

Mark Scheme

Winter 2008

GCE

GCE Government and Politics (Unit 3)

The Changing UK System

These instructions should be the first page of all mark schemes

General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Question Number	Indicative content
1(a)	As regards constitutional matters public opinion was clearly not moved by events or developments. The constitution was not seen as a political priority. This complacency covered a range of constitutional areas which include devolution, House of Lords reform, and the establishment of a Supreme Court and the constitutional implication of EU membership. The Economist supports this premise by stating that as few as 2% thought the state of the constitution to be an important issue. Thus according to the source major constitutional issues did not break through as a key area of concern.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	4-5	A comprehensive demonstration of knowledge surrounding the political issues contained in the source. The references will be clear and precise; the detail will be accurate and informed. The response will be interpreted and explained clearly. It will cover the nature of public opinion and it may note detail concerning the constitutional changes.
Level 2	2-3	A sound demonstration of knowledge surrounding the political issues raised in the source. The response will lack the complete views of nature of public opinion and the accompanying constitutional changes which fail to enliven political discourse at this level. There will be a tendency to merely repeat without interpreting fully the source.
Level 1	0-1	A limited and quite restricted demonstration of knowledge surrounding the political issues raised in the source. There will be a lack of valid and informed political discourse. The response may simply repeat the content of the source and offer no explanation.

Question Number	Indicative content
1(b)	<p>Prior to the election of 1997 the Conservative were clearly opposed to the constitutional reforms proposed then by the Labour Party before it took up office.</p> <p>However in what may seem to be pragmatic acceptance of the new constitutional settlement the Conservatives as noted in the source now endorses the devolved assemblies; they accept the changes to the House of Lords and wish to influence any new developments there: finally the source notes that the Conservatives have tempered down their hostility to the PR systems set up since 1997.</p> <p>Beyond the source it may be noted that some sections of the Conservative Party have still expressed concern over the West Lothian Question and the cost of devolution. It has considered revived English Nationalism. The 2005 manifesto questioned devolution in Wales and was to offer a referendum on its continuance. The Party was opposed to the regional assembly in the North East in 2004. The Party has been sceptical about reforms to the Judicial system. Similarly it has been hostile to any constitutional change with regard to the UK and the EU demanding a referendum on the failed EU Constitution. The Conservative Party also has been critical of the Human Rights legislation introduced by labour.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	7-10	A comprehensive demonstration of developed political knowledge that clarifies the source and portrays informed own knowledge. Both the source and own knowledge will be communicated with accuracy and detail. Own knowledge can be developed from the detail cited in the source: for instance accurate information about the Conservative success in any devolved election will be considered as such. At the top of the range some responses will contain detail of the most recent constitutional announcements by the party.
Level 2	4-6	A sound demonstration of political knowledge. Responses in this category may have a tendency to rely exclusively on either the source (whilst still showing development from it) or own knowledge. Supportive examples and illustrations will be incomplete or lack detail.
Level 1	0-3	A limited and restricted demonstration of political knowledge. There will be a lack of contemporary information about policy changes since 1997. The source will not be used with accuracy or skill.

