

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 1

Question 1(b)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate covers four aspects - control, political literacy, self-serving politicians and legitimacy. These all have some description.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate goes on to develop the aspects of political literacy, self-serving politicians and legitimacy. These have extended explanation and relevant explanation.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 1 – ‘The people are much more likely...overall more satisfied population.’ (consequence)
- Page 2 – ‘Overall, the argument for heightened control.... would not be practical.’ (contradiction)
- Page 3 – ‘Overall, whilst a direct democracy.... may not even affect them.’ (contradiction)
- Page 5 – ‘Overall, whilst direct takes away.... the decisions they’ll be making.’ (contradiction)

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 6 marks** for this aspect.

Structure

The candidate has a structure that clarifies the issue, presents evidence and develops a clear and consistent line of argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for this aspect.

Conclusion

The candidate makes a straightforward conclusion that deals with and evaluates the central line of the argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 16 out of 20 marks for this question.

Question 2(a)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate covers four aspects – introduction of a bill, bicameral legislatures, role of the executive and the role of the Head of State. These all have some description.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate goes on to develop three aspects with extended explanation and relevant exemplification. The aspect of role of the executive was not felt to have enough detail.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 8 – ‘showing that more popular parties are rewarded with easier introduction and passage.’ (underlying order or structure)
- Page 8 – ‘Overall, the introduction of a bill...is that the POTUS cannot introduce a bill’ (contradiction)

- Page 10 – ‘Overall, whilst both systems are similar.... especially hard to pass.’
(contradiction)
- Page 11 – ‘Overall, both systems are differing...and has much greater say.’
(contradiction)
- Page 12 – ‘Overall, the role of the Head of State.... now seen as being symbolic.’
(contradiction)

The candidate was awarded **5 out of 6 marks** for this aspect.

Structure

The candidate has a structure that clarifies the issue, presents evidence and develops a clear and consistent line of argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for this aspect.

Conclusion

The candidate makes a straightforward conclusion that deals with and evaluates the central line of the argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 17 out of 20 marks for this question.

Question 3(a)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate attempts to cover aspects including unionism, foreign policy and crime. The aspect of unionism in relation to the Conservative Party is incorrect. The aspect of devolution for Labour is correct and is given some description. The aspect of foreign policy is correct for Labour and has some description. The aspect of crime is correct for Labour and has some description. All information on the Conservative Party is disregarded.

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate develops the aspect of foreign policy with some explanation.

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate does not make any analytical comments that are related to electoral performance.

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 4 out of 12 marks for this question.

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

Candidate 2

Question 1(b)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate covers four aspects, each with some description – heightens control, political literacy, legitimacy and corrupt politicians.

The candidate refers to Schumpeter within their writing and refers to their works. Therefore, not capped.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate goes on to develop all four aspects, with development, extended explanation and relevant exemplification.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 3 – ‘This is good as it means that citizens are able.... (not always the case).’ (implication)
- Page 4 – ‘This shows how a direct democracy.... a countries views’ (implication)
- Page 5 – ‘This shows that representative democracy is more beneficial.... more efficient for a country’ (understanding of underlying order or structure)
- Page 7 – ‘It can be argued that with turnout.... turnout would not be any better.’ (implication)
- Page 7 – ‘Overall, it can be shown that representative democracy.... make informed decisions before elections.’ (link between components and related concepts)
- Page 9 – ‘Overall, this shows that representative democracy....make informed decisions on behalf of a country.’ (understanding of underlying order or structure)
- Page 11 – ‘This shows that although direct democracy...deliver what they said’ (understanding of underlying order or structure)

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** for this aspect.

Structure

The candidate has a structure that clarifies the issue, presents evidence and develops a clear and consistent line of argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for this aspect.

Conclusion

The candidate makes a straightforward conclusion that deals with the issue. While they attempt to provide justification, this is repetitive and does not address the issue of why representative democracy is better.

