

Examiners' Report
June 2016

GCE General ST.2 6GS02 01

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.



Giving you insight to inform next steps

ResultsPlus is Pearson's free online service giving instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam results.

- See students' scores for every exam question.
- Understand how your students' performance compares with class and national averages.
- Identify potential topics, skills and types of question where students may need to develop their learning further.

For more information on ResultsPlus, or to log in, visit www.edexcel.com/resultsplus. Your exams officer will be able to set up your ResultsPlus account in minutes via Edexcel Online.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk.

June 2016

Publications Code 6GS02_01_1606_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright
© Pearson Education Ltd 2016

Introduction

The number of candidates taking this examination was much lower than in recent years. This was probably unsurprising in view of the decision not to redevelop the General Studies specification. However, despite the drop in numbers, the skills, knowledge and standards exhibited by this year's candidates were largely on a par with those of previous cohorts.

In Section A the questions which candidates found most challenging were Questions 2, 16, 17 and the numerical questions, Q 19 and Q20. Those which seemed to cause least problems were Questions 2, 5, 13 and the fact/opinion questions, Q9 and Q10. To some extent, candidates found this year's Section B quite difficult, though marginally lower marks here were often compensated for by stronger than usual marks in Section C.

Although most candidates fully engaged with Jeanette Winterson's article about L. S. Lowry which was the basis of the passage in Section B, many of their interpretations, comments and conclusions would probably have come as quite a surprise to the writer, as they did to examiners.

Unfortunately many candidates lost marks due to their handwriting being too small and from their lack of understanding of grammar, in particular sentence structure, paragraphs, capital letters and punctuation. There were 14 marks assigned to this.

Although the tendency for some candidates to completely avoid answering certain questions continues, it was pleasing to see fewer blank spaces where there should have been answers in Section C, since these are the questions which carry the highest number of marks.

Question 21

The ways in which Lowry could be defended from criticisms by the critics could be to ask whether the critics have ever looked at what happens to the human body when its only purpose is to serve the machine.

Another defence could have been built around the idea that 'repetition causes rigidity'.

Alternatively, it could be noted that the body seizes up in certain positions – that's why professional musicians and athletes spend a fortune on physiotherapy.

In truth, his figures reflect the impact of being servants of the machine forced into meaningless repetition.

SECTION B

Answer ALL questions.

You should aim to spend no more than 30 minutes on this section.

Read Source 1 on the Insert and then answer questions 21–28.

- 21 Lowry's figures have been criticised because there is 'something static about them even in movement'. From paragraph 2, show how Lowry can be defended against this criticism.

This is defended by the idea that this static movement represents the static repetitive nature of these peoples working lives and that this lack of movement tells a side of the story.

(Total for Question 21 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Though poorly expressed, this candidate's statement that 'this static movement represents the static repetitive nature of these people's working lives' is sufficient to be given credit for matching the second point suggested in the introduction



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

This candidate's answer is drawn from the correct paragraph. Sadly a significant number of candidates gained no marks because they tried to answer the question with information from other paragraphs. If you are told an answer should come from a particular part of the paper, you will gain no marks if you use information from elsewhere.

SECTION B

Answer ALL questions.

You should aim to spend no more than 30 minutes on this section.

Read Source 1 on the Insert and then answer questions 21–28.

- 21 Lowry's figures have been criticised because there is 'something static about them even in movement'. From paragraph 2, show how Lowry can be defended against this criticism.

His Lowry can be defended against this statement because he ~~uses~~ says that he has studied people, who's lives life purpose is to serve a machine. He says that "Repetition produces rigidity" and that "the body seizes up in certain positions."

(Total for Question 21 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This answer scores 2 marks since it picks up bullet points from the second and third paragraphs in the introduction.

Mark: 2

Question 22

The 'tiny flares of human resistance' mentioned in the question can be seen when the writer refers to

- his figures fighting back – the red represents defiance and blood; pride is as important as pain
- the urban drab is relieved by a bunch of flowers in a window
- by a figure in a doorway
- by a hand stuffed in a pocket in a whistling sort of way
- by somebody waving
- by a splash of colour.

22 From paragraph 3, give **two** ways in which Lowry's paintings depict 'tiny flares of human resistance'.

1 Lowry turns the red into defiance and blood.

2 pride is as important as pain.

