

Examiners' Report  
June 2015

GCE General Studies 6GS02 01

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## Introduction

This unit explores the individual in society and asks what influences behaviour and where values and opinions come from. It explores issues as diverse as social and genetic factors, the media, the arts and electoral systems.

Students are asked to consider such issues as 'nature versus nurture' and social change to draw conclusions about the individual and their responsibilities within society. The unit also examines the role of the media in influencing public opinion, exploring censorship and bias, then looking at how readers influence the media and society by using such things as 'blogs'. How the arts have changed over time and whether this has reflected or challenged society as a whole, will also be addressed in this unit.

Generally, the standard achieved seemed to be comparable with that of previous years. More so than in previous years, candidates dealt successfully with questions involving application or number. However, questions 15, 16 and 17, involving art and architecture, proved very challenging to a majority of candidates, as did Q19 on politics.

The quality of the essays written in Section C was as good as those written by previous cohorts of candidates and there were clear signs that candidates were more successful in managing their use of the limited time available in this year's examination.

Examiners were sometimes disappointed by candidates' failure to judge the length or complexity expected in an answer, achieving lower than expected marks as a result, especially in response to Section B questions.

Overall, the performance of candidates was impressive. Most candidates will have gained substantially from the transferable skills acquired during their course of study leading to the examination.

## Question 21

To answer this question successfully, candidates needed to say that HS2 will free up capacity on the network for commuter services or to point out that with extra capacity on existing tracks, there will be less congestion for commuters. Those who commented on HS2 generally rather than its impact on commuters scored no marks.

21 From paragraph 1 of his statement, how does Sir Richard Leese believe HS2 will affect commuters?

It will free up capacity on the existing network for commuters.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer is awarded 1 mark because it closely matches bullet point 1 in the mark scheme.

21 From paragraph 1 of his statement, how does Sir Richard Leese believe HS2 will affect commuters?

He believes that their journeys will be less disrupted



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A vague answer which could mean anything - it is certainly not clear enough to gain a mark. Mark = 0



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

This candidate may have had the right idea in mind but does not express it with sufficient clarity. Examiners are not expected to interpret the candidates' meaning when awarding marks. Candidates' responses should be explicit.

## Question 22

Successful answers needed to point out that commuters, and people on low incomes, will have to use the existing network which will be short of funding due to so much being spent on HS2. An acceptable alternative answer would be that, whether or not commuters use HS2 themselves, they will have to pay a share of the cost (£17.8 billion for London-Birmingham stage alone). Answers which failed to focus on commuters generally gained no marks at all.

22 From paragraph 1 of his statement, how does Joe Rukin believe HS2 will affect commuters?

poorer commuters ~~won't be able to~~ will have to use the rest of the rail network, which will be starved of funds if HS2 goes ahead

(Total for Question 22 = 1 mark)



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer gains 1 mark for closely matching bullet point 1 in the mark scheme.

22 From paragraph 1 of his statement, how does Joe Rukin believe HS2 will affect commuters?

It will make ~~an~~ journeys more expensive and poorer travellers will be swok.

(Total for Question 22 = 1 mark)



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer gains no marks because the phrase "more expensive" is not close enough to the "paying a share of the cost" in bullet 2 on the mark scheme.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Examiners award marks on the basis of the answers they see. If the answer is vague or muddled, it is very unlikely that marks will be given.

## Question 23

Successful answers were able to point out that criticisms are rarely made of a long term strategy; criticisms are much more likely to refer to short-term changes. Generally speaking, whether it is a new railway (or a wind farm or a nuclear power station) being planned, locals will find reasons to oppose it in the short term, thinking it will damage their view, reduce the value of their property, etc.

Irrespective of whether they argue a case on environmental or cost grounds, or for some other reason, the true root of many people's objection is that they don't want change in their 'backyard'. Such objections are predictable and generally focus on short term and localised concerns (hence 'parochial').

Like many answers, both examples given below were very short compared to the amount of writing space provided. Some candidates wrote about HS2 in general terms rather than the 'not in my backyard' idea in particular. Consequently this question often yielded quite low marks for candidates.

