

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of question paper 1.

## Candidate 1

### Question 1 (a)

The candidate was awarded **12 out of 12 marks** as follows:

#### **Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate addresses Steven Lukes' three faces of power with detailed descriptions and is therefore awarded **4 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate also provides detailed explanations and exemplification of each of the three faces of power and is therefore awarded **4 marks** for development of knowledge.

The candidate covers the key points of the question: namely the open, closed and manipulative faces of power.

#### **Analysis (4 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded marks for the following statements:

- 'This is arguably the most democratic face as it is transparent, open and fair... This was a clear victory and the outcome was clear and open to the public.' (**2 marks**)
- 'More legitimate and accepted...and our democratic systems' (**1 mark**)
- 'This can be argued less democratic...autonomy of democracy' (**1 mark**)

Further marks could have been awarded for the following had the candidate not already exceeded the requirement in the analysis section:

- ‘...this face of power is still very relevant...the 2<sup>nd</sup> face being in play’. (1 mark)
- ‘...this is a key example of this face as it is the most insidious...This shows a consistency with the 2<sup>nd</sup> face’. (1 mark)
- ‘...this face is very relevant in today’s world...twice before believing anything.’ (1 mark)

## Question 2 (b)

The candidate was awarded **18 out of 20 marks** as follows:

### **Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate addresses committees, vote of no confidence/impeachment, Question Time/media. These three aspects have detailed description and they are therefore awarded **4 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate also provides detailed explanations and exemplification of each of the aspects highlighted and is therefore awarded **4 marks** for development of knowledge.

### **Analysis (6 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded marks for the following statements:

- ‘This shows how powerful chairs are and is an effective form of scrutiny because leaders and people of power can be asked hard questions for their actions’. (**1 mark**)
- ‘This highlight the power imbalance between the two, showing US committees are far more powerful at scrutinising than UK committees.’ (**1 mark**)
- ‘This was an extremely long time ago, VONC can be argued outdated and ineffective as its only been a success once.’ (**1 mark**)

- ‘...thus only emphasising its fault and unsuccessful at scrutinising government, which is consistent also in VONC’. **(1 mark)**
- ‘VONC can be considered a little less ineffective as it can at least be seen to pressure PM to step down.’ **(1 mark)**
- ‘An implication of this is that this atmosphere can encourage questions being asked just for the sake of trying to make the governing party look bad or get the PM to say something that’ll ruin the reputation, this hurts the effectiveness of scrutiny’. **(1 mark)**

A further mark could have been awarded for the following had the candidate not already reached the maximum marks available:

- ‘This is less effective than the PMQs because the questions asked are by journalists and not by politicians thus the questions might not be as challenging or informative, making scrutiny less effective.’ (1 mark)

### **Structure (2 marks available)**

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

### **Conclusions (4 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they have provided a straightforward conclusion that deals with the central issue of legislative scrutiny and which system is more successful in this.

## **Question 3 (b)**

The candidate was awarded **19 out of 20 marks** as follows:

### **Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate addresses traditional grassroots, new technology and the media with detailed descriptions and is therefore awarded **4 marks** for scope of knowledge

The candidate also provides detailed explanations and exemplification of each of the three areas of mandatory content and is therefore awarded **4 marks** for development of knowledge.

The candidate covers all three areas of mandatory content: traditional grassroots, new technology, and the media.

