

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 1

Question 1 (a)

The candidate was awarded **18/20 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** for this section. The candidate addresses four aspects, each with some description. These aspects include features of direct democracy such as it heightens control, practicality, politically literate, self-serving politicians and legitimacy. At least four of these aspects have some description.

The candidate has three or more aspects that are developed, with extended explanation and/or relevant exemplification. For example, Athenian democracy, lockdown rule breaking, Brexit negotiations and referenda. The works of political theorists are mentioned appropriately throughout. For example, John Stuart Mill, Joseph Schumpeter and Plato. This allows up to 5 marks to be given for development due to a high level of theoretical understanding. However, as the maximum marks for knowledge and understanding is 8 marks, the candidate receives 4 marks for development as they have reached the maximum marks available for this section.

Analysis (6 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because they make a number of analytical comments. For example:

- ◆ implication of e-voting in democracy
- ◆ interpretation of limits on time available for legislation
- ◆ consequence of too many decisions made
- ◆ interpretation of Plato's views on the state (2 marks)
- ◆ consequence of democracy on legitimacy of decisions

Structure (2 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they do present their evidence in a well-structured manner, with a clear line of argument throughout.

Conclusions (4 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**. A straightforward conclusion that deals with and evaluates the central issue in the question is given at the end of the response.

Question 3 (a)

The candidate was awarded **20/20 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** for this section. The candidate addresses three aspects: traditional grassroots, media and new technology with detailed descriptions. These aspects include televised leaders' debates, local activists, party election broadcasts, social media, spin doctors, canvassing and role of the press.

The candidate then goes on to develop each aspect using exemplification and explanation. The examples are relevant and used to exemplify relevant points such as May not turning up to televised debate, role of momentum and Lynton Crosby. This would meet the criteria for three or more aspects are developed, with extended explanation and/or relevant exemplification.

Analysis (6 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because they make a number of analytical comments. For example:

- ◆ Implications of relationship between journalist, the press and politicians (2 marks)
- ◆ relative importance of momentum
- ◆ relative importance of party election broadcasts (2 marks)
- ◆ relative importance of canvassing
- ◆ consequence of spin doctor involvement

Structure (2 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they do present their evidence in a well-structured manner, with a clear line of argument throughout.

Conclusions (4 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate provides a developed and well-argued conclusion with justifications that directly address and evaluate the central issue in the question, namely a comparison of different types of electoral campaign methods. The candidate also attempts to answer the question in the conclusion.

Candidate 2

Question 1 (a)

The candidate was awarded **20/20 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** for this section. The candidate addresses four aspects, each with some description. These aspects include features of direct democracy such as it heightens control, tyranny of the majority, not relying on self-serving politicians and creating a more politically literate society. Features of representative democracy are also included such as being more practical and allowing better legislation to be made. At least four of these aspects have some description.

The candidate has three or more aspects that are developed, with extended explanation and/or relevant exemplification. For example, Iraq war, independence referendum, Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013. The works of political theorists are mentioned appropriately throughout, for example Rousseau, Plato and Dahl. This allows up to 5 marks to be given for development due to a high level of theoretical understanding. However, as the maximum marks for knowledge and understanding is 8, the candidate receives 4 marks for development as they have reached the maximum marks available for this section.

Analysis (6 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because they make a number of analytical comments. For example:

- ◆ An interpretation of direct democracy being used during the civil rights campaign in the USA in the 1950s and 1960s.
- ◆ A consequence of self-serving politicians listening to their party rather than constituents.
- ◆ An inconsistency of ordinary people not being able to make decisions on complex issues.
- ◆ A consequence of voting for a different candidate under representative democracy.
- ◆ An implication that frequent participation encourages more care to details backed up with a relevant theorist to provide additional supporting justification. (2 marks)
- ◆ Differing view on the reason why the electorate may be more politically literate.

Structure (2 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they do present their evidence in a well-structured manner, with a clear line of argument throughout.

