Commentary on candidate evidence

Assessors awarded the candidate evidence the following marks for each question.

Candidate 1

Section 1 – Part B – Democracy in the United Kingdom

Question 4

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

The candidate begins by giving a method used by pressure groups to gain influence as ‘protesting’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They continue by describing a protest and reference that they do this for ‘specific issue or cause’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give a relevant example about anti-immigration protests in 2024 – this was awarded **1 mark**.

They give a second method used – ‘starting a petition’ – **1 mark**.

The candidate goes on to give further description which is creditworthy however they have accessed the four marks available.

Question 5

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

The candidate begins by stating that ‘One reason why some people are more likely to than others participate in politics is because they want change.’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give further explanation relating to ‘vote for a party who they think will actually help and change the country for the better’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give the example of many people voting for Reform – this was awarded **1 mark**.

They go on to give a second reason referring to ‘tactical voting’. The explain that voters will choose one party because they don’t want a certain party in charge. They further develop this point in relation to not having the party they dislike in power and give the example of 2024 when some people voted Labour because they didn’t want

the Conservatives in charge – the team agreed that this response, as a whole, was worth **3 marks**.

Question 6

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

The candidate begins by stating that the 'House of Lords (HoL) plays an important role… because they scrutinise the government.' – this was awarded **1 mark**. They go to state that 'they keep the government in check and make sure they don't abuse their power.' – this was awarded **1 mark**. They then complete this paragraph with a relevant example relating to Brexit – this was awarded **1 mark**.

They give a second reason, 'they can delay bills' - this was awarded **1 mark**. They explain that this can be for up to 12 months – this was awarded **1 mark**. They go on to state that 'the HoL recently delayed a bill about banning fox hunting' – this was awarded no marks as this occurred in 2004 – the team agreed that this was not recent.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 10 marks** for this question.

The candidate begins by making a conclusion for bullet point 2 – 'Labour Party has improved since 2019' – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give relevant evidence from source 2 and source 3 and give evaluative comment at the end, 'This shows that they have almost doubled their amount of seats and have made good improvements.' – this was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate then makes a conclusion for bullet point 3 – 'the Conservative Party have not improved their performance since 2019' – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give relevant evidence from source 2 and source 3 and give evaluative comment at the end, 'This shows that conservatives have performed weaker and have lost the majority of their seats.' – this was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate makes a conclusion for bullet point 4 – 'In conclusion, the results were not proportional.' – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give evidence from source 1 and

source 3 and although they attempt further evaluation the team felt this was simply lifting the phrase ‘unfair’ from the source information. This was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate gives a final conclusion relating to bullet point 1 – ‘In conclusion, Labour became more popular in Scotland after the election.’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give relevant evidence from source 1 and source 2 to support this – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Section 2 – Part D – Crime and the law

Question 11

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

The candidate states that one criminal court in the UK is the Justice of Peace Court – this was awarded **1 mark**. They describe that it ‘deals with very low level crimes and doesn’t require a jury.’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They continue describing that ‘The judge can sentence a fine or a very short period of time in prison for the perpetrator.’ and suggest that these crimes ‘usually involve driving laws’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate states that ‘Another criminal court that exists in the UK is the High Court’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate gives an accurate description of the High Court however they have accessed the four marks available.

Question 12

The candidate was awarded **3 out of 6 marks** for this question.

The candidate gives the first consequence of crime on the perpetrator as ‘a prison sentence’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They develop this with description of ‘a certain period of time in jail’ and give the example of Aaron Campbell murdering Aleisha MacPhail – this was awarded a further **2 marks**.

The candidate then states a further consequence is that they will be given a fine. The team agreed that this was simply an extension of the point before relating to punishments and nor further marks were awarded as the candidate had already achieved the 3 marks for a single description.

Question 13(a)

The candidate was awarded **8 out of 8 marks** for this question.

The candidate begins by stating that one cause of crime is ‘drugs and alcohol’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They develop the point referring to potential of committing crimes to fund addiction or committing crimes whilst under the influence and not knowing right from wrong – this was awarded **1 mark**. The exemplification however is incorrect so was awarded no further marks.

The candidate then states another cause of crime is ‘poverty’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They develop the point by discussing having no job or income might result in them resorting to illegal ways of making money – this was awarded **1 mark**. They develop the point by around ‘crimes of dishonesty’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give further exemplification relating to stealing food and clothes – this was awarded **1 mark**.

