

Example Candidate Responses

Cambridge
International
AS & A Level

Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives and Research

9239

Component 2

In order to help us develop the highest quality Curriculum Support resources, we are undertaking a continuous programme of review; not only to measure the success of our resources but also to highlight areas for improvement and to identify new development needs.

We invite you to complete our survey by visiting the website below. Your comments on the quality and relevance of Cambridge Curriculum Support resources are very important to us.

<https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GL6ZNJB>

Do you want to become a Cambridge consultant and help us develop support materials?

Please follow the link below to register your interest.

<http://cie.org.uk/cambridge-for/teachers/teacherconsultants/>

Cambridge International Examinations retains the copyright on all its publications. Registered Centres are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use. However, we cannot give permission to Centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within a Centre.

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Assessment at a glance | 4 |
| Component 2 - Essay | 6 |

Introduction

The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspective and Research (9239), and to show how different levels of candidates' performance (high, middle and low) relate to the subject's curriculum and assessment objectives.

In this booklet candidate responses have been chosen to exemplify a range of answers. Each response is accompanied by a brief commentary explaining the strengths and weaknesses of the answers.

Each essay is annotated with clear explanation of where and why marks were awarded or omitted. This, in turn, followed by examiner comments on how the answer could have been improved. In this way it is possible for you to understand what candidates have done to gain their marks and what they will have to do to improve their answers. At the end there is a list of common mistakes candidates made in their answers for each question.

This document provides illustrative examples of candidate work. These help teachers to assess the standard required to achieve marks, beyond the guidance of the mark scheme. Some question types where the answer is clear from the mark scheme, such as short answers and multiple choice, have therefore been omitted.

The Mark schemes used here are available to download as a zip file from Teacher Support as the Example Candidate Responses Files.

Past papers, Examiner Reports and other teacher support materials are available on Teacher Support at <https://teachers.cie.org.uk>

How to use this booklet

| Example candidate response – high | Examiner comments |
|---|---|
| <p>“Should nuclear energy be our primary alternative to oil in the future?” ①</p> <p>The demand for oil, natural gas and other energy sources are rising rapidly and correlatively with the growing economies, such as India and China. As a result, worldwide energy consumption has increased significantly in the past few years. For example, in 2010, worldwide energy consumption was 12.5 billion tonnes of oil equivalent, which is a 30% increase from 2000. This is due to the increasing demand for energy in emerging economies, which means that more energy is being used for industrial and domestic purposes. As a result, we need to start looking for alternative energy sources, which means that we need to start looking for cleaner, more sustainable energy sources. A main concern is whether these alternative energy sources are economically friendly, safe and healthy. Currently, the most common alternative energy sources are solar, wind and hydro. However, these are currently being used in both developed and developing countries. Nuclear energy is a controversial, source of fuel known as nuclear fission or fusion, especially when used to generate electricity. Nuclear fission is a nuclear reaction in which a heavy nucleus splits spontaneously or on impact with another particle, with the release of energy. Nuclear fusion is a nuclear reaction in which atomic nuclei of low atomic number fuse to form a heavier nucleus with the release of energy.³ ③</p> | <p>① The essay title</p> <p>Examiner comments are placed alongside the answers, linked to specific part of the answer. These explain where and why marks were awarded. This helps you to interpret the standard of Cambridge exams and helps your learners to refine exam technique.</p> |

Answers by real candidates in exam conditions. These show you the types of answers for each level.

Discuss and analyse the answers with your learners in the classroom to improve their skills.

How the candidate could have improved the answer

Communication was clear and some structure emerged from the use of paragraphs but the arguments were incomplete (communication skills). Sources of evidence were not fully explored and there was a lack of contrast (source selection) and the lack of contrast in the argument (analysis of sources). Several contributing factors were mentioned but they amount to a perspective.

However, the absence of an alternative results in the

This explains how the candidate could have improved the answer. This helps you to interpret the standard of Cambridge exams and helps your learners to refine exam technique.

Assessment at a glance

For Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research, candidates take **three** compulsory components: Written Examination; Essay; Team Project. All three components are **externally assessed**.

For Cambridge International A Level Global Perspectives & Research, candidates take **four** compulsory components: Written Examination; Essay; Team Project; Cambridge Research Report. Components 1 to 3 are **externally assessed** and Component 4 is **internally assessed and externally moderated**.

| Component | Weighting | |
|--|-----------|---------|
| | AS Level | A Level |
| <p>Component 1 Written Examination 1 hour 30 minutes Written examination consisting of compulsory, structured questions based on sources provided with the examination paper.</p> <p>Candidates analyse and evaluate arguments, interrogate evidence and compare perspectives on global issues listed in the syllabus.</p> <p>30 marks</p> | 30% | 15% |
| <p>Component 2 Essay Candidates explore different perspectives on issues of global significance arising from their studies during the course and write an essay based on their research. The essay title is devised by candidates themselves.</p> <p>The essay must be between 1750 and 2000 words and written in continuous prose.</p> <p>35 marks</p> | 35% | 17.5% |
| <p>Component 3 Team Project Candidates work in teams to identify a local problem which has global relevance. Individual team members research the issue and suggest solutions to the problem based on their research findings. Teams work together to agree a set of proposed <i>team solutions</i> to the problem.</p> <p>While the focus of the task is on team work, each candidate within a team prepares two pieces of work for individual submission. These are:</p> <p>Presentation Each candidate presents an eight-minute live presentation of their individual research and proposed solutions to the problem. Team presentations are not permitted. (25 marks)</p> <p>Reflective Paper Each candidate explains these team solutions in an individual 800-word reflective paper. (10 marks)</p> <p>35 marks in total</p> | 35% | 17.5% |
| <p>Component 4 Cambridge Research Report Candidates devise and develop a research question. This is answered in a report based on independent personal research.</p> <p>The research report must not exceed 5000 words.</p> <p>75 marks</p> | – | 50% |

