

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2007

GCE

GCE Government and Politics (6505) 01

Government & Politics – 6505
Unit 6D International Politics June 2007

1. 'The UK's position on the UN Security Council enables her to "punch above her weight".' Discuss.

AO1	AO2	AO3
15	25	10

Indicative Content

The UK is a leading member of the UN with a permanent seat on the Security Council and the right to veto resolutions. P5 status arguably reflects the UK's status in 1945, rather than its current status, but undeniably establishes the status of the UK amongst that of much larger states such as the USA (population 300 million) and China (1.1bn) and superior to both larger and richer states such as Japan and Germany. Many UK politicians have argued that the UK 'punches above her weight', implying that the UK has much more influence in international politics than its population and economic size would suggest. Candidates should discuss the extent that this is indeed true, or whether it is an illusion that the UK has great influence in international politics. It may be argued that P5 status puts the UK on the top table, where the UK can block agreements and resolutions, but it cannot influence other members and it cannot pass motions through the SC and therefore is unable to make a constructive influence. It may be argued that the UK's relationship with the USA deludes the UK into believing it has influence over the USA. It could be argued that the UK has a unique position in global politics arising from its positions in the UN, the Commonwealth, the EU, G8 and NATO, and above all its historical world role. Certainly as a nuclear power, with military activities currently on-going in Afghanistan and Iraq, and with a navy and overseas bases it could be argued that the UK is determined to punch above its weight.

In making judgements consider the following:

- Knowledge and understanding of UK position in UNSC. (AO1)
- Knowledge and understanding of the UK's position and influence in international politics (AO1)
- Analysis of the extent to which the UK does 'punch above her weight'. (AO2)
- Analysis of the extent to which UK influence is due to UNSC membership, or other factors. (AO2)

Level Three Descriptor (33–50 marks)

A high level of skill demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a clearly structured manner, making appropriate use of political vocabulary and an excellent standard of written communication.

Candidates will give a clear definition and will discuss the ability of international law to promote order and prevent disorder in international politics. Answers must show balanced understanding.

Level Two Descriptor (18–32 marks)

A sound ability demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a structured manner, making some use of political vocabulary and a reasonable level of written communication.

Level One Descriptor (0–17 marks)

A limited level of skill demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a less structured manner, making occasional use of political vocabulary and a basic level of written communication.

AO1	AO2	AO3
6	10	4

2. To what extent is there a political consensus in the UK over how the 'war on terror' is conducted?

Indicative Content

Generally speaking there has been a lot of political consensus over how the war on terror is conducted. Both Labour and Conservative leaderships openly supported the invasion of Iraq and all parties supported the NATO involvement in Afghanistan from 2001. However within the Labour party there was considerable opposition to the invasion of Iraq, the Liberal Democrats have consistently opposed the war, and some Conservatives such as Kenneth Clarke also opposed the war. More recently, criticism of term 'war on terror' itself has been made by the government, particularly by Hilary Benn. He argues that the 'war on terror' is a misleading phrase, and cannot be won by hard power alone. Military power simply polarises opinion and the 'war on terror' has been counterproductive in that bombing Iraq and the death of civilians in particular, convince ordinary Muslims that the coalition is an aggressive alliance. Instead the 'war on terror' needs to be fought peacefully to win over the hearts and minds of moderate Muslims.

In making judgements consider the following:

- Knowledge and understanding of the war on terror (AO1)
- Knowledge of a range of party viewpoints on the war on terror (AO1)
- Analysis of the extent to which there is consensus between and within political parties over the war on terror (AO2)

Level Three Descriptor (33–50 marks)

A high level of skill demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a clearly structured manner, making appropriate use of political vocabulary and an excellent standard of written communication.

Level Two Descriptor (18–32 marks)

A sound ability demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a structured manner, making some use of political vocabulary and a reasonable level of written communication.

Level One Descriptor (0–17 marks)

A limited level of skill demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a less structured manner, making occasional use of political vocabulary and a basic level of written communication.

3. To what extent have global environmental issues divided the major UK political parties?

AO1 AO2 AO3

15 25 10

Indicative Content

There is now widespread agreement that climate change, or global warming, is occurring. This is almost beyond dispute. What are disputed, however, are the causes of global warming, and, whether global warming will have dire consequences, or if it will have beneficial consequences in some cases and in others can be addressed using modern technology.

Furthermore, achieving concerted int'l action on climate change is complicated since the tradition within International Relations is state-centric, centred around concepts of state sovereignty and the belief that states pursue their national interest. Moreover, int'l environmental problems tend not to be caused by deliberate acts of national policy, but instead are the unintended side-effects of broader socio-economic processes. Non-state actors such as firms are at least as important as states in that their activities will lead to environmental damage. However, states do legislate within their territories and so should play a central role in developing and enforcing environmental solutions.

Environmental pessimists argue that humans are causing global warming. They are also alarmed at the impact of global warming. Higher temperatures will speed the melting of the polar ice caps and sea levels will rise. Also the frequency of violent storms and extreme weather has increased bringing devastation to many areas (note the effects of el Nino).

On the other hand environmental optimists point out that the Earth has natural warming and cooling trends, and since the Earth cooled slightly in the 1950s and 1960s any warming will have little overall effect. The Bush administration have found scientists who claim that CO₂ is unlikely to cause any significant temperature change. Other optimists claim that the only chance of a modest climate change is high. Indeed, some optimists argue that some areas will benefit from global warming. Why should northern Britain worry about higher temperatures? Growing seasons will lengthen and quality of life will improve. Inevitably some areas will suffer from rising sea levels or longer dry periods, but other areas will benefit. There will be winners and losers.