### **Analysis (6 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because they make a number of analytical comments as follows:

- 'This method is good because it is cheap way to get the party message out to a high volume of voters without much manpower.' **(1 mark)**
- 'However it can be argued that canvassing is better at urging people to vote compared to leafletting because its memorable and face to face. However a study by Cambridge University revealed that leafletting has a higher impact than canvassing at turning over votes by a small margin, so it can be concluded that both are just as effective in turning over voters and performance. However compared to other methods like new technology, tradition grassroots can be challenged as it is these methods take too much time and manpower.' **(2 marks)**
- 'However, most newspapers are owned by the wealthy thus linking with the concept of representation as a disproportionate media representation in newspapers coverage can be seen with right wing'. **(1 mark)**
- 'This shows how newspapers can still shape campaign tones and have a powerful influence in politics.' **(1 mark)**
- 'This method can be considered a dying breed as it will only get more obsolete as time goes on and less relevant in society. This makes it arguably less effective than Traditional Grassroots'. **(1 mark)**

Further marks could have been awarded for the following had the candidate not already reached the maximum marks available:

- 'However, a consistency with newspapers is this is also becoming obsolete as TV watching is decreasing steadily over time.' (1 mark)
- 'This is a significant number emphasising the audience of new voters available to reach online.' (1 mark)
- 'This suggests that social media while maybe not impacting political party performing hugely is good for gaining clout and portraying leaders in a certain way'. (1 mark)
- 'This is consistent to canvassing tool however here they can do it much faster and cheaper and then send specific ads to secure their vote.' (1 mark)

### **Structure (2 marks available)**

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

### **Conclusions (4 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they have provided a developed conclusion which directly addresses and provides an evaluation of the central issues in the question: traditional grassroots, media and new technology.

## Candidate 2

### Question 1 (b)

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 12 marks** as follows:

#### **Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate identifies three aspects: human nature, equality and the economy which each have some description. The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate develops the aspects of equality and the economy with extended explanation and relevant exemplification. They were awarded **4 marks** for development of knowledge.

#### **Analysis (4 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded marks for the following statements:

- 'This could explain why Conservatives take a tougher approach to crime, the conservatives portray themselves as the party of law and order.' **(1 mark)**
- 'However capitalism and deregulation naturally create winners and losers, so it would be almost impossible to reach equality under this economic system.' **(1 mark)**
- 'This could explain why historically the Conservatives have struggled to make gains and inroads in deprived and former industrial areas in the UK.' **(1 mark)**

### Question 2 (a)

The candidate was awarded **8 out of 20 marks** as follows:

**Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate identifies one aspect of codification of constitutions in two political systems using detailed description and is awarded **2 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate goes on to develop this aspect with detailed explanation and exemplification and is awarded **2 marks** for development of knowledge.

**Analysis (6 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this section for the following statements:

- 'In this sense the US constitution is effective at maintaining the individual rights of citizens set out in the creation of the constitution.' **(1 mark)**
- 'Through this principle the UK constitution can successfully and effectively protect the rights of citizens.' **(1 mark)**

**Structure (2 marks available)**

The candidate has a clear structure that addresses the issue identified in the question. **(1 mark)**

**Conclusion (4 marks available)**

The candidate provides a straightforward conclusion that both systems are largely effectively in protecting citizens' rights. **(1 mark)**

**Question 3 (a)**

The candidate was awarded **8 out of 20 marks** as follows:

**Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate identifies two aspects: independence and anti-austerity policies with some description. The candidate is awarded **2 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate further develops the aspect of anti-austerity with some explanation and is awarded **1 mark** for development of knowledge.

### **Analysis (6 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded marks for the following statements:

- 'This suggests it was not only the idea of Scottish Independence that attracted voters to the SNP.' **(1 mark)**
- 'This was arguably a successful campaign strategy as the SNP won a majority of MPs in Scotland in the 2015 General election.' **(1 mark)**
- '...it could be argued that it was the popularity of their former leader Nicola Sturgeon that has contributed to their great electoral performances and success in Scottish politics.' **(1 mark)**

### **Structure (2 marks available)**

The response had a clear structure that addresses the issue that was identified in the question. **(1 mark)**

### **Conclusion (4 marks available)**

The candidate concludes that the dominant ideas of civil nationalism and anti-austerity policies contributed to the SNP success. **(1 mark)** The candidate also makes reference to Sturgeon's popularity compared to Swinney however, this is incorrect as it has not been tested at an election.

