

Mark Scheme (Results)

June 2011

GCE Government & Politics 6GP03 3A
UK Political Issues

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June 2011

Publications Code UA028083

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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.

No. 1	Are the coalition government's proposals for restructuring the NHS either necessary or desirable?
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Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that the coalition government is planning to give GPs much more responsibility for spending the budget in England, set hospitals free from central control, devolve public health to local government control, set up an independent board to oversee services and the patient body Healthcheck to collate information and feedback on services from patients.

The coalition government argues that these reforms are 'necessary and desirable' for the following reasons:

- England is lagging behind in terms of the number of deaths from certain diseases- restructuring will allow more money to be devoted to tackling this
- The proposals are designed to put the NHS on a more sustainable footing for the future
- They will empower clinicians to design services in the best interests of patients
- They will ensure it is comparable to the world's best-performing health systems.
- They will make the NHS more responsive to the needs of patients
- They will free the NHS of political interference

However, the reforms have been criticised for the following reasons:

- Health economist Professor John Appleby of the think tank The King's Fund has questioned the government's reasons for reforms, as they are based on statistics that are dependent on a number of factors, not just NHS treatment.
- The cost of the programme is estimated at £1.4bn, of which £1bn may be spent on redundancies- Labour have argued that this should be spent on key staff such as nurses instead
- Labour have also supported UNISON claims that 50,000 jobs may be lost because of the reforms
- Doctors, nurses and patient groups have criticised the speed of reforms and the financial pressures they will place on the NHS
- Giving GPs who are essentially independent of the NHS too much power has also been questioned amidst fears that a desire to cut costs will have a detrimental effect on services
- It has been argued that the reforms are an unnecessary upheaval and reorganisation at a time when the NHS is under pressure to become more efficient
- The plan to free hospitals has led to claims that this is effectively privatisation of the NHS
- Unions argue that allowing private health firms to get involved may lead to prioritising 'easy' cases, and leave patients with more complex problems for the NHS to deal with
- The NHS Confederation argues that they will lead to the closure of hospitals to make way for new providers.

LEVELS	DESCRIPTORS
<p>Level 3 (11-15 marks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to excellent knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates. • Good to excellent ability to analyse and explain political information, arguments and explanations. • Good to excellent ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary.
<p>Level 2 (6-10 marks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to sound knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates. • Limited to sound ability to analyse and explain political information, arguments and explanations. • Limited to sound ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary.
<p>Level 1 (0-5 marks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very poor to weak knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates. • Very poor to weak ability to analyse and explain political information, arguments and explanations. • Very poor to weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary.

No. 2	Why has the use of crime statistics been politically controversial?
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Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that government critics both use statistics to their advantage and/or challenge the legitimacy of the statistics.

For example:

- There are differences between recorded crime noted by the police and the incidence of crime identified by the British Crime Survey
- Their use to support claims that crime has fallen, when public perceptions have been that crime is rising because of a growing fear of crime, or the increase in 'over-reporting' of crime
The incidence of crime varies considerably from place to place
- The contradictory conclusions that can be drawn from different crime surveys
- The frequent changes in the criteria used by the police, making comparisons difficult e.g. definitions of 'serious' or 'violent' may change
- The variations in categories of crime that may mean that even when overall crime is falling there are rises in the types of crime that cause the greatest public concern e.g. as happened with the reclassification of drugs in 2009, and when knife crime records began in 2007/08
- The government taking credit for falling crime when the reductions may be unrelated to government policy (eg car companies making car theft more difficult)
- New crimes are created by legislation passed e.g. anti-terrorism legislation, 'cybercrime'. New Labour reportedly created over 3500 new offences in its first 10 years in power.

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No. 3	What changes have the major parties proposed to retirement pensions, and why?
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Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that the old age pensions are paid from general taxation and that as the number of pensioners continues to rise, relative to the number of working tax-payers, this arrangement may become untenable. The increasing cost of government expenditure on pensions is also seen as unmanageable in today's economic climate- for example, the coalition government argue that they will save £3.5bn a year for every year that the retirement age is raised.