Question Number	Indicative content
1(c)	<p>There are several difficulties that can be said to have been generated by constitutional reform since 1997.</p> <p>With regard to devolution a range of difficulties can be identified, firstly the imbalance it introduces into an essentially unitary state. This has caused some to question the integrity or sovereignty of the Westminster Parliament. Associated alongside this is the still unresolved and some would say exacerbated "West Lothian Question".</p> <p>The asymmetrical nature of devolution has also generated disquiet with the Assembly in Wales having less power than its Scottish counterpart. The duplication of political representatives and office holders and the multiplication of bureaucrats is another issue raised by devolution. The increased call for independence most notably in Scotland by the SNP shows that devolution may lead to the destruction of the UK.</p> <p>A range of developed policy differences on issues such as health, education and transport in the devolved areas may be noted. Overall a range of points may be constructed on the issues that devolution has created.</p> <p>With regard to reform in the House of Lords this has created difficulties in there not being a common forum to agree on the nature and composition of a reformed chamber. This lack of consensus covers debate both between and within political parties. The current system may be accused of being a largely appointed House which is no more democratic than an hereditary one.</p> <p>The reforms to the Judicial system have met with hostility from the senior Judiciary who have opposed the reform of the Law Lords and the establishment of a Supreme court.</p> <p>Electoral reforms for elections have also been a source of difficulties. Spoilt ballot papers being a major problem in Scotland with new systems being introduced and a fall in voter turnout in many areas of implementation.</p> <p>It may be noted that there is no common consensus for change and certain alterations may have a biased political impact. Many argue that change is not necessary as the constitution functions well. It can be argued that change will damage the constitutional integrity of the UK and destroy history and tradition.</p> <p>Note may also be made of some of the problems with the Human Rights Act. This may form part of a more general criticism that for some the constitutional reforms have not been radical or sustained. This may include the fact that the constitutional change has not impacted on the Commons or Prime Ministerial power for instance.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	11-15	A comprehensive demonstration of political knowledge accompanied by clear consideration of the process and institutions that are involved. There will be excellent and clear examples cited. The response will present an informed political vocabulary with an excellent standard of communication. At this level more than one constitutional change will be covered with accuracy and clarity. Clear analytical points will be developed and considered in the process. It will be common for the response to be informed in a contemporary sense making reference to the operative difficulties which have transpired since 1997.
Level 2	6-10	A sound demonstration of political knowledge with reliable but not expansive reference to the political process and the institutions that are involved. There will be some analysis but this will not be encompassing. The detail surrounding constitutional change since 1997 may lack clear specification and depth.
Level 1	0-5	A limited demonstration of political knowledge. There will be an absence of coherent and informed analysis. The response may have a very basic level of written communication with a sparse use of political vocabulary

Question Number	Indicative content
1(d)	<p>Several benefits can be cited for constitutional reforms introduced since 1997.</p> <p>It can be argued as a whole that they have enhanced democracy and revived political participation and pluralism. In short they have brought the UK into line with the rest of the modern democratic world.</p> <p>Devolution it may be argued has calmed aggressive nationalism yet at the same time cherished cultural identity. Devolution can be said to have benefited both the Union of the UK as a whole and created benefits in each of the regions it has been introduced.</p> <p>Electoral reform to the devolved assemblies has introduced alternative voting systems that work. Electoral reform to electing MEP's is also to be welcomed, this has increased political representation for parties who were never in the running under FPTP</p> <p>Constitutional reform to the Lords it may be argued have at least raised its legitimacy by removing the bulk of the hereditary peers, the appointment system is not perfect but it is an improvement on the way to a more socially reflective chamber. It can be seen as the start if not the conclusion of a democratic road for the chamber.</p> <p>Regional mayors and the London Mayor and Assembly it can be argued has raised the profile of local and regional government. The introduction of the HRA is a major step on the way to raising individual rights and place limits on excessive governmental power, noting how asylum seekers have benefited as have this detained without proper trial in Belmarsh prison.</p> <p>Reform to the judiciary and the creation of a Supreme Court will go some way to more formally achieving a clearer separation of powers. It has been suggested that the Referendum are now a key component of constitutional reform.</p> <p>However it may be argued that the reforms since 1997 have not produced the benefits claimed for them and have fell short of their aim. Some argue that they have actually undermined the constitutional fabric of the UK. It has been suggested that referendums are now a key component of major constitutional reform.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	14-20	<p>A comprehensive demonstration of political knowledge and an informed analytical framework. Clear conceptual awareness with illustrative examples. It will not be necessary to consider the disadvantages of constitutional reform but these may be referenced if they advance analysis of the benefits claimed for constitutional reform.</p> <p>The depth and presence of analysis will determine both entry into the level and progress within it.</p>
Level 2	7-13	<p>A sound demonstration of political knowledge with some accompanying analysis. There will be reliable conceptual awareness with examples. There will be an informed if not expansive use of political vocabulary accompanied with a sound</p>

		<p>standard of political vocabulary.</p> <p>The benefits will be considered and placed in context but will not be all encompassing and detailed. The empirical base will be present but lack the breadth and rigour to establish extensive analysis.</p>
Level 1	0-6	<p>A limited demonstration of political knowledge with scant and restrictive analysis. The examples will be superficial and undeveloped, there will be no real sense of the benefits which are alleged to have accompanied constitutional change. There may be a tendency to be polemic and lose focus on the remit of the set question.</p>

