



## **General Certificate of Education**

# **Government and Politics 5151/6151**

**GOV6      The Politics of Northern Ireland,  
Scotland and Wales**

## **Mark Scheme**

*2007 examination – June series*

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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## CRITERIA FOR MARKING AS/A2 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

### Introduction

AQA's revised Government and Politics specification has been designed to be objectives-led in that questions are set which address the assessment objectives published in the specification. The assessment objectives for A Level and AS are the same, but the weightings are different at AS and A2. Details of the weightings are given in paragraphs 7.2 and 8.4 of the specification.

The schemes of marking reflect these objectives. The mark scheme which follows is of the *levels of response* type showing that candidates are expected to demonstrate their mastery of the skills required in the context of their knowledge and understanding of Government and Politics. Mark schemes provide the necessary framework for examiners but they cannot cover all eventualities. Candidates should be given credit for partially complete answers. Where appropriate, candidates should be given credit for referring to recent and contemporary developments in Government and Politics.

Consistency of marking is of the essence in all public examinations. It is therefore of vital importance that assistant examiners apply the marking scheme as directed by the Principal Examiner in order to facilitate comparability with the marking of other options.

Before scrutinising and applying the detail of the specific mark scheme which follows, assistant examiners are required to familiarise themselves with the general principles of the mark scheme as contained in the Assessment Matrix.

### Using a levels of response mark scheme

Good examining is about the **consistent** application of judgement. Mark schemes provide a framework within which examiners exercise their judgement. This is especially so in subjects like Government and Politics which in part rely upon analysis, evaluation, argument and explanation. With this in mind, examiners should use the Assessment Matrix alongside the detailed mark scheme for each question. The Assessment Matrix provides a framework ensuring a consistent, generic source from which the detailed mark schemes are derived. This supporting framework ensures a consistent approach within which candidates' responses are marked according to the level of demand and context of each question.

Examiners should initially make a decision about which Level any given response should be placed in. Having determined the appropriate Level the examiners must then choose the precise mark to be given within that Level. In making a decision about a specific mark to award, it is vitally important to think first of the mid-range within the Level, where that Level covers more than two marks. Comparison with other candidates' responses to the same question might then suggest whether the middle mark is unduly generous or severe.

In making decisions away from the middle of the Level, examiners should ask themselves questions relating to candidate attainment, including the quality of language. The more positive the answers, the higher should be the mark awarded. We want to avoid "bunching" of marks. Levels mark schemes can produce regression to the mean, which should be avoided. A candidate's script should be considered by asking "Is it:

- precise in its use of factual information?
- appropriately detailed?
- factually accurate?
- appropriately balanced or markedly better in some areas than others?
- generally coherent in expression and cogent in development (as appropriate to the level awarded)?
- well presented as to general quality of language?"

The overall aim is to mark positively, giving credit for what candidates know, understand and can do.

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**A2 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, EXCLUDING SYNOPTIC UNIT  
(GOV4, GOV5, GOV6, GOV7)**

**GENERIC MARK SCHEME for Question 1 part (a) (Total: 8 marks)**

	<b>Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select &amp; Deploy</b>	<b>Skills: Analysis &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>Communication</b>
	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>AO3</b>
	<p><b>Levels 3–4 (2 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates a good to excellent knowledge and understanding of political data, concept(s) or term(s). Where appropriate, the candidate produces accurate and/or relevant examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Levels 3–4 (3–4 marks)</b> The candidate applies a good to excellent range of developed concepts and uses appropriate political theory to construct a clear and cogent explanation or argument.</p>	<p><b>Levels 3–4 (2 marks)</b> The candidate communicates clearly and effectively using appropriate political vocabulary. The answer has a clear sense of direction, is focused on the question and, where appropriate, has a conclusion which flows from the discussion.</p>
	<p><b>Levels 1–2 (1 mark)</b> The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of political data, concept(s) or term(s). The candidate produces few or inaccurate examples and/or limited evidence to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Levels 1–2 (1–2 marks)</b> The candidate applies a limited range of concepts and makes little or limited use of political theory or ideas in developing an explanation or argument.</p>	<p><b>Levels 1–2 (1 mark)</b> The candidate communicates explanations or arguments with limited clarity and effectiveness using limited political vocabulary. The answer may lack either a clear focus on the question or a sense of direction. A conclusion, where appropriate, may be offered but its relationship to the preceding discussion is modest or implicit.</p>