Labour's 2010 General Election Manifesto pledged to:

- Restore the link between the state pension and earnings by 2012 and increase pension credit in line with earnings
- Increase pension age for women to 65 in 2020 and to 68 for both men and women between 2024 and 2046
- Require employers to automatically enrol employees into either an in-house pension scheme or the state-run Personal Accounts scheme
- Look at ways to abolish the default retirement age

In opposition, Labour has launched a Shadow Work and Pensions Review in February 2011

The coalition government has agreed to:

- Restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011, with a "triple guarantee" that pensions are raised by the higher of earnings, prices or 2.5%.
- Commit to establishing an independent commission to review the long-term affordability of public sector pensions, while protecting accrued rights.
- Phase out the default retirement age and hold a review to set the date at which the state pension age starts to rise to 66, although it will not be sooner than 2016 for men and 2020 for women.
- Explore the potential to give people greater flexibility in accessing part of their personal pension fund early.
- Simplify the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions, encourage companies to offer high quality pensions to all employees, and work with business and the industry to support auto enrolment.

They have also ordered a Pensions Review under Lord Hutton.

Independent commentators have also pointed out that the balance between the retired and working age population could also be altered by allowing higher levels of immigration.

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No. 4	What is economic globalisation, and how does it affect economic policy-making in the UK?
Indicative content (<i>this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points</i>)	
<p>Economic globalisation is the increasing integration, across international borders, of trade, finance and labour.</p> <p>The implications for national economic policy-making include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to recognise that the UK economy needs to attract inward investment from large overseas and transnational companies • It has become more difficult for governments to manage money supply and interest rates, and their impact on imports and exports • Seemingly domestic policies, such as privatisation, can actually deepen globalisation as companies may not remain wholly UK-owned • The need to recognise that some preferred policy options, particularly relating to taxation, may be impractical in view of the ability of commercial organisations to evade them by moving assets or their entire organisation • Rules and regulations, such as those proposed in respect of the financial sector after the crisis of 2008/9, increasingly require international agreement if they are to be effective • Effective control over the movement of labour has become more difficult (and has been relinquished altogether in respect of the EU) making attempts to preserve “British jobs for British workers” largely meaningless • It is far more difficult to manage exchange rates to give UK businesses a financial edge • The UK’s involvement in the global economy is deeper than that of the EU, and so may form a barrier to the UK’s entry to the Eurozone 	
LEVELS	DESCRIPTORS
Level 3 (11-15 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to excellent knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates. • Good to excellent ability to analyse and explain political information, arguments and explanations. • Good to excellent ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary.
Level 2 (6-10 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to sound knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates. • Limited to sound ability to analyse and explain political information, arguments and explanations. • Limited to sound ability to construct and communicate coherent

	arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary.
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No. 5	Why has the expansion of wind power been politically controversial?
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Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that wind power has been criticised for a variety of reasons, including:

- Complaints that they are a blight on the countryside e.g. the Countryside Agency, Council for National Parks and the Council for the Protection of Rural England opposed the proposed Whinash wind farm because of its proximity to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales national parks- yet the scheme was supported by environmental groups Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace
- The cost, which means that a supplement is being added to electricity bills
- Their unreliability (the wind does not always blow)
- The criticisms of some environmentalists that they pose a threat to migrating birds e.g. plans for a 181-turbine wind farm on the Isle of Lewis were rejected by the Scottish Parliament because of its potential impact on rare and endangered birds (Critics are less hostile to offshore windfarms, but they cost more)

However, supporters of the use of renewable energy have also criticised the government for:

- Its lack of ambition, aiming for up to 30% of the UK's supply which is substantially less than other EU countries such as Germany
- The scale of the plans may not be sufficient to stimulate "green" industries, meaning that contracts are likely to be placed with overseas companies- the world's biggest supplier of wind turbines (Danish company Vestas) closed the UK's only major wind turbine plant in 2009, yet saw profits rise 25% which it claims mainly came from UK orders.

The Labour government under Blair were instrumental in speeding up planning permission for building wind turbines in order to help meet its target of 15% energy from renewable by 2020- by 2008, only 1.5% energy was from renewable. Brown pledged 4000 onshore and 3000 offshore wind turbines to help meet a revised target of 1/3 energy from renewable by 2020.

Only the Liberal Democrats expressly pledged to increase the use of wind power in their 2010 manifesto, including a £400million pledge to repurpose shipyards to build wind turbines.

The coalition government pledged an offshore electricity grid in order to support the development of a new generation of offshore wind power. Most recently they have granted permission for the first offshore wind farm in 2 years, to be built off the coast of Humberside.