Question Number	Indicative content
2(a)	According to Source 1 UKIP argues that the EU is more than a straightforward trading partnership. As such UKIP claims that it has in reality taken control of the main functions of our national government by controlling the UK's agricultural system (farming & fishing), it has executive authority to provide rules and regulations covering areas from food labelling through to taxation. This control is alleged now to cover 70% of our laws. It has thus taken over in a supra national manner the tasks and functions of our national government. There is an accusation that the EU has been created as a political project to achieve these aims by taking controlling power from national governments.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	4-5	A comprehensive demonstration of knowledge surrounding the political issues contained in the source. The references will be clear and precise; the detail will be accurate and informed. The response will be interpreted and explained clearly. The claims of UKIP will be clearly and accurately depicted.
Level 2	2-3	A sound demonstration of knowledge surrounding the political issues raised in the source. The description although accurate will fall short in fully describing the source material and lack clarity in understanding alleged EU power to the detriment of the UK government. There will be a tendency to merely repeat without interpreting fully the source.
Level 1	0-1	A limited and quite restricted demonstration of knowledge surrounding the political issues contained in the source. There will be a lack of valid and informed political discourse. The response may simply repeat the content of the source and offer no explanation.

Question Number	Indicative content
2(b)	<p>According to Source 2 there is a position which implies that sovereignty as opposed to being lost is actually shared or “pooled” with other nations. This process of pooling has been created in the post-war world (post 1945). As such, countries such as the UK who pool sovereignty, become more rather than less powerful on a world stage and as a result achieve success on issues which transgress borders such as those noted in the source. This implies that we seek the collective good rather than the individual gain; we work in reality together rather than alone and in the process achieve more. Pooling sovereignty the source argues allows us to have an influence in other countries in the EU and beyond.</p> <p>Own knowledge may indicate that over many areas our sovereign powers are still intact, this included topics such as our currency, our educational system, health service, foreign policy and our criminal laws. Finally it is often pointed out that the UK Parliament retains the ultimate legal sovereignty in that it can decide if it so wishes to reverse the legislation it passed in 1972 and take us out of the EU. This amounts to a loan of some sovereign powers not a surrender of them.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	7-10	<p>A comprehensive demonstration of developed political knowledge that clarifies the source and portrays informed own knowledge. Both the source and own knowledge will be communicated with accuracy and detail.</p> <p>How sovereignty has been pooled and by implication retained will be discussed.</p> <p>Own knowledge can be developed from the detail cited in the source but will include Parliament’s ability to regain or reclaim its surrendered areas handed over to the EU. Areas of retained sovereign power will be referenced.</p>
Level 2	4-6	<p>A sound demonstration of political knowledge. Responses in this category may have a tendency to rely exclusively on either the source (whilst still showing development from it) or own knowledge. Supportive examples and illustrations will be incomplete or lack detail.</p>
Level 1	0-3	<p>A limited and restricted demonstration of political knowledge. There will be a lack of understanding both of the concepts involved and of the practical implications which arise. The source will not be used with accuracy or skill.</p>

Question Number	Indicative content
2(c)	<p>All three main Westminster political parties are in favour of EU membership and thus have a commitment to creating a positive relationship. However their support for and commitment to that relationship does vary.</p> <p>Currently the Labour government has wished to place the UK at the heart of the EU and to be an influential major player. As such the Labour Party was more open to considering joining the Euro and had a more open attitude to the now defunct EU constitution preparing albeit somewhat reluctantly to holding a referendum on the issue. The Labour government passed elements of the Maastricht Treaty such as the Social Chapter which was not taken up by the former Conservative administration. Despite this more positive posturing to the EU since 1997 there have been strains in areas such as foreign policy where senior EU members disagreed with the Iraq war and the UK's relationship with the USA. The Labour Party is mindful of the damage that the issue of the EU can do to party unity, itself rent asunder in the 1970's and seeing difficulties in the Conservative Party wished to avoid that impacting on their party again. In a sense the approach can be said to be pragmatic hoping that it will not be a relationship to cause party division.</p> <p>The Conservative Party has been more vocal and critical of the EU but has never mentioned withdrawal. It has sought to defend national interest more vigorously ruling out the UK joining the single currency and condemning the proposed EU constitution. The Conservatives main theme is that the EU should work to the benefit of the UK economy but that in broader foreign policy issues the EU cannot always serve the needs of the UK. In short the relationship the Conservatives would like to see the EU as an economic alliance rather than a political one and as such would halt integration. The Conservative Party in office have made many significant changes which have impacted on the UK's relationship with the EU.</p> <p>The Liberal Democrats have remained the most consistently pro-EU political party firmly believing that our long term interest are in a federal union where national boundaries are brought down further still and free trade consistently promoted.</p> <p>Parties such as UKIP have gained a wide following being a political party firmly opposed to membership and committed to the UK's withdrawal. Their manifesto and policies all condemn the loss of independence and criticises the EU as a failing body. They would like to see the relationship of the UK with the EU radically and fundamentally altered.</p> <p>The Nationalist parties such as Plaid Cymru and the SNP both support membership of the EU and seek in each area to use the EU as an agent for social and economic regeneration. Both appreciate the use of subsidiarity to advance their cause in what they see as a Europe of the Regions. They thus seek to promote a positive and productive relationship with the EU.</p>