## Candidate 3

### Question 1 (a)

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 12 marks** as follows:

#### **Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate identifies Lukes' three faces of power and describes each of them in some detail. The second face of power does not have developed description and so does not meet the threshold for 4 marks. The candidate is awarded **3 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate further develops all three aspects, with some explanation and exemplification and is awarded **3 marks** for development of knowledge.

#### **Analysis (4 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded marks for the following statements:

- 'This shows that Steven Lukes' decision making face of power does require legitimacy as the Conservatives came into power through a legitimate process through elections and campaigns which were decided by citizens in large numbers. This highlights how open and transparent the Conservatives were as a government.' **(1 mark)**
- 'This shows that non decision making is not legitimate as it's able to prevent and limit the chance of decisions being made and limit the amount of choices available as in this case MPs and peers were not able to hold debates and make laws which the prime minister Boris Johnson was able to use as an opportunity to minimise and block a no deal Brexit.' **(2 marks)**
- 'This shows that manipulating desire face of power is the least legitimate type of power as it allowed the Russian government to create a false narrative and justification for the war and not allowing Russian citizens to make informed

decisions themselves based on reality and statistic facts due to the use of censorship over the Russian media and propaganda used the Putin.' **(1 mark)**

## Question 2 (a)

The candidate was awarded **14 out of 20 marks** as follows:

### Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate identifies two aspects: codification and flexibility of amendment process. The aspect of codification is detailed however, the amendment process is not. The candidate is awarded **2 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate develops both aspects however, only codification has detailed explanation and exemplification discussing both the US and the UK. The aspect of amendment process only refers in detail to the US. The candidate is awarded **3 marks** for development of knowledge.

### Analysis (6 marks available)

While six examples of analysis were identified (as detailed below), the first five are in the first aspect (codification). Candidates can only achieve 4 marks of analysis for one aspect and therefore, they are capped at four marks for this. However, they achieve an additional 1 mark of analysis in the second aspect of amendment.

- 'This helps citizens to clearly know their constitutional rights as Pew research identified in a survey that a majority around 56% of American citizens know their constitutional rights by memory and that they could identify the rights of the first amendment.' **(1 mark)**
- 'This in turn makes it very challenging and difficult to achieve amendments.' **(1 mark)**
- 'However, despite a codified constitution making it easier for citizens to locate and understand their individual constitutional rights, a codified constitution gives too much power to branches of government such as the US supreme court, as they

have significantly more power than the UK parliament's as they are able to reject UK supreme courts decision.' **(1 mark)**

- '...which caused more people to be content with the government in power and the political system in the UK'. **(1 mark)**
- 'This shows that the UK constitution is more flexible in protect individual's rights as they do not need to be challenged by other branches of government and Put through a political process that would happen in the US through the house of representatives and the senate.' 1 mark could have been awarded for analysis however, the candidate has reached the cap of 4 marks and so is not credited.
- 'The US constitution amendment process is less flexible in protesting individual rights as it takes many years for a bill or amendment to be passed.' **(1 mark)**

### **Structure (2 marks available)**

The candidate provides a clear structure that addresses the issue identified and they have presented evidence and developed a line of argument. **(2 marks)**

### **Conclusion (4 marks available)**

The candidate provides a straightforward conclusion that deals with the central issue in the question. **(2 marks)**

## **Question 3 (b)**

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 20 marks** as follows:

### **Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate identifies one aspect of the question – traditional grassroots. They then discuss two types of traditional grassroots strategies – leafletting and canvassing. They are awarded **2 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate develops their point on both leafletting and canvassing. This aspect of traditional grassroots is developed with detailed explanation. They are awarded **2 marks** for development of knowledge.

