

Commentary on candidate evidence

The evidence for these candidates has achieved the following marks for the specified sections of the assignment.

Candidate 1

A. Identifying and demonstrating factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of the issue, showing an awareness of different points of view

Background and framing of issue and alternatives

The candidate clarifies the issue in the opening two paragraphs and also provides detailed background knowledge by explaining the issue in relation to both the Independent Group and the SDP. The candidate, in the opening paragraph, also outlines two viewpoints on democracy and legitimacy. Finally, the candidate addresses the significance of the issue.

5 marks were awarded for this aspect of knowledge and understanding.

D. Drawing a detailed and reasoned conclusion(s) about the issue

The candidate provided an insightful conclusion over the last two paragraphs that addressed and evaluated both aspects of the issue centring on democracy and legitimacy.

As a result, the candidate was awarded **4 marks** for conclusions.

Candidate 2

A. Identifying and demonstrating factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of the issue, showing an awareness of different points of view

Background and framing of issue and alternatives

The candidate identifies the issue in the opening paragraph, provides a background explanation to the issue by identifying his poor reputation and personal qualities, the declining popularity of the Labour leader, and splits within the party. This just satisfies the criteria for detailed background explanation of the issue.

The candidate also identifies alternative viewpoints regarding Labour's current position (policy and the legacy of Iraq). Finally, the candidate attempts to indicate the significance of the issue. The development of some of these by this candidate could be more detailed but as they have addressed these directly, they are awarded 5 marks.

Knowledge and understanding which supports the analysis of the issue

The candidate provides detailed descriptions and explanations along with relevant exemplification and evidence. This development of knowledge to support their analysis was awarded 5 marks.

In total, the candidate was awarded **10 out of 10 marks** for knowledge and understanding.

B. Analysing information in a structured manner

The candidate makes a number of analytical comments relating to the issue of Labour's electability and the significance of the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn. The candidate makes analytical comments such as identifying the relative importance of components and identifying consequences and implications. There is limited development of these analytical comments.

For example, the candidate was awarded marks for analytical points made on the following:

- ◆ The relative importance of party leadership is identified, and this is developed further by linking this to the growing significance of factors linked to the rational choice model of voting behaviour, and the contrast made between support for Labour policies and Corbyn's poor level of personal support. **(2 marks)**
- ◆ Analytical comment outlining the consequences of Corbyn's failure to address the issue of antisemitism. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ Analytical comment made linking his past sympathy for the IRA to the impact on his electability. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate returns to the issue of antisemitism, but makes an additional analytical comment outlining the consequences of appointing an ally to investigate this issue. **(1 mark)**

- ◆ An analytical comment is made comparing his poor political skills and inability to build on his post-2017 popularity. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A further analytical comment is made on the implications of his position on Brexit and the contrasts to the views of Labour supporters on this issue **(1 mark)**.
- ◆ An analytical comment identifies the impact on trust of the previous Labour policy on Iraq and contrasts this with Corbyn's opposition to this. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A final analytical comment is made linking Labour's position to unpopular policies, for which Corbyn may not be accountable and then contrasting this with popular Labour policies **(1 mark)**

In total the candidate was awarded **9 out of 14 marks** for analysis.

C. Communicating information from, and referring to, political sources

The candidate refers to and communicates information accurately from a number of sources identified on the resource sheet. These include both a YouGov poll and an IPSOS-Mori poll and associated data on Corbyn's leadership. In addition, articles from the Guardian and BBC are referred to. As a least two sources are referred to and information from these is communicated accurately, the candidate is awarded **2 marks**.

In total the candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for political sources.

D. Drawing a detailed and reasoned conclusion(s) about the issue

The candidate provides a detailed and insightful conclusion. This includes detailed reference to the evidence, but this is in relation to only one point of view and therefore does not provide an evaluation of different points of view.

As a result, the candidate was awarded **3 out of 4 marks** for conclusions.

In total, the candidate was awarded **24/30 marks** for the assignment.

Candidate 3

A. Identifying and demonstrating factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of the issue, showing an awareness of different points of view

Background and framing of issue and alternatives

The candidate provides an introduction that indicates a vague outline of factors affecting voting behaviour. However, they do not clearly identify the issue. They do provide some background to factors affecting voting behaviour and attempt to indicate the significance of the issue in explaining the outcomes of elections. The candidate does not provide detailed background nor any indication of differing viewpoints. This is awarded **2 marks**.

Knowledge and understanding which supports the analysis of the issue

The candidate provides some descriptions and explanations along with relevant quotes with some limited exemplification, however they lack development of a number of points. This development of knowledge to support their analysis was awarded **3 marks**.

In total, the candidate was awarded **5 out of 10 marks** for knowledge and understanding.

B. Analysing information in a structured manner

The candidate makes some limited analytical comments.

For example, the candidate was awarded marks for analytical points on the following:

- ◆ An analytical comment is made on the implication for political parties of class dealignment. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ An analytical comment is made on the impact on policy making of differential turnout based on age. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate makes an analytical comment by identifying the potential implications for political engagement of young people from the use of social media. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A further analytical comment is made when the candidate contrasts the consequences of social media use. **(1 mark)**

In total, the candidate was awarded **4 out of 14 marks** for analysis.

C. Communicating information from, and referring to, political sources

The candidate introduces a number of quotes, but there is no indication of the source of these either within their assignment or on their resource sheet. The candidate does make reference to, and communicates information from, opinion poll/survey results.

In total, the candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for political sources.

D. Drawing a detailed and reasoned conclusion(s) about the issue

The candidate provides a straightforward conclusion with some reference to the evidence.

As a result, the candidate was awarded **1 mark** for conclusions.

In total, the candidate was awarded **12/30 marks** for the assignment.

Candidate 4

B. Analysing information in a structured manner

The candidate makes a number of analytical comments, mainly focusing on comparisons with alternative political systems or examining the consequences of constitutional arrangements.

For example, the candidate was awarded marks for analytical points on the following:

- ◆ A comparison is made when identifying differences between the US and UK constitutional approaches. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ An analytical comment is made by examining the implications of the UK's 'malleable' arrangements. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A further analytical comment is made as the candidate examines the implications of constitutional change in the UK. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate makes a comparison highlighting the benefits of the UK's position compared to other entrenched systems. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate makes an analytical point examining the benefits of alternative constitutional arrangements. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ A further analytical comment is made as the candidate compares the UK to the US position, identifying differences. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ An analytical comment is made as the candidate identifies the consequences of an entrenched separation of powers. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate then goes on to examine the implications for rights of the need for democratic legitimacy and accountability. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate goes on to make a comparison between the UK and US to identify deficiencies common to both systems. **(1 mark)**

In total, the candidate was awarded **9 out of 14 marks** for analysis.