Teachers are reminded that the latest syllabus is available on our public website at www.cie.org.uk and Teacher Support at <https://teachers.cie.org.uk>

Component 2 - Essay

| Example candidate response – high | Examiner comments |
|--|--|
| <p>“Should nuclear energy be our primary alternative to oil in the future?” 1</p> <p>The demand for oil, natural gas and other energy sources are rising rapidly and correlatively with the expanding global population. More significantly, countries with emerging economies, such as India and China, have a greater demand for energy as their standard of living and economic output increase. For example, China expects an increase of 75 percent in their energy demands by 2035. By that same year, worldwide energy consumption is anticipated to increase by more than 40 percent.¹</p> <p>2</p> <p>The problem is that oil and natural gases are non-renewable polluting energy sources, which means they exist in a finite quantity and are incapable of being replenished. Oil and natural gases also produce greenhouse gases which cause global warming and are thus harmful for the environment. As a result, we need to start using renewable energy sources to provide a stable source of energy in the future. A main concern is whether we can find a primary alternative to oil that is efficient, environmentally and economically friendly, safe and has a smaller land use. There are a plethora of alternative energy sources that are currently being used in both large and small scales, such as hydroelectric, solar and wind energy.²</p> <p>However, our main focus is explicitly on a notable, yet controversial, source of fuel known as nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is the energy released during nuclear fission or fusion, especially when used to generate electricity. Nuclear fission is a nuclear reaction in which a heavy nucleus splits spontaneously or on impact with another particle, with the release of energy. Nuclear fusion is a nuclear reaction in which atomic nuclei of low atomic number fuse to form a heavier nucleus with the release of energy.³</p> <p>3</p> <p>Nuclear power is a sustainable and efficient energy source with almost zero percent greenhouse gas emission, although solid and liquid waste are the greatest public concerns in terms of environmental hazards.⁴</p> <p>For this reason, there has been much debate on whether nuclear energy should be our primary alternative to oil in the future or not. The term ‘primary alternative’ means other energy sources such as wind and solar are used as well but a majority of the energy demands are satisfied by one particular energy source, in this case, nuclear energy.⁵ Through the course of this essay I will analyse these two distinct perspectives on this issue, to conclude whether nuclear energy should or should not be used as an alternative to oil in the future.</p> <p>4</p> <p>First, let us consider the perspective, “Nuclear energy should not be our primary alternative to oil in the future.” A source which identifies with this perspective is the article, “<i>Nuclear power is complicated, dangerous, and definitely not the answer</i>” by Steven Cohen, director of the Master of Public Administration Program in Environmental Science and Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and the Earth Institute, and executive director of Columbia University's Earth Institute.⁶</p> <p>Cohen’s main arguments are that nuclear energy is hazardous, complex and politically debated. There are many issues that arise from this perspective, such as the risk of terrorist attacks on nuclear reactors to the safety of the people neighboring the reactor region.</p> <p>One must also take into consideration the provenance of the article, which is a valid source because of its scientific background, thus making it relevant. Additionally, I believe this source is worthy of evaluation for</p> <p>¹Chevron Policy, Government and Public Affairs. 'Energy Supply & Demand Global Issues Chevron'. Chevron.com. N.p., 2015. Web. 18 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>²Conserve-Energy-Future. 'Various Sources Of Alternate Energy - Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Biomass, Ocean, Biofuels, Hydrogen And Other Energy Sources'. N.p., 2013. Web. 18 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>³Chemwiki.ucdavis.edu. 'Fission And Fusion - Chemwiki'. N.p., 2013. Web. 18 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>⁴The Economist, 'Rising From The Ashes'. N.p., 2010. Web. 18 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>⁵Max Schulz. "Nuclear Power Is the Future". Wilson Quarterly. N.p, 2006. Web. 18 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>⁶Cohen, Steven. 'Nuclear Power Is Complicated, Dangerous, And Definitely Not The Answer'. Grist. N.p., 2006. Web. 10 Nov. 2015.</p> | <p>1 The essay title establishes a question open to globally contrasting perspectives.</p> <p>2 Citation and referencing of sources are effective and correctly structured in footnote: communication skills.</p> <p>3 Key terms and parameters are clearly defined and described precisely.</p> <p>4 Two globally contrasting perspectives are introduced. References to finite resources and greenhouse gas emissions, underline the global character of the question.</p> |