(Total for Question 22 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Both the points made in this answer come from the first bullet point in the introduction, so only one mark can be awarded.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

When candidates are asked to identify a specific number of features from a passage, it is best to avoid any ideas which are clearly very closely related together as in this instance.

22 From paragraph 3, give **two** ways in which Lowry's paintings depict 'tiny flares of human resistance'.

- 1 The urban drab is relieved by a bunch of flowers in the window- they are fighting back against the " baleful factory ~~and~~ chimneys".
- 2 The use of familiar human gestures like somebody waving or the use of a splash of colour.

(Total for Question 22 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

One mark is awarded for reference to the bunch of flowers. A further mark is awarded for the second answer. Note this could in itself have been awarded two further marks because it met both the fifth and the sixth bullet points in the introduction. Only 2 marks were available, so a mark of 3 could not be awarded.

Mark: 2

Question 23 (a)

Candidates were asked to read five statements about Lowry and his art and to identify one of these that broadly agreed with the information in the source. There were, in fact, two statements that could have been correctly chosen. These were statements 1 and 4.

- 1 The scenes may be similar but Lowry portrays his characters with individuality, each slightly different from the other.
- 4 The figures in Lowry paintings are largely but not wholly oppressed by their working experiences.

An overwhelming majority of candidates did successfully select one or other of these options. Those who made incorrect choices lacked the skills of close reading and careful attention to detail.

Question 23 (b)

Candidates were asked to read five statements about Lowry and his art and to identify one of these that broadly disagreed with the information in the source. There were two statements that could have been correctly chosen. These were statements 2 and 3.

- 2 All Lowry's paintings depict Northern scenes and Northern folk living a Northern way of life.
- 3 Over more than 50 years of painting, all Lowry's industrial scenes are identical and never change.

By a narrow margin, a majority of candidates correctly selected one or other of these options. As in Q23(a), those who made incorrect choices lacked the skills of close reading and careful attention to detail.

Question 23 (c)

Candidates were asked to read five statements about Lowry and his art and to identify one of these that neither agreed nor disagreed with the information in the source. The correct statement was statement 5.

- 5 Lowry's work is viewed with pride and as a valuable record of times past by those who live in the North.

Less than a third of candidates made the correct choice. As with Q23 (a) and (b), those who made incorrect choices lacked the skills of close reading and careful attention to detail.

Question 24

To claim that Lowry's paintings 'lack interiority' is to suggest that they contain no inner world, or depth or emotion which express the feelings of his figures.

Critics may have been mistaken because

- The passage says 'But where is the inner life when you work a 12-hour day six days a week? It is not found in the cold, cramped back room of your damp terrace.' This suggests that the situations of Lowry's figures, the lives they are living, are different from those of many subjects in the work of other painters.
- The passage says 'It's in the talk over the fence of fishing with the dog on the canal'. Such events – peripheral in the work of many artists – are key events, showing how Lowry's figures assert their independence from the machine and can enjoy themselves.
- The passage says 'It's any boy watching any girl – and he's Romeo and she's Juliet, and she'll be pushing the pram like the girl behind her in the factory and he'll be drunk like the man in front, but the machine hasn't broken all their dreams – not yet.' This

reminds us that Lowry's figures have lives and families and normal human urges but in Lowry's work these emotions are signalled in different ways which the viewer needs to understand.

Most candidates noted the instruction that they should answer the question in their own words, but some ignored it and simply copied out parts of the passage and were awarded no marks.

24 What do Lowry's critics mean when they assert that his paintings 'lack interiority'?

Explain in your own words why they may be mistaken.

'lack interiority' means

There's no inner world or depth. Suggesting it lacks detail and explanation.

Such critics may be mistaken because

When you work 12 hours a day six days a week there is not time for inner life in the cold, damp, cramped back room. It is in the talk over the fence, or fishing with the dog on the canal. ~~It is not~~ His work is very symbolic in this way.

(Total for Question 24 = 3 marks)



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The first part of the answer scores a mark for 'lack of inner world and lack of depth'.

The second part of the answer is weak but the reference to '12 hours a day' and '6 days a week' is sufficient for one mark to be awarded.

24 What do Lowry's critics mean when they assert that his paintings 'lack interiority'? Explain in your own words why they may be mistaken.

