

Examiners' Report
June 2016

GCE General Studies 3 6GS03 01

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Introduction

Overall, candidates responded well to this paper, both sources proved to be accessible to candidates and very few answer spaces were left blank. Many candidates appeared to be well prepared for the exam. The longer questions, such as question 6 and the essays which require students to assess the effectiveness of the arguments and evidence, were answered well with evaluation of evidence and arguments demonstrated.

Section A

The source for this section was an article exploring the proposal to make London the world's first National Park City. Candidates responded positively to this topic and showed an excellent appreciation of the issues involved and the underlying principles of change and progress highlighted in the questions.

Section B

In contrast the section for this source was looking backwards in time at the history of moral issues surrounding the concept of a 'Just War' and how relevant these matters are becoming in today's world of global politics with democracies under threat from terrorism. Candidates also responded well to these concerns and showed an impressive grasp of the relationships between moral issues and technology.

Section C

Three times as many candidates attempted question 12 compared to question 13 but there was a wealth of well-written and knowledgeable essays on both topics. Many students wrote comprehensive, balanced and well thought out responses; the arguments presented were generally coherent and well-organised, although the quality of expression was sometimes inconsistent.

Question 1 (a)

This is a straightforward two-part question asking candidates to explain the significance of two terms in the context of the source - 'social construct' and 'notional park' - both of which were variations on the theme of 'ideas' and many candidates did recognise this. In 1a many also correctly identified that a national park does not have to be a remote, wild and lonely place filled with sheep and ramblers but that it could also be an urban area such as the city of London. However there were a few candidates who failed to realise this and who gave rather literal answers - for example 'something constructed to aid socialising'.

This is an example that gains both marks.

1 In the context of Source 1, explain the significance of

(a) a social construct (third paragraph)

(2)
'A social construct' suggests that the idea of a place being a national park is made up and that a national park is not really any different from ^{any} another area. This justifies London ~~being~~ becoming a national park.



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Examiner Comments

Gets marking point 1 for the first two lines about the idea. Also gets marking point 3 as the rest of the answer implies that London can be a National Park.

Total 2 marks

Question 1 (b)

In 1b many candidates did spot the humour implied in the pun between notional and national though it was not worth a mark as the main significance of this term is to change people's perceptions of London as it might be seen through the eyes of an ecologist or conservationist.

This is a typical response to this question.

(b) a notional park (fifth paragraph)

(2)

A Notional Park is used as a pun, and
its significance is that it shows how London
is already home to a great deal of wildlife
such as foxes, deer, grass snakes and woodpeckers
but they are not yet doing anything to preserve
the habitats.



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No mark for the point about the pun - this is not important in this context whereas the phrase '*it shows how London is already home to a great deal of wildlife . . .*' highlights how people are already seeing London in an ecological way and so it gets marking point 2.

Total 1 mark

Question 2

The main objectives of national parks are given in the first sentence of the source and the question is asking how a Greater London National Park could achieve these objectives. Many candidates did copy or use the first sentence in their own responses without much in the way of amplification or indeed with much to say about how these would actually be achieved. Many tended to generalise about controlling pollution or tackling climate change or promoting tourism which were not rewarded as they are not part of the general objectives of national parks. Many candidates were able to score 1 or 2 marks for identifying the protection and conservation element or the creation of opportunities to enjoy nature. A lesser proportion were also able to include the points relating to education or creating opportunities for people to enjoy leisure activities such as walking.

This is a good response to the question.

- 2 Based on the information in Source 1, how could a Greater London National Park achieve the same objectives as other national parks?

A greater London national park could help to reduce pollution and improve the health of individuals. National parks exist to 'conserve and enhance national beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage', and so, if a national park were to be in London then perhaps, by reducing pollution and tackling climate change we could ensure that London is kept known how we know it. By breaking up urban areas we enhancing its natural beauty.



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In the first sentence it states - '*improve the health of individuals*' which matches marking point 3. The second sentence is a quote from the passage but it does contain the idea of conserving wildlife which matches marking point 5.

The remaining part of the answer is another quote taken from the passage but it is rather vague and not relevant to the main objective of a national park.

Total 2 marks

This example just gets 1 mark

- 2 Based on the information in Source 1, how could a Greater London National Park achieve the same objectives as other national parks?

A Greater London National Park could be isolated from busy areas of London - for example not near motorways. It could be closely maintained to enhance its natural beauty, and the wildlife present could be protected and under conservation



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Examiner Comments

No mark for the first sentence as it is irrelevant. The second sentence is rather vague but it does contain the phrase 'wildlife could be protected . . .' which matches marking point 5.