23 Why does the 'For' statement (paragraph 2) criticise 'short-sighted "not-in-my-backyard" opposition'?

Because it shows that people won't care about the rest of the country as long as they are okay. He says it's predictable and parochial.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This inelegant answer makes 2 simple but distinctive points. In the first sentence, the contrast between people's own interests and those of the, "rest of the country" matches bullet point 1 of the mark scheme. Then the final sentence picks up the idea of "predictable and parochial" from bullet point 4. Mark = 2



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

There were more points that could have been made but the candidate uses the minimum space provided to answer the question. Candidates are advised to spend about 1 minute for each mark available. There are three marks available for this question but this example does not appear to demonstrate that the candidate has made sufficient use of the time.

23 Why does the 'For' statement (paragraph 2) criticise 'short-sighted "not-in-my-backyard" opposition'?

It criticises 'short sighted' "not in my backyard opposition" as being an opposition which does not take into account the benefits the HS2 will have to all people in England and Wales, not just themselves. Selfish.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Essentially this answer is short and simple - makes the point of selfishly ignoring wider benefits and focussing on themselves alone. Mark = 1



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Often questions such as this (with 3 marks available) are awarded by giving a mark for each point. When that is the case, answers which offer only one point can expect to receive no more than one mark.

## Question 24

Some answers made the mistake of discussing their views on HS2 generally rather than commenting specifically on the idea of a 'fast train for fat cats'. Some took the term 'fat cats' literally and even went so far as to draw pictures of cats, earning no marks at all for their efforts.

More successful and considered answers recognised that Rukin believes HS2 is being built to please financiers, bosses, etc (ie 'fat cats'). Such answers often claimed that HS2 is going ahead because it will make profits for the vested interests. Rukin makes it clear, from his Titanic analogy, that he sees most people as probably continuing to use the existing tracks and services, rather than HS2 (hence 'fast trains for fat cats'). While supporters of HS2 often argue in favour of such infrastructure developments as a means of boosting employment, Rukin says very few jobs will result in the scheme.

24 Why does the 'Against' statement (paragraph 4) claim that 'you are about to put what money we have left into a fast train for fat cats'?

With this statement I think the use of 'fat cats' was not used in a literal manner. I think he is referring to their money. Meaning only the richer, first class ~~can~~ <sup>Swiss</sup> can afford to use this new train.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a very simple answer which suggests that only richer people will be able to afford to use the new train. There is much more that this candidate could have said. Mark = 1



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This answer is very short. A more detailed explanation could have earned the candidate more of the 3 marks, which were available.



24 Why does the 'Against' statement (paragraph 4) claim that 'you are about to put what money we have left into a fast train for fat cats'?

It suggests that the money is being used to build the new high-speed railway network which won't provide many new jobs at all. They also suggest that this is going to be something only the richer percentage of the population will be able to afford it, therefore leaving the poorer to use the normal network which will be "starved of funds"



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The first three lines of this answer about "not providing many new jobs" match the 5th bullet point on the mark scheme. The following sentence about HS2 being for richer people matches bullet point 3. The final statement about "many people continuing to use the existing network" matches bullet point 4. Mark = 3

## Question 25

Some candidates strayed far beyond the discussion about whether HS2 would benefit everyone in all regions of the UK, including the North. Stronger answers recognised that all travellers will benefit from more capacity, less congestion. In addition, all the extra investment and additional work will boost the economy and provide work for a significant number of people. Firms will also be helped because HS2 will increase connectivity between cities in Britain and the rest of Europe, thus assisting trade. Such answers often went on to recognise that when HS2 gets to Manchester it will link the North effectively to Europe, making it much less likely that prosperity will continue to be concentrated in London and the South East.

However Joe Rukin sees the situation very differently, arguing that some people will resent losing their home or from having their own locality disrupted. He suggests that many people, (especially those who do not use HS2) will resent all the costs to which they are likely to be asked to contribute, (through taxation or fares on the rest of the rail system). Then there is the whole question of the environment - although some people who take the environment seriously may welcome HS2 because it will reduce domestic air travel (with all its CO2 implications), others may follow the alleged opposition from environmental bodies, seeing HS2 as being more about speedier journeys than increased capacity.

Some answers pointed out that Leese says jobs will be created but Rukin responds by claiming very few new jobs will result. Similarly, Leese believes all parts of the UK will benefit whereas Rukin clearly feels that there are some regions which will see little benefit from HS2.

25 According to paragraph 2 of the 'For' statement, HS2 'will benefit everyone' in 'all regions in the UK, including the north'.