--	--

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	11-15	A comprehensive demonstration of political knowledge accompanied by clear consideration of the process and institutions that are involved. There will be excellent and clear examples cited. The response will present an informed political vocabulary with an excellent standard of communication. More than one political party will be considered, however it will not be necessary to include a wide range of parties. Analysis and accuracy can be reached by depth as well as breadth. Clear analytical points will be developed and considered in the process. It will be common for the response to be informed in a contemporary sense making reference to the actions of the main parties both in Government and in opposition.
Level 2	6-10	A sound demonstration of political knowledge with reliable but not expansive reference to the political process and the institutions that are involved. There will be some analysis but this will not be encompassing. The detail surrounding the UK's relationship with the EU may lack clear specification and depth.
Level 1	0-5	A limited demonstration of political knowledge. There will be an absence of coherent and informed analysis. The response may have a very basic level of written communication with a sparse use of political vocabulary. Examples may be narrow and at points incorrect and polemic.

Question Number	Indicative content
2(d)	<p>The advantages of further EU integration cover a wide spectrum. There are economic advantages of increasing further trade links ultimately served if the UK were to join the Euro. If further integration were achieved the EU would be able to withstand the perils of the global economy. There is also the argument that economic cooperation breeds technological improvement. There are social benefits of further integration in that suspicion and hostility to close geographical neighbours are lessened and cooperation and integration serves to lessen tension. Militarily, if further integration was developed the EU would become a more recognised power in world affairs rather than being divided, this would require consensus on foreign policy.</p> <p>Reference may be made to the continued advantages of pooling sovereignty.</p> <p>The theme must be noted to advance further integration. Advantages may cover political, economic, military and social factors and be illustrated by a range of relevant examples. However it must also be noted that there are disadvantages associated with further EU integration. These include further loss of national self determination and the problems associated with the loss of sovereignty. It is also argued that cultural identity could be eradicated. Other critics of the EU point out to the alleged bureaucracy and stagnation that may emerges from Brussels should it progress further. It is pointed out that integration can thwart innovation and the EU operates best as a collection of sovereign independent nation states grouped around a free trade agreement and nothing more.</p> <p>Again the political, economic, military and social; disadvantages can be illustrated by a range of examples.</p> <p>It is credible to advance the case for the status quo in that the current level of EU integration suffices the needs of the UK and the ability of the EU to manage. It may be noted that the main aim of the EU should be stability in that further integration is impractical and undesirable at the current time with the huge influx of new member states. As such a period of reflection and consolidation is more appropriate than deeper integration.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	14-20	<p>A comprehensive demonstration of political knowledge and an informed analytical framework. Clear conceptual awareness with illustrative examples.</p> <p>Both sides of the debate will be covered and each aspect given analytical consideration. The scope and levels of further integration will be manifest.</p> <p>The depth and presence of analysis will determine both entry into the level and progress within it.</p>
Level 2	7-13	<p>A sound demonstration of political knowledge with some accompanying analysis. There will be reliable conceptual</p>

		<p>awareness with examples. There will be an informed if not expansive use of political vocabulary accompanied with a sound standard of political vocabulary.</p> <p>The empirical base will be present but lack the breadth and rigour to establish extensive analysis.</p>
Level 1	0-6	<p>A limited demonstration of political knowledge with scant and restrictive analysis. The examples will be superficial and undeveloped; there will be no real appreciation of the nature of integration and its continuance. There may be a tendency to be polemic and lose focus on the remit of the set question.</p>