

Mark Scheme

Winter 2008

GCE

GCE Government and Politics (Unit 4B) Political Ideologies

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	<p>Collectivism is the belief that collective human endeavour is morally and practically superior to individual self-striving. It reflects underlying beliefs about the social character of human nature. Collectivism has been associated with a wider role for the state because the state has often been seen as a mechanism through which collective action is organised. The state thus represents the wider public interest as opposed to the private interests of individual citizens. This has been reflected, for example, in modern liberal and socialist thought, where sympathy for collectivism has led to support for forms of economic and social intervention. Examples of this include support for the welfare state, the redistribution of wealth, nationalisation and economic management. In a more extreme way, collectivism has helped to fuel policies of comprehensive state control, such as the collectivisation of wealth within a centrally planned economy.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	13-20	Good or better knowledge and understanding. Effective analysis and evaluation of political information.
Level 2	7-12	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding. Adequate ability to analyse and evaluate political information.
Level 1	0-6	Poor to weak knowledge and understanding. Limited ability to analyse and evaluation political information.

Question Number	Indicative content
2	<p>Liberals have feared power (the ability to influence the behaviour of others) because of their belief that human beings are naturally self-seeking creatures. Egoism therefore encourages them to use other people to achieve their own ends. Power gives them the ability to do so, thus leading to corruption in the sense of a disregard for the interests of others and a willingness to use and (possibly) abuse them. Concentrations of power intensify this concern because the greater the power, the greater the scope for abusing others, and therefore the greater the corruption. Absolute power therefore corrupts absolutely (Acton). In the liberal view, dictators are necessarily tyrannical and oppressive. As a result, liberals favour constitutional and institutional devices that fragment or diffuse power. Examples include the separation of powers, federalism, parliamentary government, local government and so on.</p>

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Question Number	Indicative content
3	<p>Private property is property that individuals have an exclusive legal entitlement to use however they choose. The traditional conservative defence of private property draws on one of three arguments. Property has been seen as a source of personal security in an inherently insecure world (property gives us 'something to fall back on'). Property has been seen as an exteriorisation on one's own personality, in the sense that people's attachment to property (cars, houses, personal possessions) has a powerful psychological and emotional dimension. Property has also been valued as a means of strengthening social values and promoting order, as property owners are more inclined to respect the property of others and therefore more willing to obey and uphold the law. New Right conservatives have nevertheless embraced an essentially liberal view of property based on individual rights and economic incentives. In this view, the right to property is based on hard work or just transfer (inheritance). This view differs from the traditional conservative view in that it suggests that property is merely a right and never an obligation (for example, it does not entail duties towards the larger society or later generations - 'the family silver').</p>

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Level 3	13-20	Good or better knowledge and understanding. Effective analysis and evaluation of political information.
Level 2	7-12	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding. Adequate ability to analyse and evaluate political information.
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Question Number	Indicative content
4	<p>The dictatorship of the proletariat is a transitional phase between the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of full communism. The dictatorship of the proletariat is characterised by the establishment of a temporary proletarian state in the place of the bourgeois or capitalist state that has been overthrown. For Marxists, states are a reflection of the class system, and the need for a temporary socialist state arose from the persistence of class antagonisms after the proletarian revolution. Dictatorship of the proletariat is therefore necessary in order to defend the gains of the revolution. This applies because the dispossessed bourgeoisie will not easily or peacefully be reconciled to socialism. The threat of counter-revolution has therefore to be countered, and this can only be done by the 'armed proletariat'. The temporary proletarian state will also take responsibility for nationalising property, preparing the way for the establishment of common ownership in a fully communist society.</p>