Using the ideas outlined in the two statements and your own knowledge, explain how realistic this claim is.

(7)  
This claim is highly unrealistic, it's quite certain that HS2 will not benefit everyone 'in all regions in the UK, including the north'.

The 'for' argument argues that HS2 will 'unlock much needed jobs and investment'. However the 'against' argument argues that "the number of jobs to be gained on this... is ridiculously low." Indeed suggesting

that it will not benefit the majority of the unemployed.

The 'against' argument also shows that HS2 will not benefit the poor people of Britain. Arguing that building HS2 "is like building the Titanic, but without accommodation for poorer passengers." Clearly showing that HS2 will in fact not benefit anyone.

In fact it puts a large majority of British people at a disadvantage as they are the ones who will have to pay "the £17.8bn just to get it to run between London and Birmingham."



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The 2nd paragraph of this answer points out that HS2 will create jobs, but not many jobs. The 3rd paragraph matches the 2nd bullet point in the 'Against' section of the mark scheme. Communication is broadly understandable so 2 marks are awarded. Mark 2 + 2 (QWC) = 4.

25 According to paragraph 2 of the 'For' statement, HS2 'will benefit everyone' in 'all regions in the UK, including the north'.

Using the ideas outlined in the two statements and your own knowledge, explain how realistic this claim is.

(7)

There are several benefits for the 'HS2', however there are also many drawbacks that also need to be addressed.

Some good points are that, as said earlier, it will free-up capacity on the existing network and it will give a railway fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that will unlock many jobs and investment

which will help to rebalance the UK's economy. This alone will not do that. Obviously it will make your journeys quicker as well, clearly realistic.

'HS2 is an investment that will be ultimately self-financing', this is a bold statement; we aren't actually told how therefore it is hard to believe.

Here are some negatives also; they said 'building HS2 is like building the Titanic but without accommodation for the poorer passengers', I would totally agree however they might find a way to make it cheaper as it will apparently pay for itself!

Overall, I definitely do not agree that it will benefit everyone because there are so many negatives that cannot be changed such as knocking down people's houses.



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Comments

In this a relatively successful answer. The candidate picks up marks from meeting the 1st and 2nd bullets of the 'for' mark scheme on the first page. The answer also deserves credit for the comments about HS2 being ultimately self-financing. A further mark is awarded right at the end when the answer also discusses the destruction of people's homes. Quality of written communication is broadly understandable, though there are some errors.

Mark: 4+2 (QWC) = 6



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Tip

Some candidates made the mistake of focussing on just a couple of points - jobs and the environment - and saying that the two writers disagreed over these. To get a high mark, they needed to be much more ambitious than this, as this candidate was.

## Question 27

Joe Rukin's argument is an argument from analogy.

By drawing a parallel with which an audience is familiar, it may make it easier for people to grasp an unfamiliar or complicated idea.

- 27 (a) Joe Rukin argues in paragraph 1: 'Building HS2 is like building the Titanic, but without accommodation for poorer passengers – they will have to use the rest of the rail network, which will be starved of funds if HS2 goes ahead.'

Name this type of argument.

(1)

argument of analogy.

- (b) Give one benefit of using this type of argument.

(1)

you are able to express your opinion of the argument.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The answer correctly identifies the argument but the suggested benefit is not correct.

Mark 1 + 0 = 1



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

In most years, one or two questions are set concerning types of argument such as inductive, deductive, from authority, from analogy, from cause. Candidates would be well advised to be able to recognise such arguments and make sure they could point to their strengths and weaknesses.



- 27 (a) Joe Rukin argues in paragraph 1: 'Building HS2 is like building the Titanic, but without accommodation for poorer passengers – they will have to use the rest of the rail network, which will be starved of funds if HS2 goes ahead.'

Name this type of argument.

Analogy

(1)

- (b) Give one benefit of using this type of argument.

The two things can be compared and based on their similarities a conclusion can be drawn.

(1)



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

'Argument from analogy' is correctly identified and an acceptable benefit is briefly explained.

Mark: 1 + 1 = 2

## Question 28

Some candidates made the mistake of choosing answers from paragraphs other than the third paragraph specified and, thus, gained no marks. Others revealed a very uncertain capacity to distinguish between facts and opinions.

