial’ is also awarded **1 analysis mark.**

The final four lines of the response were not credited as they are confused and provide no coherent judgement.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 5

Analysis: 4

Evaluation 0

Structure 0

Total: 9 out of 12 marks

Overall, the candidate was awarded 37 out of 52 marks for the question paper.

Candidate 3

Question 1(a)

To what extent do views differ about the most effective way to govern Scotland? (20 marks)

The candidate sets the scene with an introductory paragraph on their approach looking at the Conservatives, nationalists and Labour. This is not enough for a knowledge mark but may contribute to structure marks later.

In paragraph 2, the candidate discusses the approach of Labour to govern Scotland. The following marks were awarded:

- In the first seven lines, from 'One view on' down to, 'everyone in UK' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- from 'The Scottish governments' to 'they want instead' is confused but when combined with the section from 'On the other hand' to 'a different place from England.' (line 13 of the paragraph) – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The next three sentences beginning 'The downsides' and ending 'from other countries' (The actual figure is £22 billion but this was considered 'ballpark' enough to be awarded) - **1 knowledge mark awarded.** The last two sentences of the paragraph are too vague to gain marks.

Paragraph 3 attempts to discuss the nationalist approach, but the candidate confuses their description with devo max and has no discussion of independence, so no marks awarded.

Paragraph 4 attempts to discuss the Conservatives approach but describes Lib Dems and federalism and is confused with no discussion of the approach, so no marks awarded.

The last paragraph the candidate attempts to make a judgement on the best approach but is confused, so no marks awarded.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 3

Analysis: 0

Evaluation: 0

Structure: 0 (note that an award of 0 for structure is rare.)

Total: 3 out of 20 marks

Question 2(b)

Government measures have failed to reduce inequalities. Discuss. (20 marks)

The candidate has incorrectly labelled their response to question 2(b) as 2(a). However, it is clear from the response they were answering question 2(b) and not question 2(a).

In paragraph 1, the candidate sets the scene and sets out the policies they will discuss in their opening introduction paragraph. No marks were awarded for this, but it may contribute to structure marks at the end of the essay.

In paragraph 2, the candidate introduces the minimum living wage as one government measure intended to tackle inequalities. The following marks were awarded:

- From the start of the paragraph until the end of the sentence on line 6 'wage is £12.21 an hour.' Although confused, the candidate conveys the general idea and the wage level given is correct – **1 knowledge mark awarded**.
- The next section from 'This gives people' down to 'and much more' – was considered vague general knowledge and so no marks were awarded.
- From 'For 'example the minimum living wage' until 'support their own families' – was awarded no marks as the figure given is incorrect.
- The final sentence of the paragraph is linked to the top of the paragraph, consequence on families. The candidate discusses essentials and make a judgement (although it is weak) – **1 evaluation mark**.

In paragraph 3, the candidate introduces the minimum unit pricing as a second government measure to tackle inequalities. The following marks were awarded:

- From 'Another measure the UK' to 'of money buying alcohol' (line 7) - although this is a Scottish Government policy, not the UK, the candidate showed enough understanding – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The next sentence, beginning 'It also shows' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- The remainder of the paragraph was awarded **1 analysis mark.**

In paragraph 4, the candidate then goes on to discuss Universal Credit. The following marks were awarded:

- From the start of the paragraph down to 'clothes and more' on line 3 – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- The two sentences from 'This help many' until 'use Universal Credit' include statistics regarding the number using Universal Credit – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**

The next 4 lines from 'This suggests that it is' until 'not enough money' received no marks.

From 'This means that' to 'asking for more help' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

The rest of the paragraph is awarded no marks as the statistic is wrong.

The conclusion was awarded no marks.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 4

Analysis: 3

Evaluation 1

Structure 1

Total: 9 out of 20 marks

Question 3(c)

Analyse the effects of the issue on the wider international community. (12 marks)

In paragraph 1, the candidate introduces the effects of terrorism in Israel and Palestine as their first point of discussion. The following marks were awarded:

- From 'The effects of terrorism' until 'killing 1,200 Israelis' for the description of a terrorist attack – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'This then effects' to 'what side to take' for identifying an impact on other countries – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

From 'On the other hand' until the end of the paragraph, no marks were awarded as the candidate does not focus on the 'wider international' impact. The Global Terror Index figure is also incorrect.

In paragraph 2, the candidate describes Dylan Roofe incident was awarded no marks as, unlike the first paragraph, no international impact is discussed.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 1

Analysis: 1

Evaluation: 0

Structure: 0

Total: 2 out of 12 marks

Overall, the candidate was awarded 14 out of 52 marks for the question paper.

Candidate 4

Question 1(a)

To what extent do views differ about the most effective way to govern Scotland? (20 marks)

The introduction gains no marks but may contribute to structure marks later.

In the first paragraph, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- From the start of the paragraph down to line 6 ‘the Scottish Parliament’ – **1 knowledge mark awarded** for the £100m figure.
- From ‘It’s argued that’ to ‘whole of the UK’– **1 analysis mark awarded**.
- From ‘Moreover, Direct Rule would result in’ to ‘between Scotland and England’– **1 knowledge mark** and **1 analysis mark awarded**.
- From ‘However, Direct Rule results’ down to ‘650 MPs are Scottish’ – **1 knowledge mark awarded**.
- From ‘Therefore, a law which’ to ‘Scottish MPs’ – **1 analysis mark awarded**.
- From ‘In evaluation’ until the end of the paragraph – **1 evaluation mark awarded**.