| Example candidate response – high, continued | Examiner comments |
|---|--|
| <p>this particular perspective as it explores a wide range of impacts of nuclear energy, such as the environmental, political and societal impacts. At the same time, his article highlights many preconceived notions that the general populous may have about fissile fuels which acknowledges both opinions and facts.</p> <p>Cohen’s article has both strengths and flaws. He has clearly stated his perspective on the issue, quite early on in the article, by stating that nuclear energy is a “dangerous, complicated, and politically controversial technology”⁷. Although the emotive language here is compelling, such claims are not supported by evidence. The phrases ‘politically controversial technology’ and ‘dangerous’ are reminiscent of the view held by many countries after the nuclear meltdown of Fukushima in 2011. The incident had led to a ‘coincidental’ nuclear phase out in countries such as France and Germany⁸. France for example was one of the most nuclearised countries in the world with a nuclear power usage of 75 %⁹, yet after the tragedy in Japan it has slowly turned towards reducing nuclear energy usage.¹⁰ However, certain sources, such as the site <i>cleanenergywire.org</i> dismiss this idea that Germany phased out ‘as a panic reaction’ to the disaster and instead accept the need for the country to ‘move towards a low-carbon economy’¹¹. One must also consider the fact that these countries, especially France, have great difficulty in carrying out this change, solely because of its major dependence on nuclear energy. According to <i>Financial Times</i>, in France’s case, “Mr [François] Hollande pushed back the closure to 2018 because it could not replace the electricity lost fast enough.”¹²</p> <p>One of his strengths is his acknowledgement of the reasons that one may have to consider another source of energy, “While I share their alarm at our failure to address the problem of overabundant greenhouse-gas emissions...” which makes the argument appear more balanced. Another strength lies in his usage of a logical point-evidence-explain structure, giving his arguments a sense of logical progression. Using this structure, he proceeds to address each of those features mentioned, giving reasons as to why he stated them and examples from situations such as the Chernobyl incident to further elaborate his points. The fault in this is the statement: “The risk may be low, but the potential impact is high”, which one may see as a consideration of a hypothetical situation.</p> <p>Secondly, let us consider the perspective, “Nuclear energy should be our primary alternative to oil in the future.” A source which advocates this perspective is the article, “<i>Going Nuclear</i>” by Patrick Moore, a Canadian scientist and former President of Greenpeace Canada.¹³ Based on the given evidence that the author is a scientist, one may confirm the reliability of any scientific statements made and the fact that he was President of an environmental organization such as Greenpeace, one may assume that he will be concerned about any potential effects of fissile energy on the environment, thus giving the source significant provenance.</p> <p>Moore’s main arguments are that nuclear energy is efficient, inexpensive and contrary to popular belief, is not risky. He goes on to say that nuclear energy is in fact a low carbon emitting source that is the solution for our growing demand for energy.</p> <p>Since Greenpeace has openly stated its opposition to nuclear energy¹⁴, I believed it would be an interesting source which gives insight into how and why his perspective on nuclear energy changed. Countries that express the same perspective, although not by consensus of its whole population, include Russia, Brazil and</p> | <p>5 Relevance and credibility of the source is clearly established: source selection.</p> <p>6 The candidate intelligently uses alternative sources in order to challenge major premises of arguments contained within the main source under consideration: analysis of sources.</p> <p>7 Considerable detail is extracted from the source (source selection). Analysis displays a full understanding of both arguments and structure within the sources. It is thoughtful and critical evaluation is employed across a wide range of criteria: analysis of sources.</p> <p>8 Relevance and credibility of the contrasting source is established: source selection.</p> |

⁷Cohen, Steven. 'Nuclear Power Is Complicated, Dangerous, And Definitely Not The Answer'. Grist.N.p., 2006. Web. 10 Nov. 2015.

⁸Nuclear Power In Germany - World Nuclear Association". World-nuclear.org. N.p., 2016. Web. 29 Jan. 2016.

⁹World-nuclear.org. "Nuclear Power In France | French Nuclear Energy - World Nuclear Association". N.p., 2016. Web. 3 Jan. 2016.

¹⁰(www.dw.com), Deutsche."France Tilting Toward Nuclear Phase-Out | Environment | DW.COM | 09.09.2015". DW.COM. N.p., 2015. Web. 27 Jan. 2016.

¹¹Appunn, Kerstine. "The History Behind Germany's Nuclear Phase-Out". *Clean Energy Wire*. N.p., 2014. Web. 1 Jan. 2016.

¹²"France'S Nuclear Industry On Back Foot Over New Energy Law - FT.Com". Financial Times.N.p., 2015. Web. 14 Jan. 2016.

¹³Wikipedia, "Patrick Moore (Environmentalist)". N.p., 2016. Web. 2 Jan. 2016.

¹⁴"Nuclear". Greenpeace International.N.p., 2015. Web. 31 Feb. 2016.