Examples of fact-only extracts from the paragraph were:

- The .... Paris-Lyons line opened in 1981 (allowed only if 'impressive' had been removed)
- and has paid for itself
- the new high-speed lines in Spain are the only profitable part of the Spanish rail network.

Examples of opinion-only extracts from the paragraph were:

- The impressive Paris-Lyons line
- The UK's future economic success will depend upon its capacity to...
- For Manchester that means we're up against cities like Munich...
- International-class connectivity is essential.
- The rest of Europe is already well ahead...
- it is an investment that will ultimately be self-financing.

The only statement containing both fact and opinion was:

- The impressive Paris-Lyons line opened in 1981 and ....

**28** From Sir Richard Leese's third paragraph, write out a phrase containing:

(a) only fact (1)

the new high speed line in Spain

(b) only opinion (1)

International-class connectivity is essential

(c) both fact and opinion (1)

The impressive Paris-Lyons line opened in 1981



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The answer correctly identifies (a) fact only, (b) opinion only and (c) fact and opinion.

Mark: 1+1+1 = 3



28 From Sir Richard Leese's third paragraph, write out a phrase containing:

(a) only fact

(1)

The impressive Paris - Lyons line opened in 1981.

(b) only opinion

(1)

The rest of Europe is already well ahead in the high-speed stakes.

(c) both fact and opinion

(1)

The UK's future economic status will depend upon its capacity to compete on a global stage.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The answer to (a) cannot be awarded a mark because the word "impressive" has not been removed from the statement. The opinion-only quote in (b) is correct but in (c), which is seeking both fact and opinion, there is no example of fact. 0+1+0= 1 mark

## Question 29

The question asked candidates, regardless of their own views about HS2, to explain which writer uses evidence and arguments most effectively to justify the conclusion reached.

Sir Richard Leese comments on HS2, as a response to increasing congestion and freeing up existing track to allow improvements in existing services; Joe Rukin comments that HS2 is for the rich who want to make profits, not for the poor who will have to use existing services starved of funds. However, are such ideas backed up with examples or are these simply assertions?

There was some evidence in both passages but some claims, eg HS2 for the rich or fair compensation/compensation package won't work, are not backed up and could be seen as no more than assertions.

Inductive or other types of argument were discussed by many candidates with some reference to their strength or reliability, yet in reality both pieces are really a series of points.

Candidates were alerted to understand that THEIR views on HS2 were not being sought but rather an assessment was required (based on evidence and arguments) of the two pieces.

Examiners marked for Assessment Objective 3 by asking themselves the following questions and awarding a mark where appropriate (max 4):

- Does the candidate refer to both Leese and Rukin and their viewpoints?
- If YES award one mark
- Does the candidate discuss/link evidence and effectiveness?
- If YES award one mark
- Does the candidate critically consider particular evidence or refer to types of evidence – eg objectively/subjectively facts, opinions or bias?
- If YES award one mark
- Does the candidate consider whether the writer produces an assertion (claim without evidence) rather than an argument (supported by evidence)?
- If YES award one mark
- Does the candidate refer to the writer's argument or to different types of argument, as well as to evidence?
- If YES award one mark
- Is a plausible final objective assessment made of which piece is more effective?
- If YES award one mark

29 Put aside your own views about HS2 and explain which writer uses **evidence** and **arguments** most effectively to justify his conclusion.

(9)

Joe Rukin uses evidence and arguments most effectively, because he starts his argument with a very strong statement "HS2 is the wrong priority for Britain" He then goes on to explain why it is the wrong priority. He uses a clever analogy "Building HS2 is like building the Titanic", because it makes people mentally compare the two situations, and even gives them the idea of the possible outcome - it will be a train wreck. He then adds in some evidence, telling us that "Commuters will have to help pay the £ 17.8 bn just to get it to run between London

and Birmingham" which makes the reader think about how ridiculously high that amount is just for a slightly faster train line from London to ~~then~~ Birmingham, and if it's that much for just that stretch how much will the rest of the project cost??

The second paragraph continues that style, of an argument backed up by evidence, this time about the benefits gained. The third paragraph argues about the environment and how much extra will need to be spent in order to protect it, as well as how little jobs will actually be created despite what those for HS2 are predicting.

He concludes asking a rhetorical question  
and another perfect fitting analogy.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer is awarded 3 marks for meeting the marking criteria for 2, 5 and 6, as given in the introduction, above. The final assessment was in fact at the start of the answer. Communication is broadly acceptable.

