



Commentary on Candidate Evidence

Politics (Higher): Assignment

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 1

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

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 paragraph whilst providing background to the issue in detail. Alternative points of view are also identified, such as alternative possibilities for Labour's falling popularity. There is no reference to the significance of this issue or how it may link with related political concepts. **4 marks** were awarded.

Knowledge and understanding which supports the analysis of the issue

The candidate provided detailed information, data and quotes to support their analysis of this issue. This was awarded **4 marks**.

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

B. Analysing and synthesising information in a structured manner

The candidate makes analytical comments regarding a number of factors contributing to Labour's unpopularity. The candidate attempts to link these factors, with explanations, to the central issue of the assignment. Implications and potential consequences are examined, and there is also an attempt to make comparisons between different interpretations. Some of these analytical points are backed up with supporting justification or evidence.

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

- ◆ Extended comment on the impact of lack of support from Labour MPs: **2 marks awarded** (page 5)
- ◆ Comments on the relative importance of image and the impact on Corbyn's support: **1 mark awarded** (pages 5 and 6)
- ◆ Point on electoral consequences of Corbyn's stance on nuclear power with extended justification based on opinion poll data: **2 marks awarded** (page 6)
- ◆ Extended analysis of impact of economic crash and impact on reputation of labour on the issue of the economy: **2 marks awarded** (page 7)
- ◆ Further analytical comment on impact of Corbyn's agenda: **1 mark awarded** (pages 7 and 8)

- ◆ Comparison made between Labour and Conservative campaign tactics with additional justification: **2 marks awarded** (page 8)
- ◆ Analytical comment on the extent of changes introduced by Blair: **1 mark awarded** (pages 9 and 10)
- ◆ Comment linking involvement in Iraq to longer term support: **1 mark awarded** (page 11)
- ◆ Comment on consequences of involvement in Iraq with further additional development: **2 marks awarded** (page 11)

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

C. Communicating and referring to political sources

The candidate refers to a number of political sources throughout their assignment and communicates information from these accurately. 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 summative conclusion made by this candidate was categorised as three relevant conclusions with reference to the evidence, and as a result, the candidate was awarded **3 marks** for conclusions.

In total, the candidate was awarded 27/30 marks.

Candidate 2

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

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 paragraph and at an early stage identifies the significance of the issue. The candidate provides, in this opening paragraph, background to the issue in detail. Alternative points of view are also identified towards the end of this introduction.

5 marks were awarded for this aspect.

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

The summative conclusion made by this candidate was categorised as two relevant conclusions with detailed reference to the evidence. The candidate makes an initial conclusion on the financial costs of independence and goes on to make a second conclusion related to the economic and diplomatic consequences of independence.

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

Candidate 3

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

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 does not provide a clear introduction to their assignment. The issue is clarified and there is awareness of alternative viewpoints, however there is not background to the issue, nor is the significance of the issue explained.

The candidate does provide some further information, but this is credited towards the knowledge and understanding which supports the analysis of the issue. The candidate may have benefited from a clearly delineated introduction.

2 marks were awarded for this aspect.

C. Communicating and referring to political sources

The candidate has indicated a number of sources (websites) on their resource sheet. However, there is very little indication of information collected from these websites. The candidate has therefore not been able to show how information from these sources has informed their understanding of the issue. In addition, the candidate does not make any specific reference in their assignment to the sources indicated on the resource sheet.

As there is no reference made to political sources, the candidate was awarded **0 marks** for this section.

Candidate 4

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

B. Analysing and synthesising information in a structured manner

The candidate is unable to access more than a limited range of marks as a result of a descriptive response that provides limited analysis of the issue. This candidate restates or develops points made from their resource sheet, however, they do not take the opportunity to use some of the knowledge and understanding to support an analysis of the issues. The candidate receives recognition for some basic analytical comments:

- ◆ In the last paragraph on page 32 (of the commentary document) the candidate makes an analytical point regarding the implication of a binary choice on participation – **1 mark awarded**
- ◆ On page 33 paragraph 1 the candidate links the voting age to participation rates – **1 mark awarded**
- ◆ On page 33 paragraph 2 the candidate establishes a link between referenda and democracy – **1 mark awarded**
- ◆ On page 34 paragraph 1 the candidate attempts to identify the consequences of lack of information – **1 mark awarded**

Other than these points, the candidate does not identify links, identify the relevant importance of factors, examine consequences or implications or make contrasts to identify similarities or differences. As a result, the main body of the assignment is descriptive or lacks development.

Consequently, the candidate is awarded **4 out of 14 marks** for this section.

Candidate 5

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

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

The candidate provides an insightful conclusion with reference to the evidence.

The candidate concludes that the sociological model is no longer dominant and it and other long term factors are not as significant as they once were. The candidate stipulates that an alternative model – rational choice – is now more significant and provides supporting justifications, such as class dealignment and also societal change.

The candidate balances their conclusion by recognising that sociological factors are still relevant but are just not as significant as they were in the past, again with supporting justification.

This conclusion is sophisticated and insightful and evaluates the central issue in the assignment with reference to evidence covered.

Consequently, this was awarded **4 out of 4 marks**.

Candidate 6

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

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

The candidate attempts to provide a conclusion on the differences and similarities between conservative and liberal ideology.

The candidate makes a detailed conclusion regarding the differences between liberalism and conservatism. This detail extends to two aspects, human nature and equality, and the conclusion is enhanced with an additional contrast with socialism.

This candidate attempts to draw a conclusion around the similarities of the two ideologies but it is quite weak and vague.

As a result, the candidate was credited for one conclusion made with detailed reference to the evidence. The final part of this conclusion did not satisfy the criteria which would have enabled further marks to be awarded.

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

Candidate 7

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

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 and shows an awareness of different points of view on the issue in the opening paragraph. Background information is presented, however, this is fairly generic and the candidate does not take opportunities in the opening two paragraphs to go into further detail on presidential success or the Obama presidency. There was indication of the significance of the issue.

The candidate was awarded **3 marks** for this aspect.

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

The summative conclusion was made by this candidate in the final paragraph. A basic conclusion was made regarding Obama's success and some evidence was presented regarding gun control and Obama care. However, this did not go into any particular detail. In addition, the candidate merely restated information on popularity and maintaining support.

As a result, this was viewed as one basic conclusion made with some reference to the evidence and was awarded **1 mark** for conclusions.