

Commentary on candidate evidence

The evidence for these candidates has achieved the following marks for the specified questions within the question paper.

Candidate 1

Question 1a

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because two aspects are covered, each with very detailed descriptions, and these include the key points. The candidate initially provides a detailed description of power including a definition, establishes its link to social relationships and also to the work of Max Weber. The candidate also goes on to provide detailed descriptions of each of the three faces of power. The sections of the candidate's response relating to the three faces of power would themselves have been worthy of 4 marks as they provide three aspects (the three faces), at least two of which have detailed descriptions.

If these were less detailed, the candidate would still have achieved full marks for this section along with their section defining and explaining power. This would have met the criteria of two aspects (power and the three faces) each with detail and including the key points. On either measure identified in the marking grid, the candidate achieved 4 out of 4 marks.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because all relevant aspects are developed. All three faces of power are developed with exemplification and/or explanation. For example, the candidate provides an explanation about why the first face is an open face and provides exemplification relating to the smoking ban in Scotland. This development of knowledge and understanding also applies to the candidate's discussion of power.

Analysis

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they provide a number of analytical comments throughout their response. Some of these comments meet the criteria for developed analysis. For example:

- ◆ The candidate makes a developed analytical comment that identifies and contrasts Pluralist and Marxist perspectives of power supported by additional justification. **(2 marks)**
- ◆ The candidate links the first face of power to the concept of democracy. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate links the second face to a lack of democracy and develops this further by linking this back to the Marxist definition of power. **(2 marks)**

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

Candidate 2

Question 1a

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because only two aspects are covered. The candidate provides some description for the second face of power though it is limited and vague. They provide a more detailed description of the third face. No reference is made to the first face of power.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because two aspects are developed, one with more detailed development. The candidate provides some development by providing exemplification of the second face of power (Thatcher removing discussion of Scottish independence from the political agenda). The candidate provides a more detailed development of the third face by providing a detailed exemplification and explanation related to the Iraq war.

Analysis

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because they provide two analytical comments in their response:

- ◆ The candidate makes an analytical comment examining the implications of Thatcher's actions on support in Scotland. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate makes an analytical comment examining the consequences for Blair of his use of the third face. **(1 mark)**

In total, the candidate was awarded **8 out of 12 marks** for this question.

Candidate 3

Question 1b

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because three aspects are covered, two with detailed description. The candidate provides a detailed description of the practical benefits of representative democracy and also of the benefits of having experts make decisions. Some description is also provided on participation.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because all three aspects are developed, two in detail. The candidate provides both explanation for the practical benefits of representative democracy and also provides exemplification on Malta. The candidate then goes on to provide further detailed development by using the examples of both Plato and Burke to support the case for representative democracy. Finally, the candidate provides some exemplification related to participation in the London Mayoral referendum.

Analysis

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because they provide three analytical comments, one of which is developed further:

- ◆ The candidate examines the consequences of major political decisions being taken by representatives. **(1 mark)**
- ◆ The candidate examines the implications of the frequency of direct forms of democracy on turnout and develops this further by going on to examine the implications for legitimacy if voter fatigue skews decision making in favour of the elderly. **(2 marks)**

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

Candidate 4

Question 1b

Knowledge and understanding scope

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because three aspects are covered in some description. In their first paragraph the candidate addresses the issue of practicality. In the second, they deal with participation and go on to address the benefits of expert politicians. None of these aspects are described in detail.

Knowledge and understanding development

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** because there is some limited development of two aspects. The candidate exemplifies the cases argued by Socrates and also Plato to support their final two aspects.

Analysis

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** because they provide an analytical comment:

- ◆ The candidate examines the consequences of decisions being taken by selfish representatives. **(1 mark)**

In total, the candidate was awarded **6 out of 12 marks** for this question.

Candidate 5

Question 1a

Knowledge and understanding scope and development (8 marks available)

The candidate was awarded 3 marks for the scope of knowledge and understanding. The candidate provides descriptions of three aspects to the question (the sociological model, the rational choice model and the party identification model). However, there is limited description of the rationale choice model with a focus on issues, and no consideration of the significance of party leadership, campaigns, party image etc. There is some more detail provided for the sociological model and the party identification model. So although three aspects are covered, they are not all covered with detailed description.

The candidate was also awarded 2 marks for the development of knowledge as they provide some limited exemplification for the sociological model and some explanation for the party identification model. However, there is not effective development of the rational choice model.

In total, the candidate is awarded **5 out of 8 marks** for knowledge.

Analysis (6 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** because they make a number of analytical comments. For example:

- ◆ An analytical comment is made identifying the increasing importance of the rational choice model based on the growth of single issue parties. A further analytical comment on the following page merely repeats the earlier analysis.
- ◆ An analytical comment is made as the candidate addresses the relative importance of the sociological model.
- ◆ The candidate addresses the relative importance of the party identification

Overall, the candidate was awarded **8 marks for the knowledge and analysis components.**

Candidate 6

Question 2b

Conclusions (4 marks available)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** as they provide a well-developed and well-argued conclusion that evaluates the central issue in the question with additional justification. The candidate provides a number of justifications for the conclusion they have come to, such as the system of checks and balances in the US, the enhanced legitimacy of the Senate in comparison to the House of Lords and the additional powers and budgets available to US Congressional committees.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **4 out of 4 marks** for this aspect of the course assessment.