| Example candidate response – high, continued | Examiner comments |
|--|---|
| <p>India¹⁵. Surprisingly, Japan as well hopes to continue its use of nuclear energy although certain cities like Minamisoma are against this. ¹⁶A common trend within this list is that these countries all have higher demands for energy due to either a rapidly increasing population or augmenting industrial demands.¹⁷</p> <p>Moore's article has both strengths and weaknesses in its arguments. According to Moore, "Nuclear energy is the only large-scale, cost-effective energy source that can reduce these emissions while continuing to satisfy a growing demand for power. And these days it can do so safely."¹⁸ This is redolent of the points put forward by the World Nuclear association and can thus be justified as a reliable statement. ¹⁹</p> <p>The main strength of the article is the balanced approach taken when addressing the current situation. Moore acknowledges both sides of the argument, for example where he says "But there is widespread speculation that, even though the process is ostensibly dedicated to producing electricity, it is in fact a cover for building nuclear weapons. " He then rebuts the points of the opposition. I believe that this fortifies his stance on why nuclear energy should be considered as a primary fuel source, as he provides a balanced argument. 9</p> <p>The fact that he also explains the nature, in which his opinion has changed overtime, makes us believe that he is not biased towards any particular perspective; rather, he is a neutral source which highlights the potential advantages of nuclear energy. He uses evidence in the form of his own experience, "Thirty years on, my views have changed, and the rest of the environmental movement needs to update its views, too, because nuclear energy may just be the energy source that can save our planet from another possible disaster: catastrophic climate change." One may consider Moore as a reliable source to provide such a statement and on the other hand it might be criticized as an untested claim. Either way it is elaborated with sufficient evidence later on.</p> <p>Nonetheless, there are multiple occasions where he has used unjustified statements. At times the argument lacks logic and makes conclusions using slippery slope arguments. For example, In such cases, consequences of actions made are often assumed with drastic leaps in logic and are not practical in nature. This is a weakness as it takes away from the credibility of his arguments. The strengths in these statements lie in the fact they are clearly backed with proven evidence.</p> <p>After evaluating the arguments put forward by either side, I believe that the perspective 'Nuclear energy should be a primary alternative to oil' is the most convincing for many reasons. The first being that the sources which support this perspective have clearly rebutted arguments brought up by the opposing perspective. That being said, I believe that this perspective is further fortified by using precise statistics and such factual basis which allows us to believe that the information provided is reliable. 10</p> <p>Thus, after reflecting on the proposed question, one can understand the logical rationale behind the two perspectives addressed. Initially, my view on nuclear energy was neutral because of its equilibrium of flaws and advantages. Yet, after the completion of this essay based on thorough analysis of a wide range of sources, I can rationalise with the idea of a nuclear energy fuelled future. 11 It must be recognised that my research into this issue and a range of relevant sources, perspectives and their conclusions has definitely changed my personal stance on the question of a nuclear fuelled future. However, it must be clarified that the research made for this essay is limited and cannot confirm whether I fully oppose or support the future of fissile energy. In order to strengthen my stance on this issue, I need to carry out further research into the science behind nuclear energy. Since the 12</p> <p>¹⁵IEC 2013 Securing Tomorrow's Energy Today: Policy & Regulations Long Term Energy Security. 1st ed. Deloitte., 2013. Web. 29 Jan. 2016.</p> <p>¹⁶Flores, Sarai. "Minamisoma Mayor Sees Future For Fukushima 'Nonnuclear' City In Energy Independence The Japan Times". The Japan Times. N.p., 2016. Web. 13 Mar. 2016.</p> <p>¹⁷"Gauging India's Nuclear Power Potential Realclearenergy". Realclearenergy.org. N.p., 2016. Web. 31 Jan. 2016.</p> <p>¹⁸Moore, Patrick. "Going Nuclear". Washingtonpost.com. N.p., 2016. Web. 17 Nov. 2015.</p> <p>¹⁹"World Energy Needs And Nuclear Power Energy Needs Nuclear Energy Meeting Energy Needs - World Nuclear Association". World-nuclear.org. N.p., 2015. Web. 31 Jan. 2016.</p> | <p>9 These paragraphs contain several brief references providing contrasting global sources. For example: Greenpeace International, World Nuclear, Organisation and Japan Times: source selection.</p> <p>10 The second source is treated to a similar high quality of analysis and evaluation as the first source (analysis of sources) whilst detailed evidence is extracted: source selection.</p> <p>11 The candidate gives personal standpoint: conclusion and reflection.</p> <p>12 Analysis and evaluation of the perspectives is rather brief. Nevertheless, the rigour of the analysis and evaluation of the two sources constituting the perspectives, clearly demonstrates a very good understanding of these perspectives: globally contrasting perspectives and analysis of perspectives. Presentation and treatment of the evidence is balanced. It is evident that it is partially to one side and indicating some empathy: empathy of perspectives.</p> |

| Example candidate response – high, continued | Examiner comments |
|--|---|
| <p>topic itself is scientific in nature and could be researched in a more practical manner, it would also be ideal to analyse the sustainability- both economic and environmental of fissile materials. Perhaps, a more demanding task in the further research of nuclear energy is that of its societal impacts. This is mainly because a majority of the world's population is aware of the limited downsides of nuclear technology rather than its flexibility as a fuel. On that note, I believe nuclear energy does have some role in the future as a viable, albeit primary, alternative to oil.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13 14</p> <hr/> <p>Word count: 1850</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Bibliography</p> <p>Books Kaku, Michio, and Jennifer Trainer Thompson. Nuclear Power. New York: Norton, 1983. Print. Zwaan, B. van der. Nuclear Energy. Singapore: World Scientific, 1999. Print.</p> <p>Academic documents The Future of Nuclear Power: An Interdisciplinary MIT Study. Boston MA: MIT, 2003. Web.mit.edu. MIT. PDF.</p> <p>Websites "Nuclear Power Is Complicated, Dangerous, And Definitely Not The Answer". Grist.org. Web. "Going Nuclear". Washingtonpost.com. Web. "Nuclear Townhall". Nuclear townhall.com. Web. "World Nuclear Association - World Nuclear Association". World-nuclear.org. Web.</p> <p>Journal articles (online) Hawley, R. "The Future Of Nuclear Power". Nuclear Future 1.6 (2005): 235-240. Web. Grandin, Karl, Peter Jagers, and Sven Kullander. "Nuclear Energy". AMBIO 39.S1 (2010): 26-30. Web.</p> | <p>13 The conclusion is supported and reflective but lacking a little in balance and refers to the impact on the personal standpoint. Crucially, the candidate recognises the limitations of the research and provides thoughtful and reasoned suggestions for further research: conclusion and reflection.</p> <p>14 The essay benefits from excellent communication skills which combined with an equally excellent structure, is both pleasurable to read and effortless to understand and follow: communication skills.</p> <p>Total mark awarded = 30 out of 35</p> |

How the candidate could have improved the answer

The essay addressed all criteria fully within a word limit of 2000. The candidate achieved level 5 for the rigour of the analysis and evaluation of sources. This work accounted for a large proportion of the total word length and mitigated against a fuller presentation of evidence within the sources. To achieve full marks candidate should have supported the judgements.