**A2 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, EXCLUDING SYNOPTIC UNIT  
(GOV4, GOV5, GOV6, GOV7)**

**GENERIC MARK SCHEME for Question 1 part (b) (Total: 12 marks)**

	<b>Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select &amp; Deploy</b>	<b>Skills: Analysis &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>Communication</b>
	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>AO3</b>
	<p><b>Level 4 (5–6 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of political concepts, institutions and processes. The candidate fully addresses the requirements of the question and provides developed and effective to comprehensive interpretation. The answer also provides clear to accurate evidence and, where appropriate, good to excellent examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Levels 3 – 4 (3–4 marks)</b> The candidate applies a good to excellent range of developed concepts and uses appropriate political theory to construct a clear and cogent explanation or argument.</p>	<p><b>Levels 3–4 (2 marks)</b> The candidate communicates clearly and effectively using appropriate political vocabulary. The answer has a clear sense of direction, is focused on the question and, where appropriate, has a conclusion which flows from the discussion.</p>
	<p><b>Level 3 (3–4 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of political concepts, institutions and processes. The candidate clearly addresses the requirements of the question and provides sound interpretation and contextual awareness. The answer includes good examples to illustrate points made.</p>		
	<p><b>Levels 1–2 (1–2 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates slight to basic knowledge and understanding of political concepts, institutions and processes. The candidate makes a very limited attempt to address the requirements of the question and provides little to partial and reasonably effective interpretation. Answers offer limited or little evidence and few or inaccurate examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Levels 1–2 (1–2 marks)</b> The candidate applies a limited range of concepts and makes little or limited use of political theory or ideas in developing an explanation or argument.</p>	<p><b>Levels 1–2 (1 mark)</b> The candidate communicates explanations or arguments with limited clarity and effectiveness using limited political vocabulary. The answer may lack either a clear focus on the question or a sense of direction. A conclusion, where appropriate, may be offered but its relationship to the preceding discussion is modest or implicit.</p>

**A2 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, EXCLUDING SYNOPTIC UNIT  
(GOV4, GOV5, GOV6, GOV7)**

**GENERIC MARK SCHEME for Question 1 part (c) (Total: 20 marks)**

	<b>Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select &amp; Deploy</b>	<b>Skills: Analysis &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>Communication</b>
	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>AO3</b>
	<p><b>Level 4 (7–8 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and the relationships between them. The answer fully addresses the requirements of the question and demonstrates excellent contextual awareness.</p> <p>The answer includes excellent examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Level 4 (7–8 marks)</b> The candidate displays excellent awareness of the implications and demands of the question. There is an excellent focus on the specific question asked. There is a clear evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour which displays a sophisticated awareness of viewpoints and issues.</p> <p>Appropriate parallels and connections are clearly identified together with comparisons. A wide range of concepts is used.</p>	<p><b>Level 4 (4 marks)</b> The candidate communicates arguments, explanations and conclusions with clarity. Excellent use is made of political vocabulary to construct cogent and coherent arguments. The answer has a clear sense of direction, culminating in a conclusion that flows from the preceding discussion.</p>
	<p><b>Level 3 (5–6 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and the relationships between them. The answer clearly addresses the requirements of the question and demonstrates sound contextual awareness.</p> <p>The answer includes good examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Level 3 (5–6 marks)</b> The candidate displays sound awareness of the implications and demands of the question. There is a clear focus on the question. There is a sound evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour which displays good awareness of viewpoints and issues. There is good recognition of parallels and comparisons. Appropriate concepts are used.</p>	<p><b>Level 3 (3 marks)</b> The candidate communicates arguments, explanations and conclusions well. Good use is made of political vocabulary to construct clear arguments and explanations.</p> <p>The candidate produces an answer with a conclusion linked to the preceding discussion.</p>