Conclusions (4 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**. The candidate provides a developed and well-argued conclusion with justifications that directly address and evaluate the central issue in the question, namely to what extent are the key features of direct democracy superior to those of representative democracy.

Question 3 (a)

The candidate was awarded **20/20 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate is awarded **8 marks** for this section. The candidate addresses three aspects: traditional grassroots, media and new technology with detailed descriptions. These aspects include voter data bases, media advisors and canvassing.

The candidate then goes on to develop each aspect using exemplification and explanation. The examples are relevant and used to exemplify relevant points such as 2010 David Cameron appointment, support by the Sun newspaper, 2015 Ilford North and SNP Activate app. This meets the criteria for three or more aspects are developed, with extended explanation and/or relevant exemplification.

Analysis (6 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because they make a number of analytical comments. For example:

- ◆ relative importance of media advisors (2 marks)
- ◆ implication that newspapers are not as important as other factors
- ◆ relative importance of canvassing
- ◆ consequence of face-to-face canvassing
- ◆ consequence of financial effectiveness using Activate
- ◆ link between new technology and grassroots

Structure (2 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they present their evidence in a well-structured manner, with a clear line of argument throughout.

Conclusions (4 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**. The candidate provides a developed and well-argued conclusion with justifications that directly address and evaluate the central issue in the question, namely a comparison of different types of electoral campaign methods. The candidate also makes an attempt at answering the question in the conclusion.

Candidate 3

Question 1 (b)

The candidate was awarded **17/20 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** for this section. The candidate addresses four aspects each with some description. These aspects include views on human nature, role of the state, ownership and society. These four aspects each have some description.

The candidate has three or more aspects that are developed, with extended explanation and/or relevant exemplification. For example, reference to Russia Ukraine war, Elon Musk, USSR, China, Right to Buy and the living wage. The candidate makes reference to the ideas of several political theorists such as Hobbes, Marx and Giddens. The candidate is focusing on conservatism and fails to mention Burke as would be expected. However, Giddens would be an acceptable relevant theorist as Giddens rejects Marxist analysis, arguing that there are no stages of history, and that class conflict will not inevitably lead to revolution. This allows 4 marks to be awarded.

Analysis (6 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they make a number of analytical comments. For example:

- ◆ links between component(s) and related concepts: reference to the human nature being moulded by the state
- ◆ different views/interpretations views on a nation without a state
- ◆ consequence on the economy of ownership
- ◆ links between component(s) and related concepts linking human nature and society

Structure (2 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they do present their evidence in a well-structured manner, with a clear line of argument throughout.

Conclusions (4 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**. The candidate makes a brief conclusion at the end of the response, however throughout the response the candidate makes valid conclusions. This would be worth credit and taken together would meet the criteria for a developed conclusion that directly addresses and provides an evaluation of the central issue(s) in the question.

Question 3 (a)

The candidate was awarded **14/20 marks** as follows:

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **7 marks** for knowledge and understanding. The candidate addresses three aspects: traditional grassroots, media and new technology with detailed descriptions. These aspects include leafleting, newspapers and social media adverts.

The candidate then goes on to develop each aspect using exemplification and explanation. The examples are relevant and used to exemplify relevant points such as Conservative party slogan, the Sun newspaper and celebrity endorsements. For the section on new technology the section is not extended explanation and/or exemplification. As a result, the candidate would meet the criteria for three aspects are developed, with some explanation and/or exemplification.

Analysis (6 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they make a number of analytical comments. For example:

- ◆ reference to echo chamber
- ◆ importance of personal touch
- ◆ importance of newspapers
- ◆ effectiveness of social media

Structure (2 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they do present their evidence in a well-structured manner, with a clear line of argument throughout.

Conclusions (4 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate makes a brief conclusion at the end of the response. The candidate makes conclusions throughout, but they do not deal with the central issues of the question. As a result, the candidate gains 1 mark for a straightforward conclusion that deals with the central issue in the question.