Mark:  $3 + 2(\text{QWC}) = 5$

29 Put aside your own views about HS2 and explain which writer uses **evidence** and **arguments** most effectively to justify his conclusion.

(9)

Leese's use of evidence is minimal, with the majority of his sentences being tainted with his own opinion, which suits the persuasive style he's using. For example, he tries to provide evidence by saying that HS2 will "unlock much needed jobs and investment" but he doesn't provide actual, undeniable figures, just what he believes is essential for the UK economy. However, evidence is provided when Leese is discussing foreign implementations of high speed rails, ~~and~~ with the example used of the "Paris-Lyons



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This answer is awarded 5 marks for AO3: The viewpoints of both Joe Rukin and Richard Leese are considered so a mark is awarded for marking criteria 1. About halfway down on page 1, the candidate discusses the link between evidence and effectiveness, gaining the mark for marking criteria 2. There is also discussion on the first page of Leese's opinions gaining a mark for marking criteria 3. On the second page, there is a clear evaluation of Rukin being more effective in his use of evidence compared to Leese, gaining a mark for marking criteria 6. In the final paragraph, there is consideration of arguments in the passage gaining a mark for marking criteria 5. Mark: 5 + 3(QWC) = 8.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Questions of this kind are often assessed by using marking criteria, such as those listed in the introduction, above. Candidates preparing to answer such questions in future would be well advised to consider the attributes indicated which can lead to a strong mark.

## **Question 30**

This question triggered a wide and interesting range of responses.

Often candidates speculated on why and how Jimmy Savile was able to avoid detection throughout his lifetime. They often also questioned why it took so long for Lance Armstrong's cheating to be recognised. On a more serious note, some stronger essays discussed why it took so long for the truth about the loss of life at Hillsborough to be widely understood. There was much discussion of the internet; the ease with which people can use Twitter, Facebook and various forms of social media, including the ability to take photos, so virtually any action (or misdemeanour) can be recorded and easily circulated to the rest of the world. The more thoughtful often pointed out that it is still difficult for whistle-blowers to draw attention to perceived wrongs or to be believed in some cases.

Many answers to this question went on to discuss difficult questions such as:

- Did Jimmy Savile keep his deviant behaviour secret because he was famous and apparently popular or because he bullied his victims into secrecy?
- Or was it because he was sustained and protected by important friends, (eg in the BBC)?
- Similarly why did Lance Armstrong keep his secrets for so long but no longer? Was this the result of improved dope-testing technology 'finding him out'?
- Is the most important point that keeping secrets is now more difficult, due to the internet and social media?
- And if so, is it also true that people are now more willing and able to circulate information with a commitment to openness?

Unfortunately, having posed pertinent questions, few candidates systematically argued their way through to strong conclusions. Overall, this question did positively engage candidates' interest and produced responses that were better than those seen in response to Section C questions in previous series.



## SECTION C

Answer BOTH questions.

You should aim to spend no more than 40 minutes on this section.

- 30 Use your own knowledge, as well as the information given, to answer the question below.

Some say we are living in an 'Age of Deception'. We now commonly read about sporting personalities who cheat on the pitch and the track, and celebrities who cheat in their tax returns. And we also see tabloid journalists who shamelessly conceal opinion behind claims that they are merely presenting the truth.

Yet sooner or later the deceptions do come to light. When a footballer dives or feigns a non-existent injury, or a politician is seen in a first-class compartment with a standard-class ticket, their misdemeanours are reported to millions, replayed over and over in slow motion, disseminated via the internet and social media. If such deceptions are now rumbled in one way or another, perhaps it would be truer to say that we now live in an 'Age of Information'.

(Source: adapted from Neil McNaughton, <http://mcnaughtonspolitics.blogspot.co.uk/>,  
Thursday 11 October 2012)

PS .

Examine the view that it is now more difficult to deceive society than in the past.

(20)

At the current time, access to information is much more widely available, than it was in the past. This means that information can spread faster and more widely than ever before. Therefore, As a result, if an individual's misdemeanours are found then they are often put on the internet and many people find out about them. In the past people may have known the information but it would be passed on much more slowly and to fewer people. Therefore it is more difficult to hide things and deceive society now. However, nearly all of the media (including newspapers, blogs, documentaries) is biased nowadays.