**GENERIC MARK SCHEME for Question 1 part (c) (continued)**

	<b>Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select &amp; Deploy</b>	<b>Skills: Analysis &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>Communication</b>
	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>AO3</b>
	<p><b>Level 2 (3–4 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and some awareness of the relationships between them. The answer makes a limited attempt to address the question and demonstrates contextual awareness covering part of the question.</p> <p>The answer includes simple examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Level 2 (3–4 marks)</b> The candidate displays limited awareness of the implications and demands of the question resulting in a restricted focus. There is a limited evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour which displays partial awareness of viewpoints and issues.</p> <p>There is some recognition of basic parallels and comparisons with a limited use of concepts.</p>	<p><b>Level 2 (2 marks)</b> The candidate communicates arguments and conclusions adequately with a limited use of political vocabulary.</p> <p>A conclusion is offered but its relationship to the preceding discussion may be modest or implicit.</p>
	<p><b>Level 1 (1–2 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates a slight and incomplete knowledge and understanding of political institutions and processes and a limited awareness of the relationships between them. There is little attempt to address the requirements of the question.</p> <p>The answer includes few, if any, examples which may be inaccurately reported or inappropriately used.</p>	<p><b>Level 1 (1–2 marks)</b> The candidate displays little awareness of the implications and demands of the question and focus is lacking. Evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour is superficial, with little awareness of viewpoints and issues.</p> <p>There is little, if any, recognition of parallels and comparisons. The use of concepts is superficial and naïve.</p>	<p><b>Level 1 (1 mark)</b> The answer relies upon narrative, which is not fully coherent. There is little or no use of political vocabulary.</p> <p>A conclusion, if present, is not adequately related to the preceding discussion.</p>

**A2 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, EXCLUDING SYNOPTIC UNIT  
(GOV4, GOV5, GOV6, GOV7)**

**GENERIC MARK SCHEME for Questions 2, 3 and 4 (Maximum 40 marks)**

	<b>Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select &amp; Deploy</b>	<b>Skills: Analysis &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>Communication</b>
	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>AO3</b>
	<p><b>Level 4 (13–16 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and the relationships between them. The answer fully addresses the requirements of the question and demonstrates excellent contextual awareness.</p> <p>The answer includes excellent examples to illustrate points made. The answer includes detailed and comprehensive interpretations or explanations as well as accurate evidence and relevant examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Level 4 (13–16 marks)</b> The candidate displays excellent awareness of the implications and demands of the question. There is an excellent and sustained focus on the specific question asked. There is clear and full evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour which displays a sophisticated awareness of differing viewpoints and recognition of issues.</p> <p>Appropriate parallels and connections are clearly identified together with well-developed comparisons. A wide range of concepts is used and developed.</p>	<p><b>Level 4 (7–8 marks)</b> The candidate communicates arguments, explanations and conclusions with clarity. Excellent use is made of political vocabulary to construct cogent and coherent arguments and explanations. The answer has a clear sense of direction, culminating in a conclusion that flows from the preceding discussion.</p>
	<p><b>Level 3 (9–12 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and the relationships between them. The answer clearly addresses the requirements of the question and demonstrates sound contextual awareness.</p> <p>The answer includes developed and effective interpretations or explanations and also clear evidence and good examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Level 3 (9–12 marks)</b> The candidate displays sound awareness of the implications and demands of the question. There is a clear focus on the question. There is a sound evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour which displays good awareness of differing viewpoints and recognition of issues. There is good recognition of parallels and comparisons. Appropriate concepts are used and developed.</p>	<p><b>Level 3 (5–6 marks)</b> The candidate communicates arguments, explanations and conclusions well. Good use is made of political vocabulary to construct clear arguments and explanations.</p> <p>The candidate produces an answer with a conclusion linked to the preceding discussion.</p>