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Question Number	Indicative content
5	<p>Free market capitalism is a form of capitalism that is free from government regulation, based on the principle of <i>laissez-faire</i>. Conservative support for free market capitalism has grown through the advance of neoliberalism or the liberal New Right (in the UK, associated with Thatcherism). Rolling-back the state in the interests of the market and economic individualism has, arguably, been the dominant theme in UK and US conservatism since the 1980s, reflected in support for privatisation, deregulation, tax cuts and so on. Such free market policies are underpinned by the core belief that unregulated capitalism tends naturally towards equilibrium, and helps to promote efficiency, incentives and competition. Any form of state intervention can only threaten growth and prosperity, and transfer property unfairly.</p> <p>On the other hand, paternalistic or One Nation conservatism has rejected free market capitalism on the grounds that it is firmly rooted in unreliable economic theories and it threatens social stability by generating wide inequalities. They have therefore favoured a 'middle way' economy, in which the market is regulated by prudent levels of economic and social intervention. Such thinking has had some impact on modern conservatism, which has edged away from, but not broken with, free market thinking.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	39-60	Good or better knowledge and understanding. Effective analysis and evaluation of political information.
Level 2	21-38	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding. Adequate ability to analyse and evaluate political information.
Level 1	0-20	Poor to weak knowledge and understanding. Limited ability to analyse and evaluation political information.

Question Number	Indicative content
6	<p>The liberal support for equality is based on a belief in individualism. Individualism implies foundational equality, the idea that human beings are 'born' equal; they are equal moral worth. This is reflected in a belief in formal equality, the idea of equal rights and entitlements. Liberals thus believe in legal equality (the law is no respecter of persons) and political equality (one person one vote, one vote one value). Liberals take this belief in equality further by supporting equality of opportunity, a belief in a level playing field in which all people have an equal chance to realise their potential and achieve to the maximum of their ability. For modern liberals, this can only be achieved when social inequality is reduced by welfare and other strategies.</p> <p>However, liberal forms of egalitarianism have been criticised. In the first place, equal opportunities provide no guarantee of equal outcomes. Indeed, quite the opposite is true. Equality of opportunity provides a justification for social inequality, so long as it is based on different natural abilities or different levels of hard work. People therefore have an equal opportunity to realise their unequal talents and abilities. This leads to meritocracy rather than egalitarianism. Moreover, socialists have argued that liberal ideas such as foundational and formal equality are limited because they do not deliver social equality. Equal voting rights, for instance, do not ensure that millionaires and beggars have the same political influence. Marxists argue that the liberal view of equality is only used to mask the underlying inequalities of the capitalist system.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	39-60	Good or better knowledge and understanding. Effective analysis
Level 2	21-38	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding. Adequate ability to analyse and evaluate political information.
Level 1	0-20	Poor to weak knowledge and understanding. Limited ability to analyse and evaluation political information.

Question Number	Indicative content
7	<p>The doctrine of the 'inevitability of gradualism' was developed by Fabian socialists in the UK in the late nineteenth century. Gradualism refers to the introduction of social and economic change through incremental reform using constitutional methods. For the Fabians, gradualism would inevitably be successful because of the logic of political democracy. As the franchise was expanded, this would empower the working class as the electoral majority, who would naturally vote for socialist parties, thus bringing them to power. The arrival of political democracy therefore made the victory of socialism a certainty.</p> <p>These high expectations have failed for a number of reasons. First, as capitalism has developed, the size of the industrial working class has shrunk, meaning that socialist parties have been forced to revise their policies in order to appeal to other social classes. Second, it is questionable whether socialism is the 'natural home' of the working class. The widening of prosperity after 1945 even benefited the working class, inclining a growing number of working class voters to believe that 'capitalism works'. Third, when in office socialist parties have not always been in power. Some theorists thus point to the influence of state elites or the entrenched power of major corporations to explain why, once in power, with working majorities, socialist parties have usually failed to deliver radical socialist reform. An alternative Marxist explanation for the failure of gradualism is the influence of bourgeois ideology, deluding the proletariat and preventing them from recognising the fact of their own exploitation. Nevertheless, some have argued that gradualism has, in some respects, been successful. The development of a welfare state and a redistributive tax system could be seen to reflect the success of gradualist socialism.</p>

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Level 2	21-38	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding. Adequate ability to analyse and evaluate political information.
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