

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 1

Question 2 (a)

The candidate was awarded **11/12 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate covers two aspects of the question: nature and status, and makes explicit reference to flexibility. This would meet the criteria for two aspects, each with detailed description – these should include the key points. The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for scope.

Two aspects are developed, with extended explanation and relevant exemplification. Reference is given to both the USA and the UK when dealing with Dunblane shooting, number of amendments made, the prorogation of parliament and the role of courts in relation to the constitution. The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for development.

Analysis (4 marks available)

The candidate makes a number of analytical comments at least one of which is extended and/or justified or exemplified. For example:

- ◆ contradiction of flexibility due to nature of constitution
- ◆ understanding of underlying order of constitution regarding amendment process (2 marks)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

Candidate 2

Question 2 (c)

The candidate was awarded **12/12 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate covers three aspects of scrutiny when referring to committees, power over appointments and ability to remove member of the executive (impeachment and vote of no confidence).

Two of these aspects have detailed description. The committees section describes in detail both the UK and the USA committee system with reference to resources and staffing. Using the marking grids this would meet the criteria for three aspects, two with detailed description. The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for scope.

The candidate also develops the main forms of scrutiny by giving relevant exemplification such as the Home Affairs selection committee investigation into the London riots, Hillary Clinton appearing before the home affairs committee (the candidate calls this the foreign relations select committee) and appointment of Maggie Atkinson as children's commissioner. The candidate goes on to give a detailed explanation of the US system of appointments. This meets the criteria for three aspects developed, two with detailed explanation and/or exemplification. The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for development.

Analysis (4 marks available)

The candidate makes a number of analytical comments and at least one which is extended and/or justified or exemplified. For example:

- ◆ Similarities/contradictions: the section on committees has a developed point regarding why UK and USA committees are similar, then develops this to explain why USA could be seen as superior. (2 marks)
- ◆ Relative importance and ability of the USA's legislature to scrutinise personnel appointments.
- ◆ Implication of the PM being from the largest party means unlikely to lose a vote of no confidence.
- ◆ Implication of the President needing to take the views of Congress into consideration before making appointments.

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for analysis.

Candidate 3

Question 2 (a)

The candidate was awarded **6/12 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate deals with two aspects correctly when referring to flexibility and overturning primary legislation. The candidates also make reference to flexibility and the nature of the constitution. The third aspect fails to deal with the flexibility so was not awarded any marks. This means that the candidate would meet the criteria for two aspects, each with some description. The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for scope.

The candidate goes on to try and develop the aspects. They give some basic explanation and exemplification such as the prorogation of parliament, Roe Vs Wade and Supreme Court explanation. This would meet the criteria for one aspect is developed with detailed explanation and/or exemplification. The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for development.

Analysis (4 marks available)

The candidate makes a number of analytical comments. For example:

- ◆ contradiction of flexibility regarding role of judiciary
- ◆ contradiction of flexibility regarding nature of constitution

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.