'lack interiority' means

There's no inner world or depth. Suggesting it lacks detail and explanation.

Such critics may be mistaken because

When you work 12 hours a day six days a week there is not time for inner life in the cold, damp, cramped back room. It is in the talk over the fence, or fishing with the dog on the canal. ~~It is not~~ His work is very symbolic in this way.

(Total for Question 24 = 3 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The first part of the answer is awarded a mark for 'no inner world or depth'.

The second part matches the first two bullet points in the introduction, securing 2 marks. The note at the end of the mark scheme asks candidates to 'explain in their own words'.

Mark 1+2= 3



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

The mark scheme warned that if 'an answer is completely copied out from the passage, a mark cannot be awarded'. This candidate would have lost both marks for the second part of the answer if she or he had not added a final sentence in their own words. Candidates always need to read the guidance and 'rules' stated in an exam paper.

Question 25

If Lowry's work reflected the early 20th century, what was the impact of work a hundred years later at the start of the 21st century? Essentially that was what this question was about. Unfortunately the answers written by many candidates remained in the 20th century and thus scored few marks. Some candidates mistakenly saw this as an opportunity to discuss reasons for unemployment or competition for jobs when the question was about the impact of work for which there has always been much competition.

Candidates were able to secure marks by identifying changes in work or working practices. These could include

- Many people still work in factories but they work shorter hours and there is greater concern for training and health & safety issues now.
- For most people now work is not as 'heavy' or arduous as it was – there are now few coal mines and mining/quarrying jobs are much more mechanised than previously – e.g. mechanised diggers building new Crossrail project beneath London streets
- As work becomes more a high-tech process, workers are often monitoring or supervising the robots running a process or production track
- Much more work now is in services rather than manufacturing (e.g. call centres or IT).

Another way in which candidates were able to score marks was by discussing the impact of consequences of changes such as

- lack of security as a result of zero hours contracts
- agency work and short term contracts replacing 'jobs for life'
- technology may have changed the nature of work and the skills required, leading to much retraining
- all jobs are now covered by the living wage, setting a minimum for what employees must receive
- starting work and retirement ages are now much higher than they used to be.

Marks were also awarded for Quality of Written Communication. Some candidates lost marks for grammar – sentences, paragraphs, appropriate punctuation – and could well have forfeited at least a grade as a result of the lower marks they were awarded.

25 The source describes the impact of work on the lives of ordinary people in early 20th-century Britain. Describe the impact of work on the lives of ordinary people in early 21st-century Britain, including examples or evidence of your own to support the points you make.

(8)

The impact of work on the lives of ordinary people in early 21st century Britain is not too dissimilar to 20th Century – many workers perform physically demanding work for low wages, some families struggle to afford basics or pay for electricity bills or mortgage. Such crises lead to an increase in vagrancy and the loss

of value or quality of life. Moreover governments are changing and improving the quality of working conditions through an upsurge in health and safety inspections, practices and requirements. Legislation such as the recent developments surrounding whether or not a cafe/restaurant offering seating should automatically ~~and~~ offer facilities (Public toilets) by law.

Also for over 250 the minimum wage has recently increased and is expected to continue to do so to tackle the increase in living costs as in the past the living wage has been disproportionate to the minimum wage.

'Work' is no longer simply a cold transaction of physical labour/services in exchange for payment, schemes such as 'dress-down Friday' have been adopted by many offices as a way of combatting stress. Events dubbed 'group

bonding/team building' activities are commonly on offer to ensure work is personable and socially rewarding.

Although officially it has increased, unemployment remains for many a pressing issue which can negatively impact mental health and lead to vagrancy.



This answer sees some parallels with past times but goes on to refer to improving health and safety provision and introduces a good example of eating places now having to provide toilets. There are sensible comments about the living wage supporting living standards and the reference to developments such as 'dress down Friday' shows that the rigidities of Lowry's times have now passed.

Communication is clear and reasonably accurate.

- 25** The source describes the impact of work on the lives of ordinary people in early 20th-century Britain. Describe the impact of work on the lives of ordinary people in early 21st-century Britain, including examples or evidence of your own to support the points you make.