This means that if the owner of a tabloid e.g. the ~~the~~ <sup>Daily Mail</sup> wants to keep certain information away from the public eye, they can easily edit articles so that readers are unaware. The paper or blog can take a very biased view on an event or idea and present it as a factual article, and the readers do not know the difference.

On the other hand, there are so many different tabloids and journals available so it is most likely that at least one other organisation will have published a balanced view or, at the very least, the other side of the argument.

Some people believe that even the news has shown strong biased views in the past. (For example, there was a media blackout with the riots after the election). This may be due to the wealthiest and most powerful people controlling what is seen and what is known. However, people are so much more educated now (than in the past) so may be able to recognise an article that is weighed heavily with one opinion. So, people are more likely to form ~~there~~ their own ideas based on all of the evidence given, rather than in the past where people may have just accepted what little they were shown as they had less access to more information.



Also, it may be seen that people nowadays are more easily deceived with the tools of editing and photoshop. Although we are told that the images in magazines aren't always ~~what~~ the true picture, some people may still aspire to look like their favourite model / celebrity even if that's not what they really do look like.

This kind of deception is common on social media and throughout blogs and magazines. Even on social media sites people can portray an image of themselves that isn't completely accurate.

Whether that's due to photoshop, using another person's photos or just ~~se~~ being extremely selective about the photos you upload. Some may say it is very easy to make an 'online version' of yourself that is very believable but very different to the real you.



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Examiner Comments

This is a strong answer in which there are in fact eleven mark points related to Assessment Objective 2 but examiners are not permitted to go beyond the maximum mark of 8. On the first page, a string of points are made concerning the speed and variety of channels through which information now spreads, so misdemeanours are often reported on the internet and become known to many people. (AO1- 3, A02-3) Many media outlets are biased and the power of the editor to omit some stories and target others may mean that even biased material is presented as fact (AO1-1; A02-2). Yet many media outlets have different points of view so balance can be achieved by the publication of other accounts (A02-1). Media bias may include news blackouts owing to the influence of the wealthiest and most powerful people exercising control.

Yet since more people are better educated, so biased articles are less likely to influence our views (A01-2; A02-2).

The essay closes with a discussion on how media can deceive those who follow it through editing and the use of technology such as photoshop (A01-1; A02-2).

Mark: 8 + 8 + 4(QWC) = 20.

## SECTION C

Answer BOTH questions.

You should aim to spend no more than 40 minutes on this section.

- 30 Use your own knowledge, as well as the information given, to answer the question below.

Some say we are living in an 'Age of Deception'. We now commonly read about sporting personalities who cheat on the pitch and the track, and celebrities who cheat in their tax returns. And we also see tabloid journalists who shamelessly conceal opinion behind claims that they are merely presenting the truth.

Yet sooner or later the deceptions do come to light. When a footballer dives or feigns a non-existent injury, or a politician is seen in a first-class compartment with a standard-class ticket, their misdemeanours are reported to millions, replayed over and over in slow motion, disseminated via the internet and social media. If such deceptions are now rumbled in one way or another, perhaps it would be truer to say that we now live in an 'Age of Information'.

(Source: adapted from Neil McNaughton, <http://mcnaughtonspolitics.blogspot.co.uk/>, Thursday 11 October 2012)

Examine the view that it is now more difficult to deceive society than in the past.

(20)

With technology advancing as quickly as it is, it is now getting much more difficult to deceive people without getting caught out.

We are now able to find sporting personalities who use performance enhancing drugs and cheat in other ways due to medical advances for drugs testing and advanced technology for on pitch disputes like goal line technology and cameras for a joint finished race. Celebrities are found out now for crimes committed much more often than

In the past. This is due to a better and more efficient policing system.

Due to social media and an increased use of the internet it is very hard for anyone, especially celebrities, to keep things private. Therefore as soon as someone does something slightly wrong such as politicians swearing in public or royals partying, everyone knows about it making deceiving people in this modern, technological era much harder than in the past.

However people try much harder to deceive people. By getting rid of evidence and covering their tracks, people still get away with deceiving people on both an insignificant level and a very important, significant level.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

As technology advances it becomes more difficult to deceive (A01-1; A02-1). Material from the introduction to the question is highlighted and the difficulties faced by celebrities in keeping things quiet are seen as being much greater now - especially for politicians, royals, etc. The answer concludes with a discussion claiming that people may try to deceive and will sometimes succeed. (A01-3, A02-2).