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 17 out of 20 marks for this question.

Question 2(b)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate covers three aspects – separation of powers, formal & informal powers, party leader/role of whips. All three are described in detail.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate develops all three aspects with detailed explanation/exemplification.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 15 – ‘This shows that it is not as easy for the president to pass bills.... difficult to pass policy effectively.’
- Page 15 – ‘Overall, this shows that the UK has more flexibility.... executive in the USA to make policy.’ (underlying order or structure)

- Page 16 – ‘This is good as it means that the PM can easily pick and choose.... the best quality policy.’ (implication/consequence)
- Page 18 – ‘Overall this shows that both executives.... who they want to be in government.’ (similarities)
- Page 19 – ‘This is important as it means that.... passing policy more effective’ (implication or consequence)
- Page 20-21 – ‘This shows that the UK is more effective...party leader in parliament is more effective in making policy’ (underlying order or structure)

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** for this aspect.

Structure

The candidate has a structure that clarifies the issue, presents evidence and develops a clear and consistent line of argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for this aspect.

Conclusion

The candidate makes an attempt at a conclusion. However, this is too short to be worthy of credit.

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 16 out of 20 for this question.

Question 3(a)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate attempts to cover various elections. However, only one aspect can be identified from their writing – that of the economy. This is written with detailed description.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate develops the aspect of the economy with detailed explanation/exemplification from multiple elections.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 22-23 – ‘This shows that.... significant loss and defeat in the 1983 election.’
- Page 23-24 – ‘This shows that with new labours middle ground policies...brought together the working and middle class vote.’
- Page 26 – ‘proving that moving back to the centre middle ground they gained electoral success’
- Page 26 – ‘Overall, this shows that Labour were more successful....and also gain middle class support.’ – This mark cannot be awarded as the candidate is capped at three simple analysis marks.

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 7 out of 12 marks for this question.

Overall, the candidate was awarded 40 out of 52 marks for the question paper.

Candidate 3

Question 1(b)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate refers to three aspects – power, authority and legitimacy. These were all with detailed descriptions.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate develops all three aspects, with extended explanation and relevant exemplification.

The candidate was awarded **4 marks out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 1 – ‘This face is also not very democratic.... holds most of the power.’ (links between concepts)
- Page 1 – ‘A danger to this power...threatens their authority.’ (links between concepts)
- Page 1 – ‘This would put a really large dent on that persons legitimacy.’ (links between concepts)
- Page 1-2 – ‘Overall all 3 faces ...this in the 21st century’ (developed analysis – implications)

The candidate has achieved 5 marks of analysis within the first paragraph. However, only **4 marks** for analysis can be awarded for an aspect, and so they are capped at 4 for this paragraph.

- Page 2 – ‘However a danger to this type very little control over their citizens.’ (consequence)
- Page 2 – ‘This type of authority sees little-to-no rebelling as people are the ones that granted this person their authority.’ (implication)

- Page 2 – ‘Overall all types of authority are effective.... space to do what needs done.’ (underlying order or structure)
- Page 3 – ‘Overall legitimacy in the 21st century....it is futile as it cannot be used’ (underlying order or structure)

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** for this aspect.

Structure

The candidate has a structure that clarifies the issue, presents evidence and develops a clear and consistent line of argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for this aspect.

Conclusion

The candidate provides a straightforward conclusion that deals with and evaluates the central issue in the question.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 18 out of 20 marks for this question.

Question 2(a)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate addresses one aspect of the question – the role of the Prime Minister and President. This has some description.

The candidate was awarded **1 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate does not develop the aspect with any explanation or exemplification. Therefore, no marks are awarded.

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate does not make any analytical comments.

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 6 marks** for this aspect.

Structure

The candidate does not have a clear structure that addresses the issue identified in the question. While the first sentence makes reference to the question, it was not felt that this was a clear structure overall.

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 2 marks** for this aspect.