They give a third cause of crime ‘greed’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give further explanation and exemplification in relation to the offences committed by Natalie McGarry and this was awarded the final **1 mark**.

Question 14

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 10 marks** for this question.

The candidate has chosen option 2 – Graeme Mathieson.

They begin by stating they have chosen him because in source 1 he states ‘I would ensure that there is an increase in school-based education programmes in an attempt to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They attempt to link it to source 3 when they state, ‘there has been a focus on educating young people on the dangers of drug use’. For this evidence to be accurate, and therefore creditworthy, the candidate should have written the final part of the sentence from source 3 – ‘many believe that more still needs to be done in this area’.

They give further evidence from source 1 relating to families and back this up with evidence from source 2 – this was awarded **2 marks**.

They give another reason to support Graeme using evidence from source 1 – 'I would improve access to meaningful activities for young people … to give them healthy alternatives to spending time on the streets or getting involved with drugs' – this was awarded **1 mark**. They back this up with evidence from source 3 which says 'Providing activities for young people … seen as a crucial way to help them make better choices and stay off the streets.' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then goes on to discuss why they did not choose option 1 – Ava Reid. They use the correct evidence from source 1 and source 2 relating to the number of drug related deaths and make evaluative comment relating to the areas with highest and lowest deaths – this was awarded **3 marks**.

They give a further reason why they did not choose Ava Reid relating to the decriminalisation of drugs, using the correct evidence from source 1 and source 3. This was awarded **2 marks**.

Section 3 – Part E – World powers

Question 15

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

The candidate gives two ways an individual can participate in the political system rather than describing two political representatives. This was awarded no marks.

Question 16

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

The candidate begins by stating that 'One way the USA has a political influence is that they are one of the biggest members of international organisations such as the UN and NATO.' – this was awarded **1 mark**. They continue with further description relating to decision making powers and other countries trying to get on the USA's good side – this was awarded **1 mark**. They finish this paragraph by giving exemplification of the USA being one of the countries who donate the most amount of money to the international organisations – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then goes on to say that they (USA) ‘helped many other countries become democracies’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. The remainder of the paragraph is vague and was therefore awarded no further marks.

Question 17

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

The candidate begins by stating that one reason why some people are more socially successful than others is because they have access to better education – this was awarded **1 mark**. They then go on to explain that ‘If you live in a better area the schools usually get more funding and resources which means more skills and opportunities.’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give an example of over 70% of White Americans continuing with education and getting a degree – this is incorrect and was awarded no marks.

They give a second reason relating to living in poverty and explain that ‘Not living in poverty means better income and access to healthcare which means they can get better jobs.’ and give exemplification of ‘around 20% of black Americans live in poverty’ - this was worth **3 marks** in total. The statistic for black Americans in poverty is 17.1% so the ‘around’ was valid.

Question 21

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 10 marks** for this question.

The candidate begins with evidence to support Lily Robertson. They give evidence from source 1 and link this to source 3 – this was awarded **2 marks**.

They continue with further evidence to support the view and give evidence from source 2 and link this to source 3 – this was awarded **2 marks**.

They continue with further evidence to support the view and give evidence from source 1 and link this source 3 – this was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate then goes on to give evidence to oppose the view. They link evidence from sources 1 and 2 – this was awarded **2 marks**.

They give further evidence to oppose linking evidence from source 1 and source 3 – this was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate further evidence to oppose the view, which is accurate, however they have already accessed the 10 marks available.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **69 out of 80 marks** for this question paper.

Candidate 2

Section 1 – Part A – Democracy in Scotland

Question 1

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

The candidate begins by correctly stating that pressure groups gain influence in a democracy through the use of petitions. They develop this point by providing a description of petitions and an explanation of why petitions are used, followed by an accurate example. This is a developed, detailed point – **3 marks**.

They provide a second method, sending letters – **1 mark**.

The candidate develops this point by providing a description and example, however, while the development is accurate, they have already accumulated the 4 marks for this question and therefore no further marks can be awarded.

Question 2

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

The candidate provides an accurate reason why some people are more likely to participate in politics than others by stating, ‘they want to make a change to the government’ – **1 mark**. They develop this point by explaining why this may lead to some people wanting to vote as they are, ‘dissatisfied with the current government…therefore vote for a political party that understands their values and ideas’ – **1 mark**. They exemplify this point by referencing the 2024 UK General Election – **1 mark**.