| Example candidate response – middle | Examiner comments |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Is Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research Ethical? 1</p> <p>According to the International Society for Stem Cell Research, a stem cell can be defined as “Cells that have both the capacity to self-renew (make more stem cells by cell division) as well as to differentiate into mature, specialized cells (Wonders).” There are currently four types of stem cells; human embryonic stem cells or HESCs, adult stem cells, umbilical cord stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells. Stem cells have the ability to transform the medical field around the globe by alleviating the negative side effects of diseases and injuries and even curing some diseases. To able to achieve this, there is a need for more research of stem cells, however, the stem cell controversy has caused a halt in this research. The article, “Stem Cell Controversy,” by Dr. Ananya Mandal, states that “the largest controversy with stem cell research is the use of an embryo. This deals with the controversies surrounding laws and beliefs regarding contraception, abortion, and in vitro fertilization” (Mandal). A human embryonic stem cell come the inner cell mass of a blastocyst from a surplus embryo (Wonders). Surplus embryos are embryos that will not be used in in vitro fertilization and have been donated to clinics by the parents who are receiving fertility treatment. As stated by Mandal, there are three parts of the controversy regarding HESC research. The first part of the controversy regarding HESC research is if the embryo has legal and moral rights. The second part of the controversy is if HESC research prevents the embryo from developing, even though it would have been discarded or destroyed by the clinic, if not donated to other couples. The final part of the controversy is</p> | <p>1 The essay title establishes a question which is open to globally contrasting sources.</p> |

| Example candidate response – middle, continued | Examiner comments |
|---|--|
| <p>deciding when human life begins (Mandal). With this being said are human embryonic stem cell research considered ethical? 2</p> <p>In Michael J. Sandel’s article, “Embryo Ethics – The Moral Logic of Stem-Cell Research”, he criticizes two oppositions of HESC research. Sandel is the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Government at Harvard University, where he has taught political philosophy since 1980. The first opposition claims that stem cell research is unethical because it destroys human embryos. Sandel uses an analogy to disprove this argument: “although every oak tree was once an acorn, it does not follow that acorns are oak trees (Sandel).” The analogy can be used to explain how even though a human was once an embryo, it does not mean that embryos should be considered a human or have the same respect as them. Sandel then goes on to say that if people believe embryos used for in vitro fertilization, which are created in a laboratory, have the same moral status as a human then in vitro fertilization would be immoral since the clinics destroy or discard unused embryos. He also states that if this was really a moral issue the government would ban infertility clinics and HESC research, instead of just stopping federal funding to HESC research. He also points out that since people don’t look at the loss of a normal pregnancy as a moral or religious equivalent to death, we should not look at HESC research nor in vitro fertilization as a destruction of humans. The second opposition is that some people believe that HESC is ethical but that it can lead to bad things such as embryo farms and cloned babies. Sandel agrees with this statement but enacting regulations can make sure that stem cell research can be used for good (Sandel). 3</p> <p>The author’s arguments presented in the article shows a lot of strength. The article was published in the New England Medical Journal, which is a nationally acclaimed medical journal. Also, the author refutes any counterarguments against HESC research. Sandel uses analogies and</p> | <p>2 Key terms are introduced and defined and central controversies, establishing the debate, are introduced.</p> <p>3 First source is in favour from US academics. The candidate gives detailed presentation of views. However the citation is incomplete: communication skills and source selection.</p> |

| Example candidate response – middle, continued | Examiner comments |
|--|---|
| <p>examples to support his argument. However, the arguments could be flawed because it is not backed by any scientific evidence, it is just his opinion.</p> <p>In Carolyn Susman’s article, “Stem Cell Use Remains Tough Topic,” she reports on the debate on stem cells that took place at World Stem Cell Summit at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in 2012. Dr. William Hurlbut, who works at Stanford University and served for years on the President's Council on Bioethics, continues to oppose using embryos for research. According to Susman, “Not only does he consider this research to be destroying a life that has a soul - "human life begins with fertilization and ends with death," he says - but he also is concerned about whether embryos will be created solely for research” (Susman). Hurlbut also believes that there are alternatives to using HESCs that will not destroy human life and says that “We have to find creative ways to get around this (moral debate)” (Susman). 4</p> <p>In Dame Anne McLaren’s article, “A Scientist’s View of the Ethics of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research”, she addresses the personal, research and social ethics of HESC research. McLaren was a developmental biologist who studied at Oxford University. Personal ethics states that people should not be irresponsible or take shortcuts when conducting clinical trials because it could be harmful not only to the patients but also the scientific research itself. Scientists should follow Good Manufacturing Practice and give informed consent to patients, so they understand all the information that goes with the research. Research ethics considers the view of whether or not an embryo is equal to that of a human. McLaren believes people who believe HESC research is equivalent to murder because it destroys an embryo in the process is an extreme way of thinking. She also discusses how reproducing embryos specifically for research is acceptable but needs to be strictly regulated. Social ethics considers how the research will affect society in the long run. McLaren gives the example of how many governments are</p> | <p>4 Credibility is established and the candidate shows good understanding of material. There is some evaluation but this is very limited: source selection and analysis of sources.</p> |