Conclusion

The candidate does not provide a conclusion and so cannot be awarded any marks for this.

The candidate was awarded **0 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 1 out of 20 marks for this question.

Question 3(b)

Knowledge and understanding scope

Three aspects are identified – PEBs, newspapers and social media. These have detailed description.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

All three aspects are developed with explanation and exemplification.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes some straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 4 – ‘This suggests that yes the strategy.... defeats the entire purpose’ (contradiction)
- Page 5 – ‘This quote suggests that the newspapers.... This was a turning point in newspaper history.’ (developed analysis – underlying order or structure)

- Page 5 – ‘However the newspapers do not always....in many areas across Scotland’ (contradiction)
- Page 6 – ‘This is a good thing for parties.... something with social media’ (possible consequence)

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 12 out of 12 marks for this question.

Overall, the candidate was awarded 31 out of 52 marks for the question paper.

Candidate 4

Question 1(b)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate covers citizen control, political literacy, education levels. These are described in detail. The candidate also talks about practicality with some description.

The candidate has already achieved 4 marks for three aspects with detailed description but does not meet the threshold for 5 scope marks.

The candidate makes reference to Churchill and Plato.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate has three aspects developed, with extended explanation and relevant exemplification.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 2 – ‘This highlights that direct democracy.... politicians who make decisions’ (implication)
- Page 2 – ‘This is a negative as many people feel.... could lead to voter apathy.’ (possible consequence)
- Page 2 – ‘School students also become more politically literate.... become involved with politics.’ (possible consequence)
- Page 2 – ‘Furthermore, every single Scottish party.... become involved in politics’ (developed analysis – consequence)
- Page 2 – ‘This shows that the direct democracy is not effective.... how important they are.’ (relative importance)
- Page 3 – ‘In recent weeks we have found that Nigel Farage...order to be powerful.’ (developed analysis - possible consequence)

- Page 3 – ‘Therefore, it is clear that representative democracy...citizens of the country’ (underlying order or structure)

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 6 marks** for this aspect.

Structure

The candidate has a structure that clarifies the issue, presents evidence and develops a clear and consistent line of argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for this aspect.

Conclusion

The candidate makes a developed conclusion that directly addresses and provides an evaluation of the central issue in the question.

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 19 out of 20 marks for this question.

Question 2(b)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate covers three aspects - fiscal powers, party leader and managing sub national governments. All have detailed description.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate develops all three aspects, with extended explanation and exemplification.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 4 – ‘This shows that the PM is powerful.... there was nothing that parliament could do about it’ (relative importance)
- Page 4 – ‘If the popularity of the PM drops.... due to him being unpopular with voters is losing support’ (developed analysis – consequence)
- Page 4 – ‘This shows that the President.... such different views on things’ (possible implication)
- Page 5 – ‘This shows that the President lacks.... cannot control everywhere’ (similarities & contradictions)

The candidate was awarded **5 out of 6 marks** for this aspect.

Structure

The candidate has a structure that clarifies the issue, presents evidence and develops a clear and consistent line of argument.

The candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for this aspect.

Conclusion

The candidate makes a developed conclusion that directly addresses and provides an evaluation of the central issue in the question.

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 18 out of 20 marks for this question.

Question 3(a)

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate covers three aspects – constitutional arrangements, social justice and pro-EU. The first two are detailed.

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate develops three aspects, two in detail (constitutional arrangements & social justice).

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

Analysis

The candidate makes a number of straightforward analytical comments:

- Page 6 – “However, in 2024 in the general election...on their electoral performance.” (developed analysis – consequence)
- Page 6 – “However, what has to be noted is that the SNP.... vote for single issues” (developed analysis – contradictions)
- Page 6 – “This shows that the idea of Pro-EU...performance of the SNP” (implication)

The candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect.

In total, the candidate was awarded 12 out of 12 marks for this question.

Overall, the candidate was awarded 49 out of 52 marks for the question paper.