(8)

The impact of work on the lives of ordinary people in the early 21st century Britain changed drastically. This is because there was a more increased acceptance for many women. This is because there were many laws that had been introduced purely for reasons that men and women are equal and that there should be no discrimination. This also led onto accepting different race, religions and disabilities in the work force. Therefore providing more laws in which helped make sure there was no discrimination and everyone was equal. Some acts include the Sex Discrimination Act and Disability Act. Also, changes have been made because there is job diversity and many people get to work in the career they want. Source 1 says "Humans must perform the same task in the same way" and "the human is the servant of the machine." This

has changed as there is much more to work than machines, ~~that~~ therefore showing the impact of work on the lives of ordinary people in the 21st century Britain



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This answer refers to the changing roles of women and people with different ethnicities in the workplace and gives examples based on the Sex Discrimination and Race Relations Acts. Towards the end there is also a recognition that the patterns of working life are now more varied than previously.

Communication is satisfactory so 2 marks are awarded for AO4.

Mark 3 (AO1) + 2 (AO4) = 5



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

This question is specifically looking for 'examples or evidence of your own'. This answer could possibly have scored more marks if the examples or evidence had been outlined more clearly and explicitly.

Question 26

Perhaps surprisingly, this question seemed to cause candidates considerable difficulty with most answers scoring 0 or 1 marks, rather than the 2 marks which were available. To score the maximum mark, candidates needed to point out this work is original and therefore innovative, since it was different to whatever was done previously; Lowry was a pioneer in depicting the industrial working class. The best answers recognised that to be innovative, a work will embrace new ideas, use new techniques or perhaps make different demands on an audience. Lowry's style produces paintings that are similar but differentiated by the ways in which he depicts his characters as not wholly oppressed by the machine.

It was disappointing that few answers explicitly linked innovation to the development of a new style or form and Lowry's 'matchstick men (and women)' were hardly mentioned.

26 On what grounds could Lowry's art be described as 'innovative'?

Because "no-one was painting [the culture of the industrial working class]." Lowry was a pioneer of this area and thus his art can be described as innovative.

(Total for Question 26 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This answer recognises that Lowry was innovative because he was a pioneer in depicting the industrial working class.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

In the context of arts and creativity, 'innovation' is a key term which all candidates should have known. They would have been able to gain 1 mark at least by offering a simple definition. A good rule is to give a short definition of key terms whenever the opportunity arises.

26 On what grounds could Lowry's art be described as 'innovative'?

Innovative presents a new form of art that has not been used before. The culture of the industrial working class had not been painted before, therefore Lowry was the first to paint the industrial scenes and put them on the map.

(Total for Question 26 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The answer recognised Lowry's work as being innovative because 'it was a new form of art that has not been used before' (1 mark) and goes on to point out that Lowry 'was the first to paint the industrial scenes and put them on the map.'

Mark: 2

Question 27

On a paper where candidates are often asked to assess arguments and evidence or the strength of a conclusion, it was disappointing that the final paragraph of the source was so little understood. Often the ironic or satirical element of the paragraph was completely missed – or certainly not mentioned.

Candidates could have pointed out the contrast between Lowry's characters and the much richer people who can afford art. Alternatively they could have pointed to the lifestyles or situations Lowry's work describes which those who buy his art would scarcely comprehend.

Too many answers acquiesced in the view that 'art is for the galleries, for the money, champagne, ...the posh boys at the Courtauld, Christie's...' or saw art as investments rather than images which conveyed messages to audiences. The best answers were often able to draw the sharpest contrasts.

27 Explain the meaning of the final paragraph of the source.

It is satire meant to ridicule the critics - termed as 'posh boys' - that don't appreciate Lowry's work due to its individuality. This ~~can be~~ is implied by the phrase 'art's not for them is it?' as the author is saying that Lowry's work isn't treated as a creative work of art.

(Total for Question 27 = 3 marks)



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a good example – one for recognising the satirical nature of the observation, another for the contrast between Lowry's characters and the art establishment and a third for recognising that some critics and galleries are dismissive of Lowry as a painter.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should recognise that for much writing the final paragraph is the culmination of the writer's strategy for the piece, so it is important to be able to recognise the tone – surprise, optimism, disappointment, absurdity – or, as in this case, irony or sarcasm.