| Example candidate response – middle, continued | Examiner comments |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: right;">Algigi 5</p> <p>discriminating and exploiting women. In many countries it is legal for women to donate their eggs to other couples but illegal to donate their embryos to research. This section also mentions how just because a person is a scientist, it does not mean that they are an ethicist. Scientists have opinions just like any other moral person, but they have scientific knowledge to back it up. McLaren believes that scientists need to educate the public better on what their research is and how it will affect society. Scientist need to do this so people have a better understanding of what their research is (McLaren). 5</p> <p>Though the author is a very credible person, the argument seems to be more of an opinion rather than an actual argument. She does an excellent job of using examples to refute the counterarguments and enhance her claims. 6</p> <p>Lori P. Knowles, a bioethicist who works at the University Of Alberta School Of Public Health, wrote the article, “Religion and Stem Cells”, to examine different religions’ views on HESCs research. The Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic Church believe HESC research is immoral and illegal because they believe life begins at conception and that an embryo has the same moral rights as a human. They also believe even though the embryos are discarded or destroyed when not used for in vitro fertilization or research and that the embryos used for research are used to relieve suffering, HESC research is still unethical. The United Church of Christ, a Protestant Church, has no official position on the moral status of embryos. They are open to human embryonic stem cell research but caution the motives of the research. Another Protestant Church is the Anglican Church; they are divided on the moral status of embryos. Some are in favor of HESC research while others believe it is immoral. In the Jewish culture, they do not believe that embryos have the same moral status as people; according to their beliefs a fetus does not become a person until it comes out of the womb. Jews are also in favor of using</p> | <p>5 Third source is in favour from UK academics. Presentation of arguments is clear and credibility has been established: source selection and analysis of sources.</p> <p>6 The evaluation is brief and limited in range: analysis of sources.</p> |

| Example candidate response – middle, continued | Examiner comments |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: right;">Algigi 6</p> <p>embryos for research because the research will reduce the suffering of a person. Muslims believe that human life begins at ensoulment which takes place at 120 days after conception. So the use of embryos for research is uncontroversial in Islamic countries. In Hinduism and Buddhism there is no official position on stem cell research or the moral status of embryos. The use of HESC for research is divided among different religions and even divides among particular religions.</p> <p>Knowles concludes that different countries and religions have different believes when it comes to when human life starts, protecting human life and preventing the suffering of people. Because of the different religions and moral beliefs that occur throughout the world on human embryonic stem cell research, it is difficult to find a solution that will align with everyone (Knowles).</p> <p>Without a solid consensus there is no way to truly make the statement of whether or not HESC research is ethical. 7</p> <p>The key components of the article show that it is an explanation on the belief of different types of religion around the world in regards to stem cell research. It concludes that the difficulty we have in society on coming to a common ground with stem cell research mainly human embryonic stem cells. She supports the evidence with knowledge of specific religions and their current views. There is a valid conclusion that there is no consensus of using stem cell research. It shows how religious beliefs will guide a person's views and makes it more difficult for countries to be able to agree on whether or not stem cell research is moral and just. The article failed to give any examples of how these differences could be used to come clarify and create rules for stem cell research. 8</p> <p>Personally, I believe that HESC research is ethical. HESC research does not destroy potential life because the embryos that are used for research were going to be destroyed or discarded anyways. So instead of just throwing them away, scientist should be able to use them</p> | <p>7 Fourth source presents US academics' interpretation of a range of religious views both in favour and against. The inclusion of these views which, by their nature, are world views, confirms the global character and treatment of the issues: source selection and analysis of sources. However, there is a lack of balance as considerably more weight is given to the perspective in favour. Nevertheless, the opposing view is not side lined and given some space, indicating some empathy for the alternative perspective: empathy of perspectives and globally contrasting perspectives.</p> <p>8 The candidate gives his/her own summary of this evidence but there is little evaluation.</p> |

| Example candidate response – middle, continued | Examiner comments |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: right;">Algigi 7</p> <p>to cure and treat diseases and injuries. I also believe that an embryo isn't a human or doesn't have the same moral rights as humans do until about five weeks after conception because that is when the baby's major structures and systems are formed (Storck). All of the arguments I presented in this paper have affected my view on HESC research because they have shown me different opinions regarding HESC research. There are so many more views on the ethics of stem cell research; more resources should be explored to go further in depth. There needs to be a universally accepted view of HESC research so that there isn't any more controversy about the issue. If human embryonic stem cell research is considered ethical by the world of science and even the world itself, this research could impact the use of medicine and revolutionize the treatment and cures of diseases. 10</p> | <p>9 The candidate understands the evidence and utilises one perspective to form the conclusion. However there is little evaluation in the summary.</p> <p>10 The conclusion is not supported by the argument and there is no direct reference to the personal standpoint. However, there is an element of reflection in the final assertions and an attempt to identify the need for further research: conclusion and reflection.</p> <p>Total mark awarded = 20 out of 35</p> |

| Example candidate response – middle, continued | Examiner comments |
|---|-------------------|
| <p style="text-align: right;">Algigi 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Works Cited</p> <p>Knowles, Lori P. "Stem Cell Research." Religion Past and Present. Stem Cell Network. Student Outlook.com. Web. 10 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>Mandal, Ananya, Dr. "Stem Cell Controversy." News-Medical.net. AZO Network, 10 Jan. 2010. Web. 14 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>McLaren, Anne. "A Scientist's View of the Ethics of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research." Cell Stem Cell. Cell Press, 3 May 2007. Web. 01 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>Sandel, Michael J., D.Phil. "Embryo Ethics - The Moral Logic of Stem-Cell Research — NEJM." New England Journal of Medicine. Massachusetts Medical Society, 15 July 2004. Web. 14 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>Susman, Carolyn. "Stem Cell Use Remains Tough Topic." Palm Beach Daily News. 11 Dec. 2012: p. A.6. SIRS Issues Researcher. Web. 18 Nov. 2015.</p> <p>Storck, Susan. "Fetal Development: MedlinePlus Medical Encyclopedia." U.S National Library of Medicine. U.S. National Library of Medicine, 30 Sept. 2013. Web. 14 Oct. 2015.</p> <p>Wonders, Carl. "Glossary of Stem Cell-Related Terms." Stem Cell Glossary. International Society for Stem Cell Research. Web. 15 Oct. 2015.</p> | |

How the candidate could have improved the answer

The essay was written in straightforward fashion with little linkage or synthesis, leaving it short of Level 4. Equally, the precise sources of evidence should have been transmitted through the citations.