LEVELS	DESCRIPTORS
<p>Level 3 (11-15 marks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to excellent knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates. • Good to excellent ability to analyse and explain political information, arguments and explanations. • Good to excellent ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary.
<p>Level 2 (6-10 marks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to sound knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates. • Limited to sound ability to analyse and explain political information, arguments and explanations. • Limited to sound ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary.
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No. 6

'Since 1997, there has been a growing consensus on law and order policy across the political spectrum.' Discuss.

Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that the main political parties have significantly modified their positions on law and order, while liberals and fringe elements offer an alternative agenda to the main parties.

New Labour, especially under Blair, shifted its approach from emphasising the causes of crime to taking tough action against criminals and other disruptive groups in society and did so by adopting measures (more, and better equipped, police and more prisoners) traditionally associated with the right.

The Conservatives, when Cameron first became leader, used law and order policy to demonstrate the more 'caring' side of conservatism, which the press dubbed "hug a hoodie" and proposals to increase police accountability through directly elected police-chiefs (as in the USA). As the 2010 election approached, however, the language and policies reverted to traditional 'tough' approach to law and order, with more police, fewer constraints on police, longer prison sentences and more jails.

The Liberal Democrats have highlighted the extent to which both of the main parties have given little consideration to the civil liberties implications of their policies, especially the growth of surveillance, the introduction of 'on the spot punishments' and the measures to combat terrorism.

Meanwhile, 'old' Labour continues to stress the social causes of crime and to view the police as defenders of the status quo, while the growing prominence of fringe right-wing parties such as UKIP and the BNP has led to the reintroduction of the death penalty being discussed.

In coalition, the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have been able to agree on a number of policies that both proposed in their 2010 manifestos. These include scrapping ID cards, introducing an elected element in to the management of police forces, reducing bureaucracy in the police and increasing the use of restorative justice. In terms of action, directly elected police commissioners are to be elected in 2012, ID cards have been scrapped, the number of days a suspected terrorist can be detained without trial has been reduced to 14 and a review of prisons and sentencing has been announced (December 2010).

Candidates should note the impact of the economic recession on party policy as, for example pre-election pledges to increase the number of police on the streets have had to be revised in light of the need for budget cuts.

AO1	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good to excellent knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates.
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Very poor to weak knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
AO2	Intellectual skills
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good to excellent ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Limited to sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Very poor to weak ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations
AO2	Synoptic skills
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good to excellent ability to identify competing viewpoints or perspectives, and clear insight into how they affect the interpretation of political events or issues and shape conclusions
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Limited to sound ability to identify competing viewpoints or perspectives, and a reliable awareness of how they affect the interpretation of political events or issues and shape conclusions
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Very poor to weak ability to identify competing viewpoints or perspectives, and a little awareness of how they affect the interpretation of political events or issues and shape conclusions

A03	Communication and coherence
Level 3 (7-9 marks)	Good to excellent ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 2 (4-6 marks)	Limited to sound ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 1 (0-3 marks)	Very poor to weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

No. 7	To what extent has the 'green' movement shaped public debate and policies on the environment?
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Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

There are conflicting views on the extent to which the green movement has shaped the public debate on the environment:

Moderate elements in the green movement, in both the Green Party and environmental pressure groups such as Friends of the Earth, argue that they promoted awareness of both the challenges facing the environment and the need for sustainable economic policies. The major parties, they argue, would not have adopted more environmentally-friendly policies if it were not for this pressure and cannot be trusted to maintain them unless the pressure is maintained.

"Deep Green" elements in the movement argue that Greens have failed, so far, to persuade the main parties to accept their central policy of abandoning economic growth as the price that has to be paid for protecting the planet and that the environmental policies of the main parties are entirely cosmetic.

The main parties, while accepting that the green movement has played a role in raising awareness, argue that their commitment to protecting the planet is rooted in their ideological traditions:

- Labour: working to protect the interests of the wider community, in terms of the environment, is entirely consistent with socialist values
- Conservatives: policies to conserve the environment are consistent with conservative values and providing economic incentives for people to do so by choice (through policies such as CAP and Trade) are in line with longstanding Conservative Party policy
- Liberals: promoting an environmental balance between individual self-interest and responsibility towards society as a whole is consistent with traditional liberal values.

Sceptics, including some elements in the Conservative Party, argue that they have been in no way influenced by the green movement and are dedicated to exposing claims of threats to the planet as a fraud perpetrated by those seeking to justify interventionist policies in the aftermath of the collapse of communism.

The case can also be made that many supposedly 'green' policies have in actual fact been more determined by economic considerations than environmental e.g. the scrapping of the third runway at Heathrow, fuel duty is not ring-fenced for addressing environmental problems etc.

