

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component.

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 of constitutional reform. The background to the issue is explained in detail making reference to “negative and positive” constitutionalism. Whilst different points of view are alluded to the candidate does not deal with these in sufficient detail to warrant a mark. No attempt of highlighting the significance of the issue is given. The candidate is awarded **3 marks**.

Knowledge and understanding which supports the analysis of the issue

The candidate gives an extended level of detail surrounding constitutional reform. They bring in an international comparison for exemplification and use this exemplification to support analysis. Reference to political theorists such as Edmund Burke and John Locke are given and again is used to explain points covered in the assignment. The candidate was awarded **5 marks**

In total, the candidate was awarded **8 out of 10 marks** for knowledge and understanding.

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.

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

The candidate has several valid political sources on their resource sheet. However, they do not make it clear when they are referencing the political sources. The candidate does make reference to theorists within the assignment, but their works are not listed on the resource sheet. For example, Edmund Burke's name appears but no indication of his works are present. The candidate does make reference to unlockdemocracy.org within the assignment.

In total, the candidate was awarded **1 out of 2 marks** for political sources.

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

The candidate provides a concise and sophisticated conclusion that makes detailed reference to evidence with some insightful points covered.

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

In total, the candidate was awarded 21/30 marks for the assignment.