Sources were contrasting but were not global.

| Example candidate response – low | Examiner comments |
|---|--|
| <p>1794 words Question: How do child marriages violate human rights? 1</p> <p>Child marriages happen every day all over the world. These marriages violate human rights because they are taking advantage of young girls. The rate at which child marriages occur increase every day. If the issues of these marriages do not cease soon, this issue could be an even bigger issue than one may think. 2</p> <p>In many different countries around the world child marriages are illegal. Niger, Chad, Central Africa Republic, and Bangladesh are the top four countries with the highest child marriage rates, India coming in at thirteenth. BBC news gave the statistic that in India forty-seven percent of girls under eighteen are married before they reach eighteen and that forty percent of child marriages occur in India. Child marriages are illegal in India, with charges up to two years in prison and a fine of 1,500 dollars.</p> <p>The world's highest rates of child marriages occur in Niger. The way of life in Niger is challenging. The people have to acclimate against hunger and poverty, like many other countries. Niger is in the lowest ranks of human development and has the world's highest birth rate, according to the United Nations index. Child marriages occur in Niger for economic reason. BBC quotes that it is "One less mouth to feed" for families. Many families receive a "bride price" in return for marriage to their daughter. BBC was told that many men offer different prices according to a girl's beauty. The need for influential people to help stop child marriages in</p> | <p>1 The title makes an assertion which appears to rule out the possibility that the question will be open to contrasting perspectives.</p> <p>2 The question has been answered with a single explanation.</p> |

| Example candidate response – low, continued | Examiner comments |
|---|---|
| <p>Niger is extreme. Getting change for countries like Niger is difficult and costly. One mother said that “there is no room for women to dream dreams.” 3</p> <p>When a child marries young, they are innocent. They do not know how to be a wife, mother and take care of a house while still being a child themselves. The husbands take advantage of their innocents. These girls also may believe that it is justified for a man to beat his wife because it may be the only type of relationship they have been exposed to. The International Center for Research on Women stated that girls that are married before eighteen were twice as likely to report being beaten, slapped or threatened by their husbands, than girls who married later. There are also physical, social, and psychological consequences of marrying young. The abuse and consequences go hand in hand. Many girls are forced into sexual relations with much older men. These girls’ bodies may not be ready for sexual intercourse, but many countries and religions wait until a girl hits menstruation before marrying them off. The body of these girls are not ready for pregnancy and childbirth. The International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) said that girls age ten to fourteen are five times more likely to die during childbirth and pregnancy, than women age twenty to twenty-four that are two times as more likely. The physical complications of childbirth and sexual relations are evident, such as risk of HIV or AIDS from the husband and obstructed labor. But the psychological impacts are also varied. “Many girls will feel they are not worthy of their husband because of the verbal abuse the husband throws at them,” the International Center for Research on Women stated. This creates a feeling of unworthiness on the girls. These girls are more likely to experience domestic violence and are also less likely to report this abuse and will not take action. Domestic violence seriously endangers the physical and mental health of women and girls. Their lives are at risk. 4</p> | <p>3 The candidate explains the facts, however the citation is incomplete.</p> <p>4 The candidate presents physical and psychological consequences. The citation of evidence is incomplete.</p> |

| Example candidate response – low, continued | Examiner comments |
|--|---|
| <p>While girls are forced into marriage, they are also forced into leaving school. Many schools expel the girl because they are in a compromising situation; pregnancy. From a personal point of view, a young girl that has been recently married and is pregnant should be encouraged to stay in school and further their education to have a better life for herself and her future child. But schools are expelling them and they are forced into a life of staying at home and baring children. While school administrators should be encouraging girls to stay in school instead of getting married. Many girls do not go to school because it's too far and too expensive. These girls especially may not go to school if they are not married, because they have started menstruation. Schools in many third world countries have inadequate water and sanitation. These girls may not want to go to a schools with these issues. Educating girls creates many positive outcomes for economic development and can reduce poverty. 5</p> <p>Religion is also a main cause of child marriages. Many religions do not have set laws regarding child marriages and others promote it or have laws regarding ages. Islam is one of the main causes behind child marriages. The top countries with high child marriage rates also practice the Islamic faith. The Jewish religion set a minimum age for marriage for boys as thirteen and girls twelve. But have recently changed their laws to eighteen. Many conservative Christians push their children to marry early to prevent them from engaging in sexual corruption. This is also the case in many third world countries. Parents marry off their children to prevent them for getting pregnant and then becoming impure. The Catholic religion is also a very wide spread religion and has certain laws pertaining to marriage. The Catholic Canon Law permits marriage at sixteen for boys and fourteen for girls. Other religions have laws or beliefs that a child can marry upon reaching maturity, which they would consider being puberty. In Africa the Apostolic faith combines religion and traditional culture. A midwife of the Apostolic faith told</p> | <p>5 Educational consequences are presented without identification of sources. The candidate makes his/her own assertions.</p> |