Mark: 4 + 4 + 3(QWC) = 11.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Section C answers on this paper are marked on the number of points made and how they are developed or explained or expanded. In preparing to take this paper, candidates should recognise the importance of first, clearly demonstrating as many points of knowledge and understanding as they can and, following each one up with pertinent further discussions, highlighting their importance or significance.

### **Question 31**

There were many strong and empathetic answers to this question. Millions had watched, and hundreds of thousands attended, Paralympic events. It was generally recognised that many people wanted to demonstrate support for outstanding performances by Team GB, with so many overcoming very serious injuries (e.g. wounded soldiers) and handicaps.

Some thoughtful answers understood that before the Paralympics considerable progress had been made to give those with disabilities better access to shops, banks, places of entertainment, trains and buses. However, some answers adopted a fairly bleak perspective, highlighting the reality that before and since the Paralympics there have been a number of exposures and criminal prosecutions of carers who abused those in their charge.

Some answers questioned whether the public can be relied upon to give as much support to those with serious disabilities and special needs as to injured members of HM armed forces.

Most answers accepted that the claims made at the time of the Paralympics gave the impression that cultural values had shifted, but quite a few candidates indicated a fear that the shift had not been as great or as widespread as the preface to the question suggested.



31 Use your own knowledge, as well as the information given, to answer the question below.

### Lord Coe says UK will never be the same again after the Paralympics

As the 2012 London Paralympics closed, organisers hailed the 'seismic effect in shifting public attitudes' to disability sports and people with physical, mental and learning disabilities, claiming the games have changed public perceptions forever. Lord Coe praised the 'extraordinary summer of sport', which has made household names of home-grown Paralympians, such as swimmer Ellie Simmonds, and injured members of the armed forces, such as cycling silver medallist Jon-Allan Butterworth.

An organiser said: 'People will never see disability in the same way again. More and more people now see the person not the disability when they look at an injured soldier or other people with disabilities.' These comments came as an Ipsos MORI poll said 75% of Britons believed the Paralympics had had a positive effect on public attitudes.

(Source: adapted from <http://www.metro.co.uk/olympics>)

To what extent have public attitudes and practical support for those with disabilities changed since the 2012 Paralympic Games?

(20)

Disability becomes the 'master status' for those who experience it— however those who are disabled may not see themselves as this first— perhaps they see an athlete before a disabled person. It is society that instead assigns these names and this term 'disabled'. Yet, Shakespeare (not the writer) once said that disability ~~is~~ a socially constructed ideology. Instead of 'disabled' meaning a person who is not physically able, it could be argued that 'disabled' means not being able to carry out day-to-day activities. Otherwise, this is an impairment. For example, ~~the~~ society might classify a person in a wheelchair as disabled, but in reality the wheelchair allows them to continue with their day to day life— therefore they are not impaired. Have the attitudes to disability changed in the UK since the 2012 ~~the~~ Paralympic Games? Or do we continue to undermine these people and <sup>legally</sup> treat them as secondary?

members of society?

On the one hand, our attitudes towards those with a disability have not changed due to the Paralympic games. We continue to infantilize and even ~~romanticize~~ romanticize the concept of disability - much like many issues in the UK. We continue to separate them from the rest of society by calling them bad names, or by calling them 'brave' or 'courageous' - yet in doing this, are we not acknowledging disability as a master status, ~~as what a person identifies as~~ rather than acknowledging, ~~but setting aside this aspect~~, and looking at them in the way that they view themselves - as an athlete or mother/father, an ~~honours~~ honours student, historian or artist. People may have watched the ~~Paralympic~~ Paralympic games, yet have not truly received the message.

On the contrary, our opinions of disability have been changed by the Paralympic games. For one, it is now mandatory by law that all public shops or restaurants etc must have access for those with disabilities - eg a ramp. As a society, we are much more tolerant of diversity and it is projected onto us. The ~~Paralympic~~ Paralympic games for example allowed people to see past the stigma of what is classified as "disability" and begin to see them as athletes who have trained just as hard as - and possibly more than - the athletes in the Olympic games. ~~As~~ Additionally,

Social change is ~~is~~ constant and ongoing - so perhaps our attitudes have changed.