27 Explain the meaning of the final paragraph of the source.

The final paragraph highlights the importance of art and why it is so special. He explains that art "is for the galleries, for the money, champagne", highlighting all positive aspects that can be brought about just by looking at a piece of art. Furthermore, the final paragraph highlights that art isn't for everyone and that different people are going to have different interests.

(Total for Question 27 = 3 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This vague answer does not explicitly refer at all to Lowry or his work so no marks can be awarded.

Mark 0

Question 28

On most General Studies Unit 2 papers there is at least one question testing AO3 which asks how well particular evidence or ideas or arguments are justified. On this paper this function is undertaken by Q28. Seven marks are available – 4 for AO3 and 3 for AO4 (Communication).

Candidates needed to assess how effectively the writer's evidence and arguments justified her view that Lowry's paintings should be seen primarily as 'symbols not scenes'. Right from the start, it is clear from the title '*L S Lowry's rage against the machine*' that the idea of 'man versus machine' is an important theme of the passage. It could be argued that for Lowry, Acme Mill became the symbol of everything he wanted to portray. To quote from the passage 'Manchester is mainly red brick, blackened by soot. Lowry turns the red into defiance and blood. Pride is as important as pain.' But his message is that although so much of their situation requires his characters to conform to the routines of daily life, dominated by work, they are (as he puts it) 'fighting back'.

The forms or 'fighting back' are subtle – 'the urban drab is relieved by a bunch of flowers in a window, by a figure in a doorway, by a hand stuffed in a pocket in a whistling sort of way, by somebody waving, by a splash of colour'. Rather than seeing his pictures just as scenes, they need to be understood for their depictions of people trying to express themselves, albeit in an environment that dictates most of how they live their lives. In such terms, everything may be seen as symbolic including even the flowers in the window.

To assess AO3, examiners were asked to answer six questions. When they answered 'yes' for any one question they could award 1 mark up to a maximum of 4 (the total mark available). There were six questions; they were:

- Does the candidate attempt to explain 'symbols and scenes'?
- Does the candidate refer to/comment on particular examples or evidence or mention assertions (i.e.: where evidence is lacking)?
- Does the candidate refer to types of evidence – e.g.: objectivity, subjectivity, facts and opinions?
- Does the candidate refer to weaknesses in the idea – e.g.: gaps, flaws or bias?
- Does the candidate refer to the writer's argument or to different types of argument?
- Is a plausible final objective assessment made for the justification of the claim?

With six marking questions, it should have been possible for most candidates to score the 4 marks available. Unfortunately only the first, second and sixth questions regularly yielded 'yes' answers, with poorer responses seen in terms of (iii) types of evidence, (iv) gaps, flaws and bias and (v) types of argument than usual. Final scores for AO3 were thus often 1, 2 or 3.

Some centres had clearly explained to their students how such questions are marked for AO3 but the weakness in the answers produced was that sometimes they made no reference at all to source-specific examples or evidence, or types of evidence, or weaknesses, or different arguments or types of evidence based on this particular passage.

There were also marks for AO4 – Quality of Written Communication. Those who obeyed the conventions of sentences, paragraphs and accurate punctuation earned higher marks than those who did not.

28 How effectively do the writer's **evidence** and **arguments** justify her view that Lowry's paintings should be seen primarily as 'symbols not scenes'?

(7)

The writer emphasizes several features of the painting which they believe to be important symbols not just parts of a scene. Her evidence is strong by pointing these features out such as the "bunch of flowers in a window". However her arguments to justify her view are weak with a simple questioning statement which is intended to make the reader view argument in a different manner. There are, however, a lack of persuasive arguments and techniques to sway the readers views and therefore I believe that the writer poorly justifies her view.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Four A03 marks are available and three A04 marks. Marking questions 2 and 5 are met. The conclusion is awarded the Bullet 6 mark though it would have been good if stronger justification had been provided.

Communication is satisfactory.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Although this is a relatively successful answer, it is very short – shorter than many candidates' answers to Q24, 26 or 27 which each carried just 2 or 3 marks. The number of marks available for this answer was 7 – and a longer response could well have earned more marks. The length of answers should usually be roughly in proportion to the number of marks to be awarded for each answer.

28 How effectively do the writer's **evidence** and **arguments** justify her view that Lowry's paintings should be seen primarily as 'symbols not scenes'?