Total 1 mark



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Examiner Tip

Check the number of marks given for each question. Here there are three marks and the examiners are looking for three distinct points in the answer.

Question 3

Another straightforward question asking candidates to suggest reasons why a river would be bricked over in an urban area. Most candidates were able to score 1 or 2 marks though some did lose a mark for giving two similar reasons such as housing or roads which are both included under the building infrastructure marking point.

Here is a typical response for this question.

3 Give **two** reasons why a river in an urban area may be 'bricked over'.

1 To give more space to build on, rather than building around rivers you could build over them

2 To allow easier movement ~~from~~ around the urban area without having to navigate around rivers



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Examiner Comments

Gets marking point 2 in the 1st answer "To give more space to build on . . ." Gets marking point 3 in the 2nd answer "To allow easier movement . . . without having to navigate around rivers."

Total 2 marks

A response which failed to score any marks

3 Give **two** reasons why a river in an urban area may be 'bricked over'.

1 To stop people throwing rubbish into the river.

2 To stop domesticated animals (e.g cats) falling in and drowning.



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Both reasons given were not considered to be creditworthy for this question as they are not serious issues that would result in a river being bricked over.

Total 0 marks

Question 4

This question asked candidates to consider the extent to which progress accompanies change by using evidence taken from the source. Many made a good attempt to answer and there were many good discussions about the nature of change and progress though few drew out the subjective quality of the concept of progress. Many seemed to misunderstand the question - indeed there were varying degrees of misinterpretation: some gave an extended analysis of one or two points from the passage; others listed several points without any justification as to whether they represented progress or not; and a third group considered the possible future effects of the proposal to create a national park in London and so discussed changes that may or may not actually happen and as such cannot be classified as evidence.

This example gained 2 marks.

- 4 Using examples from Source 1, consider the extent to which progress accompanies change.

In order for progress to occur, change must happen. This is shown in source 1 as when London's 'lost' rivers were bricked over in order to achieve progress. By changing the rural look in London to more urban areas, more jobs and offices were created by building offices which does show progress. However, as a result this change has left a lack of national parks and 'green' areas which ~~an~~ would suggest to some people a negative change and lack of progress.



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Examiner Comments

In this response the candidate has quoted one change from the source - that of the rivers being bricked over. However they then go on to explain that this change can be seen both as progress and not progress. Progress is achieved as the bricking over has led to more urban areas and the creation of more offices and jobs. On the other hand the change has led to there being less 'green' areas which according to this candidate represents a lack of progress. Both justifications are worthy of 1 mark.

Total 2 marks.

Here is a more typical example which was awarded 1 mark

4 Using examples from Source 1, consider the extent to which progress accompanies change.

change is when something is re-invented and made different, whereas progress is a process of improvement and modification. Progress in source 1 would be the lost rivers "Westbourne, Tyburn, Fleet, Walbrook and Effra, long ago bricked over". However, this progress was only brought about by change. The river and the city plan was changed in order to progress". Therefore they are interlinked. However, change can occur without progression because there may be a change but it may not have any effect so no progression would be made.



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Examiner Comments

In the first sentence the candidate states that '*...progress is a process of improvement . . .*' This is a correct general point about the difference between progress and change and as such was awarded 1 mark.

The answer does go on to mention a relevant change from the source - the bricking over of rivers - but unfortunately there is no justification for this change or any comment on whether it represents progress or not. The rest of the answer seems to get rather confused and is not worth any marks.

Total 1 mark

Question 5

This question posed a problem for many candidates as they wrongly identified the given statement as an argument rather than an assertion and as such were limited to one mark for correctly stating that an argument requires evidence to back it up. Others correctly identified the assertion and also got the mark for demonstrating there was no evidence present in the source to support this claim. Some thought it was an argument because 'you can disagree with it' or it was 'combative and provocative so as to incite a strong reaction and debate amongst the readers' - both of which seem to be taking a rather literal view of the term 'argument'.

This is an example of an answer which suggested the given statement is an argument.

- 5 In the third paragraph, Source 1 states 'Urban life is just as important as remote rural life, and city habitats and landscapes deserve to be conserved, enhanced and promoted too'.

Explain whether this statement should be regarded as argument or assertion.

This argument is backed up by evidence although it is just an opinion of one person ~~very funny~~ and the opinion is very much bias and one sided towards urban life being better.



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Examiner Comments

No marks for stating that it is an argument but it does imply that an argument needs to be backed up by evidence and this matches marking point 2.

Total 1 mark

Here is a more successful attempt to answer this question

- 5 In the third paragraph, Source 1 states 'Urban life is just as important as remote rural life, and city habitats and landscapes deserve to be conserved, enhanced and promoted too.'