**GENERIC MARK SCHEME for Questions 2, 3 and 4 (continued)**

	<b>Knowledge and Understanding: Recall, Select &amp; Deploy</b>	<b>Skills: Analysis &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>Communication</b>
	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>AO3</b>
	<p><b>Level 2 (5–8 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of political concepts/theories/institutions and processes and some awareness of the relationships between them. The answer makes a limited attempt to address the question and demonstrates contextual awareness covering part of the question.</p> <p>The answer includes a partial and reasonably effective attempt at interpretation or explanation with some examples to illustrate points made.</p>	<p><b>Level 2 (5–8 marks)</b> The candidate displays little awareness of the implications and demands of the question resulting in a restricted focus. There is a limited evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour which displays a partial awareness of differing viewpoints and issues.</p> <p>There is some recognition of basic parallels and comparisons. Arguments and explanations are undeveloped with a limited use of concepts.</p>	<p><b>Level 2 (3–4 marks)</b> The candidate communicates arguments and conclusions adequately with a limited use of political vocabulary.</p> <p>A conclusion is offered but its relationship to the preceding discussion may be modest or implicit.</p>
	<p><b>Level 1 (1–4 marks)</b> The candidate demonstrates a slight and incomplete knowledge and understanding of political institutions and processes and a limited awareness of the relationships between them. There is little attempt to address the requirements of the question. There is only superficial awareness, if any, of the context of the question, with little interpretation and few, if any, examples often inaccurately reported or inappropriately used.</p>	<p><b>Level 1 (1–4 marks)</b> The candidate displays little awareness of the implications and demands of the question and focus is lacking. Evaluation of political institutions, processes and behaviour is superficial.</p> <p>Analysis shows little awareness of differing viewpoints and issues. There is little, if any, recognition of parallels and comparisons. Arguments, explanations and use of concepts are superficial and naïve.</p>	<p><b>Level 1 (1–2 marks)</b> The answer relies upon narrative, which is not fully coherent. There is little or no use of political vocabulary.</p> <p>A conclusion, if present, is not adequately related to the preceding discussion.</p>

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**1****Total for this question: 40 marks**

(a) Explain the term <i>institutions of devolved government</i> used in the extract. <span style="float: right;">(8 marks)</span>
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AO1. At minimum, accept Scottish Parliament, Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies. For higher marks relevant additional information (eg powers and functions, electoral systems, Greater London, devolved executives, policy outcomes).

AO2. Accept relevant analysis such as underlying reasons for their establishment, differences from pre-devolution institutions; implications for parliamentary sovereignty; variation in powers between institutions and reasons for this; and relevant use of concepts eg (legislative, executive, asymmetrical, devolution, federal, independence).

(b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, explain the significance of Scotland and Wales, pre-devolution, being ruled by a Conservative Government with very little representation outside of England. <span style="float: right;">(12 marks)</span>
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AO1. Accurate knowledge of pre-devolution arrangements for government of Scotland and Wales and how Scotland and Wales came to be governed by a Conservative government with very little representation outside England. Reward specific examples (eg voting patterns, numbers of Conservative seats in Scotland and Wales).

AO2. For highest marks must be clear focus on ‘significance’ (eg Conservative governments reliant for majorities on English voters; lack of mandate, implications for accountability; policy outcomes eg poll tax; English MPs holding Scottish/Welsh ministerial office; stimulus for nationalism and devolution; haemorrhaging of Conservative support etc). Reward relevant use of concepts (eg legitimacy, nationalism).

(c) ‘Scottish and Welsh nationalism share more similarities than differences.’ Discuss. <span style="float: right;">(20 marks)</span>
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AO1. At minimum, knowledge and understanding of nationalism as a concept including the political context of nationalism in Scotland and Wales. For higher marks clear understanding of the nature of Scottish and Welsh nationalism (aspirations, causes/roots, development etc); and of relevance of this to political aspirations, policies and electoral performance of Plaid Cymru and SNP.

AO2. At minimum, analysis of main similarities and differences of Scottish and Welsh nationalism but for higher marks there should be some evaluation of ‘similarities’ (eg common goals of greater self-determination; common experience of English (especially Conservative and Thatcherite) and ‘differences’ (eg Welsh cultural /religious/linguistic influences; Scotland’s lost statehood; different historical experience, greater nationalist support economic base etc). ‘More than’ is a discriminator and must be addressed for highest marks. Reward relevant contrasts and comparisons with other forms of nationalism (eg Northern Ireland) and relevant use of concepts (eg nationalism, devolution, independence, core/periphery).