The 'Green Vote' in the EC elections of 1989 convinced all major UK parties that they had to be seen to be environmentally aware. However the growing global concern over the environment and media frenzy have combined to persuade Cameron and Brown, in particular, to compete to show off their green credentials. Given the traditional Conservative links with business and the belief that governments intervene in markets and regulate at their peril, it is surprising that the Conservatives do not reiterate the Bush arguments on the environment. However, Cameron has painstakingly created an image of sharing Green concerns and has tried to portray himself as the political leader that will help to save the planet. It is as if the 'Politics of Fear' have found a new target. Voters will elect politicians that will protect us from global warming. Politicians that ignore the environment will be ignored by the electorate. Alternatively, one may argue that Cameron is desperate to improve the image of the Conservative party. Aware that many voters believe the Tories are selfish, Cameron feels that this image can be reversed if they are seen to 'care'.

Labour too defends its Green heritage. Blair signed up to the Kyoto, and the UK is arguably one of the few states which is on course to meet its Kyoto obligations. Critics would suggest that the government has used the Green argument to defend severe taxation policies, such as on fuel, cars and air travel. Others would argue that the government has not done enough. The Lib-Dems would traditionally be understood to have Green tendencies. Richmond council has introduced more severe parking charges for large cars and 4X4s, for example.

In making judgements consider the following:

- Knowledge and understanding of the environment debate (AO1)
- Knowledge of UK political party attitudes to the environment (AO1)
- Analysis of the extent to which major UK parties are divided over the environment (AO2)

Level Three Descriptor (33–50 marks)

A high level of skill demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a clearly structured manner, making appropriate use of political vocabulary and an excellent standard of written communication.

Level Two Descriptor (18–32 marks)

A sound ability demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a structured manner, making some use of political vocabulary and a reasonable level of written communication.

Level One Descriptor (0–17 marks)

A limited level of skill demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a less structured manner, making occasional use of political vocabulary and a basic level of written communication.

4. 'EU policies and recent initiatives have fuelled Euroscepticism in the UK.' Discuss.

Indicative Content

The issue of European integration has historically divided both main British parties. The issue helped split the Labour Party in 1981 and was a major factor behind the weakness of the Conservatives from 1992 until 1997. Hague did what Major refused to do and took a definitive Eurosceptic stance. That was why senior Conservatives such as Clarke, Heseltine and Hurd were not in the Shadow Cabinet, they were too pro-European. Hague and Smith's stance brought clarity but at the expense of exclusion and narrowness. Cameron, like Blair, Brown and Campbell, barely mentions Europe. The EU has become the forgotten issue. No party believes that it can gain politically from a debate on the EU. Blair refused to commit himself to the Euro, even though most agree that he favoured adoption of the single currency. Ken Livingstone is in favour of the Euro whilst people on the right of the Labour party such as Austin Mitchell and Peter Shore are antagonistic. British business pressure groups such as the CBI and the National Farmers Union have long realised the importance of the EU and have been generally supportive. It was only with the BSE affair of the 1990s that the NFU saw Europe as hostile to their interests. With the Trade Unions it was the other way around, initial hostility to what they saw as a 'capitalist club' gave way to enthusiasm once Jacques Delors began promoting a social chapter. It is no coincidence that the left grew generally warmer towards the EU from 1988 just as the Thatcherites were moving towards a more sceptical position.

Very few senior politicians favour withdrawal from the EU but equally very few are prepared to commit the UK full membership of a federal Europe. In practice the impact of the EU upon British politics grows more obvious year after year and the mainstream politicians have to work out how to manage that impact on an on-going basis. The promise of a referendum before Sterling is discarded in favour of the Euro, and the rejection of the EU constitution by French and Dutch referendums, have given the illusion that Eurosceptics have won the EU debates in the UK. However, the relative strength of the UK economy and the reluctance of Brown to adopt the Euro before his five tests are met, ensure that the Euro is off the political agenda.

In making judgements consider the following:

- Knowledge and understanding of the EU debates (AO1)
- Knowledge of recent EU policies, such as the Euro, enlargement, foreign policy, defence force, constitution and tax (AO1)
- Analysis of the extent to which Euroscepticism has become dominant (AO2)

Level Three Descriptor (33–50 marks)

A high level of skill demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a clearly structured manner, making appropriate use of political vocabulary and an excellent standard of written communication.

Level Two Descriptor (18–32 marks)

A sound ability demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a structured manner, making some use of political vocabulary and a reasonable level of written communication.

Level One Descriptor (0–17 marks)

A limited level of skill demonstrated in analysis, interpretation and evaluation; arguments and explanations expressed in a less structured manner, making occasional use of political vocabulary and a basic level of written communication.

Unit 4 Marking Grid

Levels	Performance Criteria	1-4 20 marks	5-7 60 marks
3	Excellent	17-20	51-60
	Very good	15-16	45-50
	Good	13-14	39-44
2	Sound	11-12	33-38
	Basic	9-10	27-32
	Limited	7-8	21-26
1	Weak	5-6	15-20
	Poor	3-4	9-14
	Very poor	0-2	0-8

Unit 5

Levels	Performance Criteria	1-4 20 marks	5-7 60 marks
3	Excellent	17-20	51-60
	Very good	15-16	45-50
	Good	13-14	39-44
2	Sound	11-12	33-38
	Basic	9-10	27-32
	Limited	7-8	21-26
1	Weak	5-6	15-20
	Poor	3-4	9-14
	Very poor	0-2	0-8

Unit 6

Levels	Performance Criteria	Essay 50 marks
3	Excellent	43-50
	Very good	38-42
	Good	33-37
2	Sound	28-32
	Basic	23-27
	Limited	18-22
1	Weak	13-17
	Poor	8-12
	Very poor	0-7