In conclusion, it is difficult to definitively proclaim a this/that answer - wherever change is, there will always be pockets of resistance - ~~that~~ for example as feminism gains popularity, misogynistic 'Mentism' counteracts this, or wherever racial minorities protest for rights / freedom, there is always resistance. In saying this, the resistance has significantly dropped and in fact those with disabilities are treated with a lot more ~~the~~ respect than before - so who's not to say this was due to the Paralympic games? After all, there's nothing better than uniting people for a cause than nationalism - and the 2012 games did just that.



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Examiner Comments

This answer begins by explaining disability as a secondary, constructed ideology (A01-1; A02-1) but, for example, a wheelchair may be able to overcome many of the individual's mobility issues (A01-1; A02-1). This explains why changes in social attitudes are so important and the answer questions whether those with disabilities are seen as second class people (A02-1). Often it seems people are defined by their disability; what they cannot be, rather than the role they perform successfully; athlete, mother, father, graduate, artist, etc. (A01-1, A02-1).

The answer discusses the laws increasing access to shops and restaurants for those with disabilities. It is claimed people are now more tolerant of diversity and see past the stigma of disability partly due to the Paralympics. (A01-2; A02-2). The answer says pockets of resistance remain around minorities; feminists, racial minorities, etc. Therefore, perhaps what we can say is that much resistance has now been weakened thanks to the Paralympics (A01-1; A02-1) Mark: 6 + 7 + 3(QWC) = 16



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To what extent have public attitudes and practical support for those with disabilities changed since the 2012 Paralympic Games?

(20)

The Olympic games has certainly allowed a wide range of people to take part in the games which is encouraging to those who are disabled and motivational in allowing them equal opportunities compared to those without disabilities. One athlete with prosthetic legs was able to compete with athletes with no disabilities which alters public attitudes, making them understand that having a disability doesn't make them different or unable to do certain things, meaning opportunities such as jobs ~~that~~ can still be offered.



to those with disabilities as it is not a disadvantage.

The fact that the disabled could compete in the Games meant they had practical support via training which was motivational for the paralympians and meant that they had equal opportunities compared to the olympians.

Public attitudes have reversed as ~~employers~~ people are more likely to look at the person rather than the disability however, this doesn't mean all public attitudes have changed and some employers may still discriminate against the disabled, or prevent them from having a job just because of their disability. In some cases yes, it may be impractical for a wheelchair user to be for example a waitress, but there should be other job positions available, and public attitudes may ~~or~~ still need to change, and public support should be available to help train the disabled to gain the

might still set.

The olympics has showed the determination and strength of the disabled community since the olympics and has ~~also~~ led to them reversing ~~the~~ most public attitudes and earning greater respect from society.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This answer sees the Olympics and Paralympics as motivational, allowing athletes equal opportunities. Compared to those without disabilities - those with prosthetic legs can maybe not run as fast as others yet having a disability doesn't make such athletes different (A01-2; A02-2). The Paralympic Games gave those taking part practical support and made it possible for people to see the person rather than the disability (A01-1; A02-1). Although attitudes have improved, it is claimed some employees still discriminate perhaps for practical reasons - the role of a waitress is mentioned- and further changes are needed (A01-2; A02-1). The answer concludes by saying the Olympics did help change public attitudes. (A02-2)

Mark: 5 + 5 + 4(QWC) = 14

## Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

1. Attempt all multiple choice questions rather than sometimes leaving blanks - a guess is better than no answer at all because marks are not deducted for mistakes.
2. Carefully revise the 'Clarification of Content' section of the specification, particularly in relation to section 2.6 - *Do the arts challenge or reflect society?* and 2.7 - *Is the UK really a democracy?*
3. Take greater care in reading the questions, for example when told to focus on a particular paragraph of the insert (as in Q28), it is not a sensible approach to offer answers from a different paragraph.
4. Take seriously the quality of written communication in the questions requiring longer answers (Q25, 29, 30, 31). There are 14 marks available here, so well-expressed answers which did not fall into 'text-speak' or colloquialisms could possibly earn a candidate one or two grades more than those which were poor on syntax and structure (paragraphs, sentences, punctuation).
5. Plan use of time in the exam carefully, there are 90 marks to be earned and 90 minutes in which to earn them. It is expected that answers should not take more than a minute to write.

## **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>



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