

# Mark Scheme (Results)

## Summer 2007

GCE

GCE Government and Politics (6496) 01

## Unit 6 6496

### 1. 'The positions of the three main UK political parties on European integration are moving ever closer.' Discuss

#### Indicative Content

The conventional view is that the Lib Dems have been enthusiastic, Labour has been cautiously supportive of greater integration, but stops short of full pooling of sovereignty, while the Conservatives are Euro-sceptic and a large wing of the party is Europhobe. However, positions are changing. There is growing unease in Labour and feeling against the euro has grown, led by Brown. Position of the party is that the UK should be in Europe but not part of a super-state. Some elements in the party were less than enthusiastic about the constitution (Brown again) and there are the 'lines in the sand' over foreign policy and tax harmonisation. There is also a small wing of the Lib Dems (Orange Book) which is less enthusiastic. Conservatives, however, do continue to move away but Cameron has stabilised the position by refusing to rule out the euro for ever and accepts that Britain must remain in the EU

Judgements should be based on the following criteria:

- Extent of the knowledge shown about party positions on Europe (A01)
- Understanding of changing positions of parties (A01)
- The strength of the evaluation of the proposition in the question (A02)

#### Level 3

A thorough knowledge will be demonstrated of both traditional positions and of changing attitudes. Knowledge will be up to date and will take account of political context. There will be a strong and cogent evaluation of the proposition in the question.

#### Level 2

Likely to be stronger on traditional positions than on changing positions. There may be less political context and less aspects of the proposition will be explored. There will be a cogent evaluation, but its depth will vary.

#### Level 1

Probably only traditional positions of the parties will be successfully described. Awareness of changes will be weak. Evaluation will also be weak or absent.

## 2. Is welfare policy in the UK more an example of consensus politics than of adversary politics ?

### Indicative Content

The issues concerning the welfare state and welfare policy include a number of aspects. These include, the degree to which private sector involvement in welfare services is desirable and acceptable, the degree to which benefits should be means tested and therefore targeted on those most in need, how much of the national income should be devoted to services, what administrative procedures should be adopted to run services, the use of targets, league tables, competition etc. There are also many issues relating to specific welfare services and benefits, notably higher education provision, pension provision, housing concerns and health service funding. There remains a broad area of consensus, particularly over the need to support such services financially, the retention of the basic principles of the welfare state, and the principle that benefits should be targeted on those who try to help themselves, such as jobseekers allowance. Controversies surround such areas as the use of the private sector, the use of league tables and targets and the incidence of means testing. Disputes exist both between and within political parties.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- The range of issues raised within the time constraints (AO1)
- The understanding shown of party positions on these issues (AO1)
- The quality and depth of the evaluation of consensus and adversary politics in this field (AO2)

### Level 3

A thorough (within time constraints) review of the issues. Good knowledge will be shown of party positions on a reasonable range of these issues. There will be an accurate and strong assessment of the degree to which there is conflict or agreement over certain issues.

### Level 2

Answers are likely to be at least sound on the range of issues, but less impressive in identifying party positions, areas of conflict and of agreement. There will be a cogent evaluation, but the quality of assessment will vary

### Level 1

Likely to be little more than a number of controversial issues raised. Knowledge of party positions will be limited and assessment of conflict and consensus will be weak or absent.

### 3. Assess the extent to which membership of the EU has strengthened the influence of UK pressure groups.

#### Indicative Content

Two main areas are the most fertile in responding to this question. One concerns the changing picture in relation to institutions. For example the Commission has an open door policy and registers groups as having access. This allows pressure groups to be involved at the early stages of policy and decision making, something they may find more difficult at national level. Such groups as producer groups, trade unions, farmers and environmentalists are good examples. Parliament has also enhanced its powers and status with a more developed committee system. Here again pressure groups find fertile ground, especially as the stranglehold of party whips and business managers is absent. Party representation is weaker in the EU so the pluralist politics of pressure groups can flourish.

The other concerns the changing attitudes of policy and decision makers in the EU. They have become, arguably, increasingly concerned with the need for representation and consultation. Parties can scarcely perform this function so pressure groups are increasingly used. As more sovereignty has shifted to the EU or become pooled, pressure group influence has also grown.

On the other hand many areas of jurisdiction remain within UK sovereignty, notably tax policy, social and welfare policy and law and order. In these areas pressure groups face a largely unchanged situation. It should also be pointed out that many decision making procedures in the EU remain closed. The Commission is not publicly accountable and the Council conducts most of its business behind closed doors. Candidates will also gain credit for identifying other ways in which EU membership has extended their influence.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- The degree of knowledge shown of how pressure groups operate in the EU in comparison with national level (AO1)
- The quality of analysis of pressure group status, and changes in that status, in the EU (AO2)
- The quality of the assessment of the degree to which pressure group influence has been strengthened in the EU (AO2)

#### Level 3

A thorough and cogent explanation of the role and status of pressure groups in the EU. This will include good knowledge of the way in which institutions work in the EU. There will also be sensitivity to the changing political landscape for pressure groups. Illustrations will be well used. Assessment of the strength of pressure group influence will vary from sound to excellent.

#### Level 2

The position of pressure groups will be understood clearly and there will be some useful knowledge of how institutions in the EU work. Responses here will have some sensitivity to change and there will be an assessment of the position of pressure groups, but less deep and extensive than in level 3.

Level 1

Probably largely generalisations about pressure group activity in the EU. Analysis and assessment will vary from weak to absent.

4. 'The struggle between the supporters of civil liberties in the UK and the forces of law and order is being won by the latter.' Discuss.

Indicative Content

The struggle referred to surrounds such issues as police powers and methods, mode of trial issues, sentencing policy and the treatment of offenders, the extent to which 'prison works', anti-terrorism laws and methods, surveillance, ID cards and asylum and immigration issues. The forces of law and order have tended to seek greater police powers (stop and search, surveillance, phone intercepts etc.), easier ways of securing convictions in court (mode of trial), the detention of suspects for questioning without charge or trial - including terrorist suspects, and various ways of controlling the behaviour of offenders outside prison.

Civil liberties supporters campaign for greater protection for suspected offenders and possible terrorists, a more liberal approach to immigrants and asylum seekers, preservation of the right to a fair trial and habeas corpus as well as general opposition to so-called 'erosions' of civil liberties such as ID cards, DNA sampling and surveillance.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- The range of issues raised in relation to this conflict (AO1)
- The degree of understanding shown of why the issues cause conflict (AO1 and 2)
- The quality of the assessment of who might be winning or losing these debates. (AO2)

Level 3

A thorough review of the nature of the debates and conflicts within the time constraints. There will be good understanding shown of the nature of the conflicts and a strong, cogent assessment of who is 'winning' the arguments.

Level 2

A sound review of issues will be undertaken, probably less extensive than in level 3. The nature of conflict will be effectively described, though analysis will be weaker and in less depth. Evaluation will vary from limited to sound.

Level 1

A generalised review of some of the disputes. Analysis will be weak or absent and the overall evaluation will be either very limited or absent.