The candidate was awarded 7 marks in total for their discussion of ‘Direct Rule from Westminster’ as they have looked at different points within this ‘factor’.

In paragraph 2, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- From the start to ‘levied in Scotland’ (line 5) – **1 knowledge mark awarded**.
- From ‘The Scottish Government’ down to ‘are specific to Scotland’ – **1 knowledge mark awarded**.
- From ‘However, Devo-max fails’ to ‘impacting England’ – **2 knowledge marks awarded**.
- The sentence beginning ‘As a consequence’ – **1 analysis mark awarded**.

No marks were awarded for the last sentence of the paragraph as this was repetition.

In paragraph 3, from 'Federalism could be another way' to 'defence and immigration',
– **1 knowledge mark awarded.**

At this point the candidate has reached the ceiling of 8 marks for knowledge.

From 'This could be effective' to 'English issues' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

From 'However, federalism could', over the page to 'how the country is run' could be awarded 1 knowledge mark, however the ceiling has been reached.

The last sentence from 'In evaluation' until the end of the paragraph – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

In paragraph 4, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- From 'A final way to' down to 'Scots' representation in decision-making' - this is analysis of the following knowledge point regarding Brexit (no further knowledge marks can be awarded) – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- From 'In the 2016 Brexit Referendum' down to 'rejoin the EU' – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**
- For the next sentence from 'However' to 'independent movements' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

From 'Furthermore, as an independent country' to '\$40', would have been awarded another 2 knowledge marks, but the ceiling for knowledge has been reached.

From 'This demonstrates that' down to 'an independent Scotland' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

From 'Additionally, Scotland receives' down to 'contributes to the UK' would have been awarded 1 knowledge mark, but the ceiling for knowledge has been reached.

The last sentence of the paragraph – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

The conclusion was too generalised/basic and was awarded no marks.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 8

Analysis: 6

Evaluation: 4

Structure: 2

Total: 20 out of 20 marks

Question 2(b)

Government measures have failed to reduce inequalities. Discuss. (20 marks)

The introduction paragraph gains no marks but may contribute to structure marks later.

In paragraph 2, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- From 'One government measure taken' to 'income tax' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'Receivers of Universal Credit' down to 'better lifestyle' - **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- From 'Usually' to 'pulling themselves into further arrears' merited a further – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- From 'Moreover, Universal Credit payments' over the page to 'pay rent accordingly' – **1 knowledge mark and 1 analysis mark awarded.**
- From 'In evaluation' to the end of the paragraph – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

In paragraph 3, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- from 'Another government measure' to 'by 2030.' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'This aim seems' to 'poorer students.' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'However, some could argue' over the page to 'higher socio-economic status.' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- From 'Another Scottish Government initiative' to 'more deprived backgrounds' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'However, the attainment gap' down to 'wealthier students.' – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**
- From 'To evaluate' to the end of the paragraph – **1 evaluation mark awarded.**

In paragraph 4, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- from 'A third government measure' to 'a well-liked idea.' – **2 knowledge marks awarded.**
- From 'As a result' over the page to 'was observed.' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- The remaining 8 lines of the paragraph – **2 evaluation marks awarded.**

In the last paragraph, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- The first 4 lines down to '65p' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'Its estimated' down to 'illnesses' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'However, although' down to 'deprived areas of Scotland' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

From 'This created a new inequality' to 'was unequal' was awarded no marks as the candidate was incorrect to state wealthier drinkers were 'unaffected'.

The last sentence was again incorrect and was awarded no marks.

The conclusion was awarded **1 evaluation** mark.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 8

Analysis: 6

Evaluation: 4

Structure: 2

Total: 20 out of 20 marks

Question 3(a)

Analyse the ability of one branch of government or political institution to dominate government decision-making. (12 marks)

In paragraph 1, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- From 'The US President' to 'used sparingly' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'In 2016, President Obama' to 'Saudi Arabia' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'Congress' check' down to '2/3 majority vote' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'However, this is unlikely' to 'President's Party' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- From 'There's a low chance' to 'when trying to be re-elected.' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**
- The last four lines of the paragraph – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

In paragraph 2, the candidate was awarded the following marks:

- For 'pass the law' – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'The Judiciary's' to 'Constitution' is awarded – **1 knowledge mark awarded.**
- From 'In 2017, President Trump' to 'conservative judges.' – **2 knowledge marks awarded.**
- From 'Congress' check on this power' to 'vote from Congress' – **2 knowledge marks awarded.**

At this stage the candidate has reached the maximum 8 marks for knowledge

From 'Once again, this is rare' to 'from office.' – **1 analysis mark awarded.**

The next point about previous impeachments is historical and awarded no marks.

From 'Therefore, this indicates' down to the end of the paragraph, no further marks were awarded as this was repetition.

The candidate has now reached the maximum twelve marks for this question.

In the last paragraph the candidate could have picked up further marks. From 'A final power' to 'nominations' - 2 knowledge marks could have been awarded. From 'Trump 2024' to 'Agriculture.' - 1 knowledge mark could have been awarded. From 'Initially, Trump had' to 'allegation against him' - 1 knowledge mark could have been awarded. From 'This demonstrates' down to the end of the paragraph - 1 analysis mark could have been awarded.

The candidate was awarded the following marks for this question:

Knowledge: 8

Analysis: 4

Evaluation: 0

Structure: 0

Total: 12 out of 12 marks

Overall, the candidate was awarded 52 out of 52 marks for the question paper.