**Analysis (6 marks available)**

The candidate is awarded marks for the following statements:

- 'This shows that leafleting can be an extremely more expensive way to campaign compared to social media which means that the political party may need to budget a financial amount of money to be able to campaign using this method.' **(1 mark)**
- 'A disadvantage of leafleting is that many people find leaflets junk mail and may discard before reading which limits the effectiveness that leafletting had as a campaign method.' **(1 mark)**
- 'Therefore, people are more inclined to vote for a party or candidate that use door to door canvassing as people can gauge what they are like as a person and were their values are what the voter believes themselves.' **(1 mark)**
- 'However social media is more significant impact as door-to-door canvassing cannot reach a large-scale audience compared to social media which can be much less time consuming for the party will at the same time being able to campaign globally instead of locally.' **(1 mark)**

**Structure (2 marks available)**

The candidate has a clear structure and addresses the issue identified in the question. **(1 mark)**

**Conclusion (4 marks available)**

The candidate provides a straightforward conclusion that deals with the central issue in the question. **(1 mark)**

## Candidate 4

### Question 1 (b)

The candidate was awarded **7 out of 12 marks** as follows:

#### **Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate addresses Steven Lukes' three faces of power, each with some description and is awarded **3 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate also provides some explanation and exemplification of each of the three faces of power and is therefore awarded **3 marks** for development of knowledge.

The candidate covers the key points of the question: namely the open, closed, and manipulative faces of power.

#### **Analysis (4 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded a mark for the following statement:

- 'This shows that the second face does not land well with the public and is the least effective face.' **(1 mark)**

### Question 2 (b)

The candidate was awarded **8 out of 20 marks** as follows:

#### **Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate addresses three aspects, each with some description, and is awarded **3 marks** for scope of knowledge. They do not address both political systems in each aspect and therefore, cannot achieve 4 marks for scope.

The candidate develops the aspect of vote of no confidence in the UK and makes a brief comparison to the US system. This was awarded **1 mark** for development of knowledge.

### **Analysis (6 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded marks for the following statements:

- 'This further highlights the vote of no confidence's ineffectiveness as it failed to put Teresa May out of parliament.' **(1 mark)**
- 'This shows that although there has been a successful VONC it is still ineffective as the last successful one was 46 years ago and there hasn't been another successful one since then despite multiple attempts.' **(1 mark)**
- 'I believe PMQs are the most effective way of scrutinising the government as they offer members of parliament to question the PM about issues faced in the UK and gives the general public the opportunity to hear what will be done to prevent these issues that they themselves might face.' **(1 mark)**

### **Structure (2 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they present their evidence in a structured manner that clarifies the issue. There is no consistent line of argument as only one paragraph deals with two political systems.

### **Conclusion (4 marks available)**

The candidate does not make a conclusion about the central issue of the question, which is to contrast legislative scrutiny in two political systems. They do make an attempt at this however, this only relates to the UK and is therefore credited as further analysis (see above). As a result, **0 marks** are awarded for the conclusion.

## **Question 3 (b)**

The candidate was awarded **9 out of 20 marks** as follows:

**Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)**

The candidate addresses two aspects, each with some description, and is awarded **2 marks** for scope of knowledge.

The candidate develops the aspects of traditional grassroots and media, with the grassroots strategies showing detailed explanation and exemplification. This was awarded **3 marks** for development of knowledge.

**Analysis (6 marks available)**

The candidate was awarded marks for the following statements:

- ‘...can have a significant impact as it turns people’s heads in favour of their local candidate and may persuade them to vote for them.’ **(1 mark)**
- ‘This also proved to be effective as the Conservative party went on to win the 2019 parliamentary election.’ **(1 mark)**

**Structure (2 marks available)**

The candidate has a clear structure that addresses the issue of campaign management strategies. However, the candidate does not provide a clear and consistent line of argument on whether traditional grassroots have the most significant impact. Therefore, **1 mark** is awarded.

**Conclusion (4 marks available)**

The candidate provides a straightforward conclusion on the most effective grassroots strategy, the central issue in the question. **(1 mark)**