The UK government under New Labour, nonetheless, was instrumental in shaping and driving forward environmental policy on the international agenda.

AO1	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good to excellent knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Very poor to weak knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
AO2	Intellectual skills
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good to excellent ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Limited to sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Very poor to weak ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations
AO2	Synoptic skills
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Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Very poor to weak ability to identify competing viewpoints or perspectives, and a little awareness of how they affect the interpretation of political events or issues and shape conclusions

A03	Communication and coherence
Level 3 (7-9 marks)	Good to excellent ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 2 (4-6 marks)	Limited to sound ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 1 (0-3 marks)	Very poor to weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

No. 8 'There is more rhetoric than substance in the disagreements between the major UK parties over the budget deficit.' Discuss.

Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

The Conservative Party recognised the need for a financial package when the economic crisis hit, but then criticised Labour's Keynesian reaction to the budget deficit as it relied too heavily on spending, so creating the budget deficit. They have adopted the neo-liberal position that public spending should be reduced rather than increasing taxes to reduce the deficit.

In opposition, their pledges included:

- £6bn in cuts, targeting all areas except health and foreign aid
- Push for an international agreement to stop banks engaging in large-scale trading using their own money and a global levy on banks
- Raise Inheritance Tax threshold to £1m
- Scrap Labour's planned 1% national insurance rise for people earning less than £35,000 and Stamp Duty for first-time buyers on homes up to £250,000
- Cut headline rate of corporation tax to 25p and the small companies' rate to 20%
- Cut civil service costs by a third over five years
- Freeze public sector pay for one year in 2011, excluding the one million lowest paid workers
- Cut ministers' pay by 5 per cent, followed by a five year freeze

Liberal Democrats in opposition found themselves more often in agreement with Labour than their current coalition partners, with policies such as supporting Labour's fiscal stimulus and bank bail-outs, and reducing structural deficit at least as fast as Labour plans while protecting frontline services. Where the Liberal Democrats differ from the other main parties, however, is in addressing areas of policy not always tackled by Labour and the Conservatives, such as redirecting £3.1bn of public spending for a one-year "Green Stimulus", investing in green technology to create 100,00 jobs. The Liberal Democrats also would have taken the more radical step of nationalising failing banks. They also prefer to raise taxes rather than cut spending amidst fears of impacting the most vulnerable members of society, and so would have raised the threshold at which people start paying income tax from current levels to £10,000 and imposed "mansion tax" on the value of properties over £2m and increase capital gains tax to bring it into line with income tax. However, their policies have been limited by the need to maintain unity with their coalition partners.

In coalition, the Conservative Party has tended to dominate economic policy. They have, however, compromised with the Liberal Democrats on delaying plans to raise inheritance tax thresholds and work towards taking the lowest earners out of the tax system.

Policies include:

Coalition has pledged to:

- £6bn cuts to non-front-line services within the financial year 2010/11 and use some of those savings to support jobs.
- Reducing spending on the Child Trust Fund and tax credits for higher earners.

- Reducing the number and cost of quangos
- Introducing a banking levy

Labour argues that the Coalition's programme of cuts will hit the 'squeezed middle' hardest, as the cost of living outstrips wages. Ed Miliband has suggested that companies could be given tax incentives to pay a 'living wage' and to invest in training for employees. They also claim that many of the coalition's plans, such as the £11m efficiency savings plan, were underway when Labour were in power. Labour also argue that the Conservatives are demonstrating their inability to deal with the budget deficit, as they are turning to the policies they followed in the 1980s, with increases and VAT, spending cuts and proposing 'enterprise zones'.

AO1	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good to excellent knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Very poor to weak knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
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SUMMARY A2 MARKING GRIDS

These grids should be used in conjunction with the fuller Level descriptors.

PART A - SHORT QUESTIONS (15 marks)

Level 3	Excellent	15
	Very good	13-14
	Good	11-12
Level 2	Sound	10
	Basic	8-9
	Limited	6-7
Level 1	Weak	4-5
	Poor	2-3
	Very poor	0-1

PART B – ESSAY QUESTIONS (45 marks)

A01 / A02 / Synopticity	
Level 3 (Good to excellent)	9-12
Level 2 (Limited to sound)	5-8
Level 1 (Very poor to weak)	0-4

A03	
Level 3 (good to excellent)	7-9
Level 2 (Limited to sound)	4-6
Level 1 (Very poor to weak)	0-3

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Order Code UA028083 June 2011

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