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**2****Total for this question: 40 marks**

To what extent, and why, was the 1998 Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement built on the principles of 'power sharing'? *(40 marks)*

AO1. Discussion should include: context of, and issues underlying, Northern Ireland conflict, aspirations of Unionist and Nationalist traditions and London and Dublin perspectives; main proposals in Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement including composition and functions of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive (and North/South Council and Council of Isles). Also reward accurate knowledge of subsequent developments including establishment of power sharing executive in 2007; and of previous relevant developments (eg previous power sharing initiatives such as Sunningdale).

AO2. Analysis should focus on power sharing as a concept, and elements of power sharing in the Belfast Agreement (eg power sharing executive) and of provisions designed to ensure this (eg electoral system for Assembly). For higher marks 'to what extent' (eg power-sharing accompanied by other provisions such as Patten, decommissioning) and 'why' (eg need to offer 'something' to secure support of both traditions) should be addressed specifically. Also reward relevant analysis of significance of GFA to other 'interested' parties (eg London and Dublin governments); and of extent to which establishment of power sharing executive in 2007 did/did not flow from GFA. Concepts (eg nationalism, unionism, sovereignty, power sharing) should be used as appropriate.

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**3****Total for this question: 40 marks**

<p>'Devolution has inevitably led to the creation of multi-party systems in Scotland and Wales.' Discuss. <span style="float: right;">(40 marks)</span></p>
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AO1. Should be knowledge and understanding of recent trends in electoral for Plaid Cymru and SNP and other main parties in Scotland and Wales; including results and voting patterns in recent Westminster and devolved Assembly/Parliament elections. For higher marks some awareness of party strengths and representation since devolution and of main outcomes (eg coalition, minority administrations etc). Reward also knowledge of electoral systems used in Scotland and Wales.

AO2. At minimum, some attempt to analyse party system in Scotland and Wales. For higher marks there must be a focus on multi-party systems and for highest marks analysis of the extent to which devolution has/has not led to creation of these. Possible to argue either that devolution has created ( eg multi-party representation in Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly) or has not (eg Labour still dominant party; Conservatives still weak, multi-party system preceded devolution). Possible also to argue that multi-party system at elections is different from that within Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly (and in Westminster) where Labour is still dominant force. 'Inevitably' is a discriminator and should be addressed (eg electoral system rather than devolution made multi-party system inevitable) for higher marks. Also reward analysis which examines other influences upon voting (eg ideology, beliefs, tradition, policy etc) and/or draws out relevance to Westminster elections as well as those for devolved institutions. Appropriate concepts are devolution, nationalism, representation.

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**4****Total for this question: 40 marks**

‘Devolution policies since 1997 have had important political implications for England.’ Discuss.  
(40 marks)

AO1. At minimum, knowledge and understanding of: the constitutional and political status of England within the UK both before and, especially after, devolution. This should include especially the implications of devolution for the Westminster Parliament. For higher marks the implications for Whitehall should normally be explained as well as the implications for English regions (such as proposals for elected regional assemblies). Also reward accurate knowledge of composition, powers and functions of Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland devolved institutions. The West Lothian Question is relevant and should be rewarded so long as this does not ‘take over’ the answer.

AO2. At minimum, analysis of the implications of devolution for the Westminster Parliament and for Scottish, Welsh, Northern Ireland and English MPs. Again, West Lothian is relevant but should not ‘take over’ the answer. Possible to argue both for contention (eg English MPs/Westminster Cabinet less influence than pre-devolution; debate about English regions; case for English Parliament) or against (English MPs massively number Welsh, Northern Ireland and Scottish; Westminster remains sovereign; limited (?) powers devolved). Reward answers that distinguish between implications for England of devolution in different parts of UK (eg Westminster/Whitehall role in Northern Ireland; English MPs still legislate for Wales; differing financial arrangements). Question is about ‘devolution *policies*’ so reward answers which go wider than institutional arrangements (eg Barnett formula; political significance of different policies in different parts of UK). Question is also about *political* implications for England so reward analysis which develops wider political dimensions (eg implications for political parties and voting in England; differing policy outcomes). Analysis of implications for Whitehall is also relevant although main focus should be on ‘political’. Reward also answers which develop wider implications such as maintenance of unity of UK; implications for unitary/federalism debate, implications for Westminster (eg possible establishment of English Parliament) and English regions (eg N E referendums); implications for different parties governing in Westminster, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Reward use of concepts (eg devolution, federalism, independence).