The candidate provides a second reason why some people are more likely to participate in politics, ‘the area that they live in’ – **1 mark**. The development of this point is slightly confused, however, the reference to better facilities and infrastructure linked to more political events was considered creditworthy – **1 mark**.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **no marks** for this question.

The candidate has made no attempt to answer question 3 - no response.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **8 out of 10 marks** for this question.

The answer to this question is towards the end of the candidate script.

The candidate begins their answer by providing an accurate conclusion for the first bullet point, the dominant political party in Scotland after the election, by stating, 'after the election the dominant political party in Scotland is Labour Party' – **1 mark**. They support this conclusion by correctly using evidence from source 2 – **1 mark**. While the candidate has provided an evaluation of the evidence in source 2, 'greatest number of seats (37) than any other party', the use of source 3 is inaccurate as it refers to the UK result and not Scotland, as stated in the bullet point, and therefore a third mark cannot be awarded as the marking instruction for this question states, that for 3 marks to be awarded, 'candidates must support their conclusion using two pieces of evidence drawn from the source(s).'

The candidate provides an accurate conclusion for the second bullet point, 'the electoral performance of the Labour Party has dramatically improved from 2019 to 2024' – **1 mark**. The candidate provides relevant evidence from sources 2 and 3 to support their conclusion – **1 mark**. The use of the word, 'dramatically', within the conclusion is not developed enough to be considered as evaluation and therefore the candidate is not awarded a third mark.

The candidate provides an accurate conclusion for the third bullet point, 'the Conservative Party's electoral performance has worsened from 2019 to 2024' – **1 mark**. The candidate correctly identifies evidence from sources 1 and 2 to support this conclusion – **1 mark**.

The candidate provides an accurate conclusion for the fourth bullet point, 'it was not proportional' – **1 mark**. The candidate, again, correctly identifies evidence from sources 1 and 2 to support their conclusion – **1 mark**.

Section 2 – Part D – Crime and the law

Question 11

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

The candidate states, ‘One criminal court that exists in the UK is the Sheriff Court.’ – **1 mark**. They develop this point by giving an accurate description of the role of the Sheriff Court – **1 mark**. They further develop this point by providing a relevant example and referencing the Inverness Sheriff Court – **1 mark**.

The candidate provides a second criminal court in the UK, the High Court of the Justiciary – **1 mark**.

The candidate develops this point by providing a detailed description and example, however, while the development is accurate, they have already accumulated the 4 marks for this question and therefore no further marks can be awarded.

Question 12

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

The candidate correctly states, ‘One consequence of crime for the perpetrator is the sentence they may be given.’ – **1 mark**. They develop this point by describing the potential consequences of sentences, ‘isolated from family/ friends…develop mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression’ – **1 mark**. The candidate provides relevant exemplification for this point, referring to ‘limited visiting hours’ and ‘feel lonely’ – **1 mark**.

The candidate gives a second consequence of crime for the perpetrator, ‘unemployment’ – **1 mark**. They develop this point by linking it to perpetrators having a ‘criminal record’ and ‘lack of qualifications’ – **1 mark**. They complete this point by providing relevant exemplification relating to reoffending – **1 mark**.

Question 13(a)

The candidate was awarded **8 out of 8 marks** for this question.

The candidate states, ‘One (biological) cause of crime is genetics.’ – **1 mark**. They give an explanation as to why genetics may cause crime and reference the ‘warrior gene’- **1 mark**. The candidate provides accurate evidence on the extent of the ‘warrior gene’ being present in those committing violent crime – **1 mark**.

The candidate gives another biological cause of crime, ‘mental health condition’ – **1 mark**. They explain why psychological issues may affect behaviour – **1 mark**. The candidate provides evidence of the level of ADHD and mental health conditions among prisoners to support their point – **1 mark**.

The candidate provides a third cause of crime, ‘greed’ – **1 mark**. They develop this point by explaining why greed may lead to crime and support their explanation with the example of the actions of Natalie McGarry – **1 mark**.

Question 14

The candidate was awarded **7 out of 10 marks** for this question.

The candidate chooses option 2 - appoint Graeme Mathieson.

The candidate correctly identifies evidence from source 1 to support their decision, ‘ensure there is an increase in school-based education programmes’ – **1 mark**. They link this to evidence from source 3, ‘while there has been a focus on educating young people on the dangers of drug use many believe there is still more to be done in this area’ – **1 mark**. The candidate gives another reason to support their choice, and provide evidence from source 1, ‘families who have lost loved ones to drug addiction also need help’ – **1 mark**. They support this reason by accurately using evidence from source 2, ‘65% of the public agree that there should be support for families affected by drug addiction’ – **1 mark**.