Explain whether this statement should be regarded as argument or assertion.

This statement should be regarded as an assertion due to the fact that it is not a factual statement, but one of opinion. Also there is no evidence to support or refute, which is needed when ~~placing~~ putting an argument forward for debate.



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Examiner Comments

This answer has correctly identified the statement as an assertion with the reason it is not supported by evidence which matches marking point 3.

It also scores marking point 1 for elaborating that an assertion is a statement lacking the support of evidence.

Total 2 marks

Question 6

This question asked candidates to evaluate the evidence and arguments used in the source to justify the conclusion that the idea of London becoming a national park could lead to a new way of 'seeing' London. Most responses affirmed the success of the source in being able to make the reader see London in a new light. Facts and figures on a variety of already existing forms of nature in London were highlighted, along with the possible opportunities of enjoying and benefitting from nature. At the same time, futuristic ideas of changing the perception and attitudes of people towards London from a stereotypically big, congested metropolis to a more natural environment was discussed by others. Candidates in this mini-essay tended to get absorbed in the indicative content of the source and often ended up just furthering the arguments used by the author without any reference to the quality of the evidence and types of arguments deployed. However most candidates did make some use of evidence from the sources and were able to discuss both sides of the argument and so were able to score reasonably well for AO2.

For the AO3 mark some candidates were able to identify relevant evidence as fact or opinion or recognise the type of arguments used. However marks were lost due to there being no conclusion drawn or no comment made on the strengths or weaknesses of the evidence or arguments used.

This answer was awarded 6 marks.

- 6 The writer argues that 'the idea of a Greater London National Park could lead to a new way of "seeing" London'.

How effectively do the evidence and arguments in Source 1 support this view?

(13)

The writer puts across an ~~very good~~ effective argument for the idea that a national park would cause people to view London differently. She ~~uses the~~ describes the potential national park as 'acting as a lens through which we could reimagine the city'. Although this is the writer's opinion, it is put across effectively and ~~followed up by potential benefits~~ is followed up by a statement from a supporter, which shows people support her argument and agree with her views.

The writer also uses facts and examples to support her argument such as '13,000 species of wildlife.' ~~is~~ This will make her argument effective and provides evidence to support her views.



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Examiner Comments

The evidence discussed is relevant but rather limited in scope; the answer is one-sided and there is no conclusion so AO2 is 2 marks.

There is a correct reference to facts in the second paragraph but there is no conclusion so AO3 is 1 mark

AO4 - the answer reads well but there are a few errors in spelling and syntax - 3 marks

Total 6 marks

This is a good answer which was awarded 12 marks

- 6 The writer argues that 'the idea of a Greater London National Park could lead to a new way of "seeing" London'.

How effectively do the evidence and arguments in Source 1 support this view?

(13)

The writer provides various evidence and arguments in support of this view. However their effectiveness ~~is~~ can be questioned.

The use of facts and statistics provide convincing evidence that supports this view, for example the statistic used that "London has 8 million trees", which contains no subjectivity and effectively supports the idea that London has many green spaces. The argument also ~~is~~ that the children would see London in a different light effectively supports the view, as evidence is provided by a supporter who emphasises the importance of teaching the children about ~~the~~ ~~imp~~ green space, which brings more evidence to the argument. Also the use of fact in emphasising the biodiversity of London contains only objectivity therefore supports the view well.

However, there is also evidence of extensive subjectivity in this source, for example the argument that "urban life is just as important

as remote rural life". As part of the evidence provided by the supporter who voices his opinions, there is limited objectivity and clearly shows bias, especially as there is no information given on who this person is. The fact, ^{that} they are a supporter of the national park concept shows they will naturally argue in favour, and also provides no factual evidence to support their view. In addition the listing of all the benefits of investing in London's green infrastructure is ^{un}convincing due to lack of concrete factual evidence.

In conclusion many facts are provided which strengthen the view, however not much evidence is provided which directly relates to the benefit of a national park, and a large amount of subjectivity is included, especially with the inclusion of a statement from a supporter, clearly showing bias.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A comprehensive range of evidence discussed and critically evaluated to a high degree, arguments balanced and coherent, and a clearly justified conclusion - AO2 4 marks.

AO3 - there are references to facts, facts are distinguished from opinion, bias has been identified and there is a conclusion so 4 marks. AO4 - the answer is clear and lucid - 4 marks

Total 12 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This type of question is a regular feature of this exam and yet candidates frequently fail to score well on the AO3 criteria. Practice analysing articles in the press using these criteria.