(7)

I think that overall, her evidence and arguments effectively justify her view that Lowry's paintings should be seen primarily as 'symbols not scenes'.

I believe so because she openly presents her views regarding the work with the lives of the ~~side~~ ordinary, in a way that is very open to opinions, and so isn't as closed, whereby it may produce weak evidence and also a weak argument.

The final paragraph is one that is very strongly produced, as it states that Lowry's paintings should be seen for what they are, which is the message of how work affects the lives of the ordinary, (symbol) rather than being viewed solely as a (scene), which she states it is here to produce money, a materialistic result.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is a thoughtful answer gaining an AO3 mark from bullet 1 in the first paragraph and another from bullet 6 in the third paragraph. There isn't enough to award a mark for any of the other marking questions.

Communication is satisfactory so 2 marks are awarded for AO4.

Mark: $2+2 = 4$



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Since you know from the introduction how this question was marked, work out how it could have earned more marks both in terms of AO3 and AO4.

Question 29

Candidates warmed to this topic and generally had good conclusions to reach based on an interesting range of ideas and arguments. While a few candidates told examiners about their adventures into social media, most focussed on the issue at the heart of the question – knowing more and/or understanding less.

Many candidates recognised that much trivia and celebrity gossip appears both in popular newspapers and social media yet more serious newspapers and social media also convey serious news and provide networks for individuals to offer opinions and comment on ideas advanced by others. Attempts were sometimes made to evaluate whether the content about which people 'knew more' was actually worth knowing. It was also widely held that while a few might search for deeper understanding, many would simply pursue their own interests and inclinations, thus ignoring all the material in which they had little interest.

A generally held view was that the circulation of hard copies of newspapers was declining because more people now found reading news on tablets or laptops to be much more convenient.

Good marks were awarded for AO1, AO2 and AO4, though a few candidates whose handwriting was inaccessible (too small or too untidy) or who had abandoned the conventions of English grammar (sentences, paragraphs, use of punctuation) generally secured very low marks for AO4.

SECTION C

Answer both questions.

You should aim to spend no more than 40 minutes on this section.

- 29 Use your own knowledge, as well as the information given, to answer the question below.

In recent years Ofcom has reported year-on-year decreases in the circulation figures of hard copy UK newspapers and some switching to online editions. The BBC websites are popular. At the same time, there has been a significant growth in social networking among all age groups.

Examine the view that as use of social media grows and newspaper circulations decline, we know more but understand less about important issues.

(20)

Social media ~~has~~ has rocketed to a new high; with the invention of sites like Tumblr, Twitter, Instagram and others, it seems like there is an app for possibly every way you could show yourself online. Twitter offers 160 characters in which to display your mood or thoughts by the use of a # or a photo or video or just a few words. It allows fans to get closer than ever into

a few words. It allows fans to get closer than ever into the life of their favorite celebrities and creates a global networking society that encourages people to say whatever they want without 'restrictions'.

However, even though there can be benefits to social media, it encourages narcissism and a lack of individuality. For example, after David Cameron released a statement earlier this year saying he was willing to send in the airstrikes in retaliation of the recent terror attacks in Paris & Belgium - there was a viral explosion of outrage against his decision. Many celebrities voiced their thoughts on Twitter saying that it was a crime against humanity and that innocent lives would be lost. In order to be like their idols and desperate for "likes" thousands of fans wrote similar posts ~~all~~ of anger at Cameron without having a clue what they were talking about. This seems to be exceptionally common on social media, many important issues are being tweeted about but there is an obvious lack of depth or understanding in these messages. The lack of newspapers just encourages this foolishness as more and more people are going online to find quick facts and read information that may be completely incorrect as there ^{are} no restrictions on what

people say on these sites. Hard copy newspapers especially broadsheets like the Telegraph offer factual and opinionated writings on important issues which encourages a greater understanding of these issues as ~~the~~ the evidence is likely to be factually correct and ~~is~~ in the majority of cases unbiased and will come from reliable sources. It is very common in the teenage generation to pretend to be knowledgeable about current important events ~~in~~ in order to seem mature and intelligent, but really, copy and paste of some facts off a website and a few 'retweets' of some MPs opinion does not make them an expert in the Government or politics - it only increases their ability to look precocious and foolish.