The candidate moves on to give reasons why they could not choose option 1, Ava Reid, by correctly using evidence in source 2 to rebut Ava Reid’s statement in source 1 regarding drug-related death rates in Scottish Borders and East Renfrewshire. The candidate also provides an evaluation of the statistics in source 2, stating, ‘Scottish Borders and East Renfrewshire have the lowest drug related deaths’ – **3 marks**.

Section 3 – Part E – World powers

Question 15

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

The candidate states the world power they have studied is the USA.

The candidate correctly states, ‘One political representative that citizens in the USA have is the President.’ – **1 mark**. They develop this point be referring to the President interacting, ‘with other world leaders as well as negotiating deals’ – **1 mark**. They complete this point by giving the example of the current US President, Donald Trump – **1 mark**.

The candidate states, ‘Another political representative that citizens in the USA have is Congress.’ This point on it its own is not worthy of credit. However, the candidate moves on to provide an accurate description of representatives within the US Congress – **1 mark**.

Question 16

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

The candidate states the world power they have studied is the USA.

The candidate correctly states, ‘One way the USA has political influence on other countries is because it is a part of the UN Security Council’ – **1 mark**. They develop this point by describing, ‘other world leaders look to the President of the USA for advice about topics such as democracy and civil rights’ – **1 mark**. The example was considered too vague to gain further credit.

The candidate gives a second point, ‘the power of the President.’ They provide a detailed description, with accurate exemplification, of the US President’s political influence on other countries, relating to the removal of support, limiting resources and the imposition of tariffs – **3 marks**.

Question 17

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

The candidate states the world power they have studied is the USA.

The candidate correctly identifies that one reason why some people in the USA are more socially or economically successful than others in education is, ‘due to the school they attend’ – **1 mark**. They develop this point by explaining the differences in resources between schools in wealthier areas and more deprived areas and its impact – **1 mark**. They then provide relevant exemplification linked to race to support their explanation – **1 mark**.

The candidate gives a second, accurate reason, ‘parental influence’ – **1 mark**. They provide an explanation of the impact of family influence on education – **1 mark**. The candidate exemplifies this point by referencing Asian families and educational achievement – **1 mark**.

Question 21

The candidate was awarded **10 out of 10 marks** for this question.

The candidate begins by providing evidence to support the view of Lily Robertson using evidence from source 2, ‘52% of people aged under 35 believe that Australia should become a republic’ – **1 mark**. They correctly link this to evidence in source 3, ‘we should become a republic as that is what the younger generation, who are the future of Australia, want’ – **1 mark**.

They give another reason to support the view of Lily Robertson, from source 3, ‘we should be able to choose an Australian citizen instead of having a British King or Queen as the unelected head of state’ – **1 mark**. They support this using evidence from source 1, ‘people argue it is unfair to have a head of state who is not elected or an Australian citizen’ – **1 mark**.

The candidate incorrectly uses evidence from source 1, ‘the last time Australians voted on this issue was in 1999’ to support the view of Lily Robertson, and attempt to interpret the evidence. However, they have not used the full sentence, which goes onto say, ‘they chose to keep the monarchy’ therefore opposing the view. The candidates attempt at interpreting the evidence was also considered not to be worthy of credit.

The candidate moves on to provide evidence to oppose the view of Lily Robertson. They correctly identify evidence from source 1, ‘this was a once in a lifetime decision and that another referendum should not be held’ – **1 mark**. They link this to evidence from source 3, ‘we had a referendum in 1999 – we should not need to vote on this again’ – **1 mark**.

The candidate gives another reason to oppose the view, using source 2, ‘overall 57% of the public believe that Australia should remain a monarchy’ – **1 mark**. They link this to evidence from source 3, ‘having the same head of state as the United Kingdom gives me sense of security, this is the view of many older people like myself’ – **1 mark**.

The candidate gives a final reason to oppose the view, ‘Australia should instead focus on current problems, such as unemployment and the cost of living’ (source 1) – **1 mark**. They link this to evidence in source 3, ‘we should be addressing important issues such as rising electricity costs rather than waste time debating whether Australia should become a republic or not’ – **1 mark**.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **67 out of 80 marks** for this question paper.