Question 7

This question proved to be difficult for most candidates. The specification (3.6.2 p26) expects students to investigate different forms of moral reasoning and the clarification (p71) does highlight natural law and social contract amongst the examples that should be considered. Many candidates were obviously unaware of these forms of reasoning and instead they resorted to trying to mould the material on morals and Just War from the source into something that seemed to fit in with the meanings of the terms 'natural' and 'social'. For example the term 'social contract' was interpreted in various ways using examples from everyday usage such as 'socialising' or 'society' - some even confused it with 'social construct' from question one. As a result there were many confused answers and few candidates scored more than 1 mark.

This is a good answer which was awarded 3 marks.

7 What are the differences between 'Natural Law' and 'Social Contract'?

Natural law is something that is internal to each individual and what we cannot teach ourselves as we are born with this God-given rule. However, social contract is something that society itself has created and made for us all to abide by in order to promote social cohesion. Natural law on the other hand is suggested to be universal and within each person, whereas social contract is relative with each society having a different interpretation.



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Examiner Comments

The first sentence is a reasonable definition of Natural Law as it implies it is pre-existing and inherent in us all. In the second sentence there is a good attempt to define Social Contract as something created by society to promote social cohesion. Finally, there is a relevant difference between Natural Law as universal and Social Contract as relevant to a specific society. So this answer gets marking points 1, 2 and 4.

Total 3 marks

Here is a more typical answer.

7 What are the differences between 'Natural Law' and 'Social Contract'?

Natural law is based on human nature and the innate morality of humans to reason.
Social contract underlines that militancy and combat should not take place unprovoked, and that harmonious living should occur between civilians in a particular area.



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The phrase '*. . . innate morality of humans . . .*' is a good attempt to define natural Law and is worth 1 mark. Unfortunately the rest of the answer is unsuccessfully trying to define social contract using material from the source and the result is confusion.

Total 1 mark



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Examiner Tip

The terms 'natural law' and 'social contract' are stated in the specification for this unit. Read through the specification and make sure you know all the terms and phrases quoted.

Question 8

This question was well answered with many candidates scoring both marks. This topic has been a regular feature of previous General Studies papers and candidates are becoming more familiar with the different types of arguments.

This is a good answer for this question.

8 Paragraph 3 contains an argument from authority.

Give **two** reasons to explain why this form of argument may be regarded as weak.

Reason 1

There is little or no factual information behind the argument

Reason 2

The authority figure may not have expertise in the field he's talking about



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This response includes two good reasons why arguments from authority are regarded as weak -- no factual evidence and an expert in one field may not necessarily be an expert in another.

Total 2 marks

This answer was only awarded 1 mark

8 Paragraph 3 contains an argument from authority.

Give **two** reasons to explain why this form of argument may be regarded as weak.

Reason 1

It is a subjective view, and that, with this type of argument, there needs to be facts and proof to back it up.

Reason 2

It is very a brief argument and doesn't suggest ~~that~~ give an insight into the actual argument. The lack of detail makes the argument weak.



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Reason one - '*it is a subjective view . . .*' is a valid point that is worth 1 mark.

Reason 2 talks about brief arguments and lack of detail but this is insufficient to earn a mark.

Total 1 mark

Question 9

This question was well answered with most candidates scoring two marks for relevant examples of evidence selected from the source and at least one for an appropriate comment about the relative strength or weakness of such evidence. A number of candidates failed to pick up the fourth mark as they commented on both examples of evidence together or they just made vague references as to why they agreed or disagreed with the statements.

This is a good answer which was awarded 4 marks.

- 9 Identify **two** pieces of evidence used in paragraphs 1–3 to show that ideas of proper conduct in battle have evolved over time.

How strong is this evidence?

Evidence 1

Top British soldier stating old style conflicts are replaced by 'wars between people's' and ^{that} ~~that~~ new warfare aims were to break the will of the 'people'

Evidence 2

4th century theologian argued that a legal war must be declared by a competent legal authority.

Strength of evidence

The evidence may not be considered strong due to the ~~number~~ ^{unknowns}. These are both considered to be opinions, which in itself cannot be backed up they are not factual. But they are also opinions of unknown people, which means that 'we have little justification of the evidence.'



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There are two pieces of appropriate evidence given from the passage for 2 marks.

In the strengths the first comment states that the evidence is 'considered to be opinions' - which is a relevant point and matches the first bullet point under strengths in the mark scheme.

The second relevant comment is that the evidence is given by unknown persons - this is also worth a mark because if we do not know who is offering the evidence then we cannot judge their status or the strength or weakness of their evidence.