~~the~~ ~~the~~ The use of social media encourages a lack of depth and understanding of issues - we merely glimpse the surface so nobody could write a worthwhile opinion on the issues of 1212 and the EU referendum in 140 characters.

To conclude, I believe that as social media grows the funnel of understanding decreases but the variety of opinions (that

may or may not be valid) increases as it offers less chance for the facts to be heard and explained by professionals but allows for the very vocal shouting of people who are willing to copy someone else's opinion in order to seem mature and up to date when in reality they have barely touched the surface of the issue - merely skummed it



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

On the first page, three AO1 and three AO2 marks are awarded for lines 1-7, 7-11 and 11 to the bottom of the page. On the next page the claim is made that 'This seems to be exceptionally common on social media, many important issues are being tweeted about but there is an obvious lack of depth or understanding in these messages' (AO1 1; AO2 1). Two further pairs of marks are earned by the sections commencing 'The lack of newspapers...' and 'Hard copy newspapers especially broadsheets...' A further pair of marks is earned on the third page by the discussion concerning the limits to what can be said in 140 characters. There is a strong well-justified conclusion which scores AO2 1.

Communication is good.

SECTION C

Answer both questions.

You should aim to spend no more than 40 minutes on this section.

29 Use your own knowledge, as well as the information given, to answer the question below.

In recent years Ofcom has reported year-on-year decreases in the circulation figures of hard copy UK newspapers and some switching to online editions. The BBC websites are popular. At the same time, there has been a significant growth in social networking among all age groups.

Examine the view that as use of social media grows and newspaper circulations decline, we know more but understand less about important issues.

(20)

Social media offers a way of information networking and circulating. With the developments in social networking, less people desire or see the need to read the newspaper.

Newspaper headlines are displayed on social media ~~sites~~ and through sharing, liking and retweeting these headlines becomes more accessible to all. However, as a result people read the headlines but instead have less understanding of what is going on. Instead just understand the topic and debates, however do not know facts or figures. As a result people have an opinion but not an understanding.

People also have less time to ~~use social~~ ~~and~~ read the newspaper instead spending time searching through social media.

sites. It offers an alternative method of communication.

Culture also influences the increase in social media and decrease in newspaper as cultural influences such as celebrities endorse social media sites. Social media sites also seem to share celebrity information, which may appeal more to some users unlike some newspapers which tend to focus their stories on politics.

Social networking is also easy and accessible through phone apps and although newspapers can too be accessible through phone apps most people are unlikely to sign up to subscriptions.

Some people also only buy newspapers depending on the headline and so if the story is not interesting people do not buy the paper.

However, as the demand increase in social media does not necessarily cause a decline in newspapers as social media does not provide readers with full stories and especially older generations of people will still be inclined to read the newspaper. Also although as the

years ~~online~~ printed hardcopy papers have seen a decline in demand, online solutions have increased in demand. The decline in hardcopy papers could be because of online editions which offer updated and more recent news as a pose to yesterdays news that hardcopy newspapers offer.

Also social media can help us to know more and understand more as it encourages us to become more interactive and get involved increasing understanding.

Influential figures such as Cameron Jones, also have ~~a fast~~ social media ~~starts~~ sites helping encourage a greater understanding. The newspapers often have social media pages themselves.

Overall social media does not lead to a decline in newspapers consequently increasing knowledge but decreasing understanding. Social media helps users be more interactive and often increases understanding.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This thoughtful answer contains a sequence of AO1 and AO2 points. On page 1, three of these pairs of points are earned by the statements commencing 'newspaper headlines are displayed...' and 'however as a result...' and 'people also have less time...'. The first three paragraphs on page 2 similarly gain AO1 – 1 and AO2 – 1. There is some repetition on the third page and apparently some confusion over whether we know more or less as a result about the shifting pattern of media use, so no further marks are awarded.

Communication is just good enough for 3 marks to be awarded for AO4.

Marks $6+6+3= 15$



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

In places, this answer seems to wander about to little purpose. Before embarking on a piece of extended writing such as this, it is always a good idea to make a plan if only to ensure your answer sticks closely to the key words in the question and ends up with a coherent conclusion.

Question 30

Candidates produced well-informed, relevant answers to this question. Good use was made of the stimulus material which prefaced the question but most answers augmented this by stating an informed range of other ideas and arguments of their own. Experiences from within their own families (or those of their friends) provided interesting evidence to support various arguments.