| Example candidate response – low, continued | Examiner comments |
|---|-------------------|
| <p>the Human Rights Watch that her church is a “doctrine... girls must marry when they are between 12 and 16 years old to make sure they do not sin by having sexual relations outside marriage. As soon as a girl reaches puberty any man in the church can claim her for a wife.” The midwife also explains that within the apostolic faith and their religious sects they do virginity testing and practice polygamy. The Apostolic faith has elders, family members, and husbands that enforce the girls to quit school.</p> <p>In many of the countries that children marry early, poverty is a number one factor. The driving force of many parents or care givers to force marriage on girls is poverty. They will trade items from cows, food, and of course money. The parents or caregiver see marrying off a girl as an economic strategy. They will have one less child to feed and one less child to educate. These reasons to marry off a child are valid, but there are ways around having to marry your child off. The girls could work in sewing shops, make items to sell, or do chores for higher class people. They young girls can use that money that they are receiving for their own work, to pay for their schooling and further their education. On the other hand many young girls see it as a way out of poverty by getting married young. These families believe that giving their daughter away in marriage will give them a better life and offer them more privileges. “If you want your siblings to be taken care of, you will marry this man,” one child told the Human Rights Watch that her parents threatened to hurt her sibling and not to not take care of them.</p> <p>Many third world countries where child marriages are most prominent, have set laws and regulations. But most of these countries do not have people enforcing these laws. The laws and regulations are corrupt in these areas and have no real order. In many of these countries religion is the driving force behind many people’s beliefs and they just disregard the laws. The reason behind having no one to really advocate for these girls is because the police in these areas of the</p> | |

| Example candidate response – low, continued | Examiner comments |
|---|---|
| <p>world do not have adequate training to deal with child marriages cases. They may also not see it as their jobs to go against a parents wishes.</p> <p>The judicial system in these countries are corrupt. Many parents do not register their child in the government, in the form of birth certificates. The Humans Rights Watch pointed out that Tanzania has around sixteen percent of children under five had been registered in their government and about half of them have received their birth certificates. The people that wish to get birth certificates often do not. Mostly because the judge or person in charge of creating these birth certificates are paid off to not make them by someone in the persons family. The person that wants the birth certificate also does not have enough money to pay the judge to make the certificate. This causes delays in the system and a longer period of time to get the certificate. This may also cause people to give up and forget about the certificate because it is taking so long. A child bride in Tanzania, Janet G. told the Humans Rights Watch, “I want to report my husband’s abuse to the police but I do not have money to pay them to help me.” 6</p> <p>Child marriages violate human rights and must be viewed within a context of force and with children that lack the choice to give full consent. Therefore child marriages must always be considered a forced marriage. Child marriages are a human rights violation and are prohibited in many international conventions. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “men and women of full age are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and its dissolution. Marriage shall be entered into only with free and full consent of intending parties. The Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages also states something along the same lines of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “full and free consent on both parties...minimum age for marriage no less than fifteen...shall be registered by the competent authority.” 7</p> | <p>6 The preceding four paragraphs all follow the same pattern in that they identify further contributing factors. On the whole, sources are not cited, although each paragraph concludes with a quote accompanied by an incomplete citation. The candidate has presented much evidence indicating the ways in which human rights are violated. Unfortunately, there is a complete absence of contrasting evidence, either in the way that human rights are not violated or the ways in which developing nations have acted to prevent the practice of child marriages.</p> <p>7 Finally the candidate seeks to confirm that human rights are being violated by using the wording of international conventions.</p> |

| Example candidate response – low, continued | Examiner comments |
|---|--|
| <p>Child marriages need to be taken seriously. These girls need our help and have no one to turn to. The governments in their countries are corrupt and they need people to advocate for their girls. These young women should be able to finish school, find suitable jobs, and make a life worth living. Child marriages should not be taken lightly. We should be creating homes for girls that have been abused to come to for help and a safe place for them to be out of harms way. The laws that have been in place for child marriages should be followed and encouraged. Please advocate for these girls, they need your help. Even a small ounce of creating awareness to people could help these girls. 8</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>https://www.icrw.org/files/images/Child-Marriage-Fact-Sheet-Domestic-Violence.pdf</p> <p>http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-15082550</p> <p>http://iheu.org/child-marriage-violation-human-rights/</p> <p>https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/12/09/ending-child-marriage-africa</p> <p>http://thehumanist.com/voices/rules_are_for_schmucks/rules-are-for-schmucks-religion-and-child-marriage</p> <p>http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-27619295</p> | <p>8 The final paragraph resembles a plea for action rather than a conventional conclusion seeking to resolve an argument. The candidate has failed to grasp what is required of a global perspectives essay.</p> <p>Total mark awarded = 10 out of 35</p> |

How the candidate could have improved the answer

Communication was clear and some structure emerged from the use of paragraphs but citations, when present, were incomplete: communication skills. Sources of evidence had some differences but there were no real contrast (source selection) and the lack of contrast limits the evidence. The judgments did not arise from argument: analysis of sources. Several contributing factors for child marriages are presented and, taken together, they amount to a perspective.

However, the absence of an alternative resulted in the absence of any empathy, contrast and analysis (empathy of perspectives, globally contrasting perspectives and analysing of perspectives). The conclusion was not supported by argument and there was no suggestion for further research: conclusion and reflection.

Cambridge International Examinations
1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, United Kingdom
t: +44 1223 553554 f: +44 1223 553558
e: info@cie.org.uk www.cie.org.uk

© Cambridge International Examinations 2017
Version 1.0