Total 4 marks

This answer was only awarded 2 marks

- 9 Identify **two** pieces of evidence used in paragraphs 1–3 to show that ideas of proper conduct in battle have evolved over time.

How strong is this evidence?

Evidence 1

Cicero believed that war must have ethical constraints.

Evidence 2

Many moralists argue that a 'Just War' is no longer possible.

Strength of evidence

Evidence 1 is particularly strong as Cicero was a single author, whereas evidence 2 is lacking precision and could easily be a generalisation.



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There are two appropriate pieces of evidence quoted from the passage - 2 marks.

However the strengths are too vague to be creditworthy.

Total 2 marks

Question 10

This was an open question asking students to discuss how the nature of warfare has been changed by technology and it gave plenty of scope for candidates to achieve a high score as they could draw from their own knowledge as well as from the source provided. Many commented on how technological change has caused a shift from face to face combat on the battlefield, to the anonymity of precisely targeted attacks at a safe distance from the comfort zone of an office just by pressing a button. Themes common to many answers included drones, bombs, nuclear weapons and the numbers of civilian casualties. Others highlighted how technology had changed the nature of warfare from 'real war' to the 'threat of war' with the historic US - Russia 'Cold War' often quoted as an example of technology capable of total annihilation being deployed as deterrence.

This is a fairly typical answer which was awarded 3 marks.

10 Using your own knowledge and information from the passage, explain how technology can change the nature of warfare.

Technology makes it easier to be desensitised from the violence and horrific effects that can be caused such as the mass destruction nuclear weapons cause. Also, as mentioned in the source, it makes for hasty decisions, with just the push of a button a whole country could be killed and the person who did it does not need to feel morally blameworthy. Also the amount of civilian deaths increases while the amount of compassion for people decreases.



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There is not much in the way of detail given in this answer but there are 3 relevant points that are worthy of a mark:

The reference to weapons of mass destruction - nuclear weapons; weapons becoming more indiscriminate as in '*at the push of a button a whole country could be killed*'; the reference to the increase in civilian deaths.

Total 3 marks

One of the few answers that was awarded all 6 marks.

10 Using your own knowledge and information from the passage, explain how technology can change the nature of warfare.

It means that they can now have wars using bombs carried by drones rather than having lives of the military at risk on the front line. This is shown in source 1 when it states that the risks are lowered for a 'powerful nations troops'. However, the damage of these bombs can be much more devastating when dropped and can lead to deaths of innocent people. Also troops who are on the ground may be killed if a bomb is dropped by their own country. Also, it is now easier to bomb a country and cause a war this way than having to bring over tanks. This means that wars can become more global as they could fly bombs over from America or Russia much easier and leave more devastating effects.



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In this answer the following were considered to be worth a mark:

bombs; drones; risks lowered for troops; leads to increased deaths of innocent people; now easier to bomb a country and start a war; wars become more global as bombs can be flown anywhere easier.

Total 6 marks

Question 11

This type of mini-essay is new to this paper though it is used regularly in 6GS04 and candidates responded well to the challenge of exploring the view that changes in moral values in the last fifty years are best explained as responses to technological innovation. A wide range of issues were discussed with most candidates supporting the view that moral values have declined in response to technological advances. Topics commonly discussed included health and medical issues, science challenging religion, changes in family life, women's rights, transport and the media. A popular theme developed by many was about the effect of the internet and social media making inappropriate information available to a vulnerable audience, drawing them away from traditional values which have been the basis of personal relationships in the past. Some put forward the view that moral values have evolved with the passage of time and changing ideologies within society rather than due to the development of technology. A few essays even put forward alternative viewpoints on other factors influencing moral values in the last fifty years, for example religion, parental influences, innate values, cultural and social influences.

In general the responses were of a high order and many candidates were able to make good use of their own knowledge and give at least two perspectives on the changes in moral values with a good degree of fluent analysis. Most candidates did expand their answers beyond the source but a significant number discussed the question from only one point of view and failed to provide a conclusion. Some candidates did limit themselves by only using evidence from the passage about warfare or by failing to actually consider any moral values in the examples chosen.

This answer was only given 7 marks.

- 11 'Changes in moral values over the last fifty years are best explained as responses to technological innovation.'

Using your own knowledge to support your answer, discuss this view.

(14)

Technological innovation results in new opportunities for people as they can either gain access to certain aspects you wouldn't be able to before. It also allows people to change the world and people around them. An example of technological innovation is ~~the~~ nuclear warfare. The Hiroshima bombing changed people's opinions and people began to think it was acceptable to include nuclear bombs in war. The introduction of ^{smartphones} ~~social media~~ also had an effect on people's moral values as they began to talk less in person, but only pay attention to their ~~poor~~ phones and social media. But some technological innovations haven't shaped people's moral values. An example of this is the e-cigarette, which changed some opinions, but most people still frowned upon smoking.



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Examiner Comments

There is a limited discussion with a few assertions presented for or against the view that moral values change in response to technological change. There is hardly any discussion about moral values - a rather unbalanced discussion and no conclusion. Mid level 2 for AO1/2 - 4 marks.

AO4 - answer reads well but there are a few errors in the syntax and grammar - 3 marks.

Total 7 marks

This is a better answer to this question which was awarded 11 marks.

11 'Changes in moral values over the last fifty years are best explained as responses to technological innovation.'

Using your own knowledge to support your answer, discuss this view.

(14)

Technological innovation is best defined as advancements in technology that combines creativity with new ideas that have not been previously explored. This has resulted in many outcomes such as changes in moral values, however there is also the argument that changes in moral values are in fact the causes of technological innovation, both of which will be discussed.

Changes in moral values such as the decreased importance of utilitarianism can be explained as a response to technological innovation.

Examples include the invention of the Internet and also new technologies such as computers and mobile phones; these ~~has~~ have resulted in the introduction of a whole new set of moral values such as those that consider the publication and sharing of information and data. Decisions of whether or not to post certain things have become extremely important in influencing our moral values, as we start

to base them upon other influences such as the media and social media.

However, the argument that changes in moral values have caused technological innovation is also valid, which goes against the view. The idea of becoming more accepting of change has resulted in innovation, for example humans have become more open to new ideas which are increasingly considered to be morally right, to try and discover and invent. This has directly led to innovations in technology such as the Hubble Space Telescope that is enabling scientists to make more discoveries, therefore changes in moral values have prompted technological innovation.

In conclusion ~~both arguments~~ there is convincing evidence to support this view, as technological innovation has inevitably led to changes in ways of thinking, which is arguably stronger than the view that changes in moral values have caused technological innovation.



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Examiner Comments

In this answer there are reasons given for and against the view in the statement - the discussion is fairly balanced with some supporting evidence. There is also a justified conclusion; however there is not much actual discussion about moral values. AO1/2 - mid level 3 - 7 marks. AO4 - well-written, few obvious mistakes - 4 marks.

Total 11 marks

Question 12

This was the more popular of the two choices of essay and candidates embraced the question set with a good sense of balance and analysis; there were many well-structured answers that identified and discussed a variety of issues relevant to the question of whether rich people should be allowed to buy access to clinical trials. The main foci explored were the ethical and social aspects mainly with some religious and some medical/scientific issues but also included were such topics as fairness, social division, human rights, NHS and marketing/cost issues. Better answers looked at the impact on minor diseases, the effect on those in poorer countries, the process of research and the dangers as well as the benefits to society. A large majority of candidates adopted a rather narrow approach in their responses and focused only on the equality concerns, especially the issues of 'rich versus poor' and 'queue jumping'. A significant number of candidates did show a good understanding of ethical issues but most were unable to discuss the question from other viewpoints. Good candidates were able to draw conclusions based on the differences between rich and poor, and the legal implications drawn from this situation.

The majority of candidates produced a balanced discussion of the arguments for and against the proposal as well as drawing a conclusion and were therefore able to achieve level 3 or 4 for AO1/2.

Most candidates scored 1 AO3 mark for a conclusion and occasionally a 2nd mark for a reference to fact or opinion or bias.

This answer was awarded 13 marks.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: **Question 12** **Question 13**

One issue raised by this statement is that it may lead to privatising health care so that treatment is not given to those who need it the most but to those who can afford it, this raises ethical issues as it implies that some people are more deserving of treatment than others because they are in a more stable position in which they can provide money. Another issue raised by this is that it would mean the trials are affected as more of one demographic would be in the test than statistically should be, this could affect the results in a trial as the treatment may affect people differently so a wide range of people are needed to acquire more accurate results which can then be used to improve the treatment. Some people may also decide to use illegal means of obtaining capital so that they can be given priority in the trials, this could cause issues for the economy as people may also take out bank loans to pay for the trial and it may be unsuccessful so they cannot pay off the debt. However, this system could also positively have positive effects as it will allow promising treatments to be properly tested so that more treatments can be found and used to save lives of both poor and rich people which can only

happen if the treatment acquires the funding
It needs to be completed



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Examiner Comments

There is some relevant but limited evidence presented in a one-sided discussion. No conclusion. This is a weak mid level 3 response - AO1/2 - 9 marks.

For AO3 there is a reference to statistical problems that might be caused to a clinical trial if rich people were allowed to buy places - this was deemed worthy of an AO3 mark as it is questioning the strength of a specific piece of evidence.

AO4 - the answer is broadly understandable though there is a limited amount of argument - 3 marks

Total 13 marks

This is a better answer which was awarded 22 marks

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 12 Question 13

Initially, there will be the issue of why is this happening? If there is insufficient money then rich people should pay for the clinical tests instead of getting priority. Through allowing priority this will cause the problem of inequality. Inequality between ruling class and the working class. Resulting in reverting back to a capitalist society where the bourgeoisie have control over the proletariat.

These inequalities will have knock-on effects... It will develop a false advantage to people who are poor or in poverty. It may even increase poverty rate as more people feel worthless.

Why make it about money when it is people's lives that matter! There is a saying that should be emphasised more in that health should come before money. If this is life-saving treatment, then surely priority should be

Based upon who's life needs saving instead of who has the most money can choose who gets the treatment. It's like comparing it to the lottery where it would be based on luck.

What about the timescale of these trials? Many trials take years to make sure they are sufficient and tested correctly. So what's the certainty that this would actually benefit anybody - it might do, nothing can ever be certain. Of course, then there is the problem of individuals being biased. If a rich person's daughter/son has cancer and they have priority on a trial because they have money they will use it to save themselves and their closest. But what if there is a baby in care with leukaemia and they need it more. The opportunity cost would be ineffective nothing would be taken into account. The ruling class will be selfish and only think of themselves.

However, this could allow the improvement on medical treatments to advance extremely well. If these rich people pay for these trials, it will take time, but once a cure is found this could save thousands of people's lives. So, it's the opportunity cost of allowing them priority in the hope that a cure is found to help other people.

This would also benefit the government, in today's economy we are running a budget deficit. If we are able to be spared the taxation money that would be spent on these trials then it can be spent elsewhere. E.g. on education and healthcare, or on paying the interest of £39 billion from the budget deficit back. Enabling in the future to maybe run a Budget surplus.

If there is evidence "rescue a promising anti-cancer treatment from being discarded ~~at~~ ~~At~~ in Sweden, so I know it works". This provides a stronger argument in knowing that it will be beneficial.

Overall, there are issues that can be raised about anything. There'll always be positives and negatives to anything. In the long run, this could be really positive in enhancing the medical medicines. However, in the short run it could cause problems with inequalities (incomes and classes), which would reinforce feminism and marxism. But then there is the opportunity cost which would be more beneficial than not making it more worthwhile. It is about weighing up the negatives and the benefits.



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Examiner Comments

AO1/2 - there is a good range of evidence discussed, the arguments are fairly well balanced and covered in depth and there is a well justified conclusion. Low level 4 = 14 marks. AO3 - there is 1 mark for the conclusion, on the 2nd page there is reference for bias for a 2nd mark and at the bottom of 3rd page the strength of a specific piece of evidence is assessed for the 3rd mark. AO4 - Reads well, coherent argument and few mistakes - 5 marks. Total 22 marks.

Question 13

This was the less popular of the two essay questions but still produced many diverse and intelligent answers exploring the issues surrounding the collection and use of data from surveys and opinion polls. Candidates made references to a variety of topics including the right to privacy, reliability of data collection, use of data by agencies, marketing, methods of data collection and their merits. Crime statistics and the role of opinion polls in the 2015 election were also mentioned frequently. Some candidates focused more on the methodology than the use of data but produced some good discussions of methods and 'socially desirable' answers. Several also understood that some data is collected secretly, or through our shopping patterns, googling or using social media. Whilst a much smaller proportion of students answered this response there was again the issue of a too narrow focus as some mainly considered the general issues of validity of data and reliability of the responses. However many of the candidates did give at least two perspectives on opinion polls and many were also able to identify the weaknesses of using data as fact. It was pleasing to see that most candidates had well considered conclusions to their analysis. There were significant numbers achieving level 3 and 4 for AO1/2.

The AO3 marks were slightly higher than the previous question because, as well as 1 mark for a conclusion, candidates also had plenty of opportunities to discuss the different ways in which data is not valid.

This is a good answer which was awarded 24 marks.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 12 Question 13

There is no longer great significance for opinion polls or ~~re~~ statistics in our society. There are several reasons for this, and in some cases, particularly concerning political polls and predictions, they can be detrimental to democracy and their collection is difficult to justify.

In many cases, it would be best to stop collecting statistics. This applies particularly in the case of politics and prediction of election or referendum outcomes. Such polls are often misleading or ~~inaccurate~~ inaccurate, and may undermine the political process. The decision of which party to support or whether to stay in the European Union is, supposedly, a private one - votes are cast in private booths and placed in a sealed ballot box for a reason, yet polls ^{shamelessly} ~~brazenly~~ ask whether people are planning on voting ⁽conservative or Labour. Many people prefer to remain private, and so any predictions are skewed.

only those who feel passionately about their choice and who are proud to vote as they do will respond to polls. This was seen in the 2015 General Elections: until the exit polls, there was no doubt that a hung parliament would occur, as every poll suggested that this would be the case. Misleading polls may discourage support for smaller parties, who are seen as a ~~hopeless~~ 'wasted vote', or may encourage people to vote for larger parties as the 'majority' agree that this is the best option. As a result, people may avoid voting for what they truly believe in, or may not educate themselves on all possible options - these are two key principles of democracy that are damaged by opinion polls, so it is difficult to justify them.

However, there are some statistics, such as census data, that could be seen as largely harmless to society. Census data may be useful to the government who need to make informed decisions - census data allows them to identify where scarce resources would be best

stopped - people often blindly accept anything with this label, and fail to question its accuracy. The ~~ga~~ government and associated organisations would, therefore, be best placed to stop carrying out opinion surveys, but also launch campaigns to warn people of the issues associated with basing decisions on political surveys.

To conclude, some surveys are justifiable - those concerning objective data, such as censuses. However, political opinion polls should be prevented: they instead, are inaccurate, and shape decisions as much as they predict them.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a well-developed answer that critically considers a comprehensive range of evidence, examines different aspects in some depth and draws a well-justified conclusion. AO1/2 - a good mid-level 4 = 17 marks.

AO3 - there is a reference to statistics being objective data and there is a conclusion - 2 marks.

AO4 - a well-written essay that is clearly understandable though there are a few mistakes in syntax and grammar - 5 marks.

Total 24 marks

This answer was awarded 15 marks

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: **Question 12** **Question 13**

Plan:

For:

- Accurate to a degree (wide range)
- Best way - otherwise too long

Against:

- Not everyone votes/technology included.
- Bias/vote more than once

The collection and use of data via polls and surveys is a common way used to analyse certain topics.

On one hand it can be justified that the use of data this way should be used because of the fact that many people participate and vote which means that the data has a certain degree of accuracy. Furthermore these surveys and polls are public, therefore they receive information from a wide range of people and beliefs. Also, how else could the collection of large amounts of data be done any quicker or more efficiently? These polls are very easy to fill out, which results in more people voting and therefore reliable data.

On the other hand it could be said that these surveys could be written in a misleading, bias manner, to which therefore will provide invalid results. As well as this it would be easy for a person to answer these questions biasly, based on their views and furthermore they may cast their vote on more than one occasion, leading to inaccurate results. In addition to this, as many of these polls and surveys are carried out online, many people may not be able to have their say due to them not having internet access. Therefore as the poll would have only reached a select few, the results would not reflect the overview of the population.

To conclude I believe that ~~the~~ the collection and use of data should be used to influence decisions, ~~This is because,~~ ~~although~~ This would be on the condition that a vast range and number of people are asked to get a realistic representation of the population's opinions, as

it is the quickest and most efficient way possible to collect the thoughts of many, while still being accurate.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

There is some discussion of relevant evidence but it is limited in scope and rather one-sided. There is a conclusion. AO1/2 - a weak mid-level 3 - 9 marks.

AO3 - it does mention how surveys can be biased and there is a conclusion - 2 marks.

AO4 - arguments are coherent and broadly understandable - several errors in spelling and grammar - 4 marks.

Total - 15 marks



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Examiner Tip

Do remember that there are 4 AO3 marks available in the long essay. These can be gained by commenting on the strengths and weaknesses of evidence presented or arguments used in your discussion.

Paper Summary

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

- Read the question carefully. A significant number of candidates failed to achieve higher marks because they misinterpreted the question or misunderstood what was being asked. They need to ask themselves 'what does this really mean'?
- Check the number of marks given for a question. Candidates are losing marks because they are developing insufficient points in their answers - the marks given are an indication of the number of separate points that should be made in an answer.
- Practice using the AO3 criteria from past papers to analyse articles in the press to discover how the different sorts of evidence and types of arguments are put to use.
- Draw up a plan for the longer questions, even if it is just a simple list or spider diagram.
- A perennial problem is that of poor handwriting. If an examiner finds it difficult to read what a candidate has written they will also find it difficult to award the appropriate marks. Please write as clearly and legibly as you can.

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>

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