It was often argued that many small firms were more responsive and adaptable to new situations so everyone benefits when they can act more quickly than established larger businesses. Such answers often recognised that those who took the plunge into self-employment had to remain aware of financial dangers as well as enjoying greater freedom to make decisions.

Many answers pointed out that the idea of 'jobs for life' had now largely been replaced by people working more flexibly on a series of short-term contracts which often depended on their willingness to keep themselves up-to-date in terms of awareness of new technologies and their applications. This related to the trends which increasingly saw established firms outsourcing non-core parts of their operation on a contract basis to self-employed workers or teams of workers.

Generally candidates secured good marks for AO1 and AO2. Most candidates took care over the presentation and accuracy of their work and were rewarded accordingly in AO4. However, those who lapsed into text speak or didn't bother with coherent sentences or paragraphs or punctuation suffered the consequences and received lower marks as a result.

30 Use your own knowledge, as well as the information given, to answer the question below.

After the Second World War, most people expected to work for the same employer for the rest of their working lives. Now, people of all ages are more likely to change jobs regularly. Many work on short-term contracts or become self-employed in occupations such as farming, taxi-driving, plumbing or graphic design. Some may have decided to work for themselves because they couldn't find a job; others because they wanted independence and self-reliance.

Examine the view that 'working for yourself is better than working for other people'.

(20)

To fully explore this issue we must first decide what is meant by 'better'. For some better may mean security, for others better may mean higher salaries^{and} for some better may mean happier. As you can see the priorities of different people can destroy any argument I can hope to make as to whether working for oneself is 'better' than working for other

people. As such I will break this hypothesis into more specific hypotheses and address each separately.

Firstly let us look at better being defined as job security and predictability. This is ~~usually~~ the most common perspective and is held by people who separate work and 'life'.

It is self evident that if you value security and predictability being employed by a large corporation will be far superior to the comparatively massive risk of starting and running your own company. It is known that around 50% of small start ups fail ~~within~~ within the first year of operation. Even though short term contracts are on the rise and long term career prospects are on the fall finding a long term career and sticking with it is far superior for the people who hold this world view because of the low risk associated with this approach.

The next 'better' I will look at is that held by the ambitious. Those who see 'better' as being either the highest status or the highest earnings.

For this type of person it would really depend on the area in which they wish to seek their fortune. ~~They~~ A career in financial sector, for example, would be ~~to~~ far more rewarding for the effort put in than going it alone in the financial industry. Even here though the chances are that it would be more short term contracts / jobs than staying at one company for life. ~~However~~

However if one was looking to start a company and become an entrepreneur thus hoping to become rich and famous it would be obviously better to start ones own company and stick with ~~it~~ ^{it} on its highs and lows.

This is a massively risky approach and sort of leads in to my last definition of 'better'.

The last type is those who want to enjoy work. These people will generally fit into the previous 2 categories and so it massively depends on what area they want to work in as to whether or not they should be self employed.

In conclusion it is impossible to take a single stance. It is not inherently

better, in my opinion, for people to be self employed but nor is it inherently worse. ~~By~~ I would take my position on a case by case basis and see it as entirely dependent on the personal circumstance of the person who is asking.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a well-argued and thoughtful answer. There are a series of AO1 points followed up by AO2 points. These pairs of points start with the following phrases in the answer 'to fully explore this issue...' and 'as you can see, the priorities...' and 'it is self-evident that if you value predictability...' and 'even though short term contracts are on the rise...' and 'the next "better" I will look at...' and 'however if one was looking...' and 'the last type is those...' The final pair of marks is awarded to the conclusion which does effectively synthesise the ideas previously advanced.

Communication is good.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Make a greater effort to revise your numeracy knowledge and skills.
- Always give an answer – don't leave it blank.
- Judge your time correctly, giving short answers for low-mark questions and longer answers for higher-mark questions, and answering all Section B and C questions.
- Make sure you revise thinking and analytical skills – types of knowledge and argument as in Q23 and 28. These skills are important not only to improve your mark but also because they are transferable and can help you in HE or employment later.
- Take care to write legibly and stick to the conventions of English grammar, especially in Q25, Q28, Q29 and Q30. Remember 14 marks are available.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

Ofqual



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL.