

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2007

GCE

GCE Government and Politics (6494) 01

Route A

Unit 4 6494

1. Why have unionists been so reluctant to share power with nationalists in Northern Ireland ?

Indicative Content

The Democratic Unionists have overtaken the UUP as the dominant loyalist group in N.I. UUP were willing to share power with reservations over the role of the IRA, decommissioning, the marches, prisoner release etc, criminal activities of the IRA. DUP are more fundamentalists. They take a harder ant-catholic line. They refuse to negotiate with politicians who may be backed by terrorists. Paisley et al are more suspicious of the nationalists. They also take a harder line on sovereignty. The fact that power sharing has been agreed does not alter the assessment. The question relates only to reluctance to the agreement in May,2007.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- How well the candidate understands the unionist position (AO1)
- The extent of understanding of the divisions within unionism and their significance to this question (AO1 and 2)
- How well the candidate understands the causes of the lack of trust in the political process. (AO2)

Level 3

A full description of the nature of unionists fears and suspicions is included. The response understands and describes accurately the different strands of unionism and why the DUP is more reluctant to engage politically than the moderate UUP. The candidate demonstrates good knowledge of the significance and meaning of power sharing.

Level 2

A more basic description of the unionist position. The candidates understands why unionists are suspicious of dealing politically with nationalists, but there is less sensitivity to divisions within unionism.

Level 1

A few basic comments about the nature of the conflict between unionists and nationalists. Knowledge of the concept of power sharing is either absent or dealt with only sparingly. The response does not deal with divisions within unionism.

2. How much success have governments had in improving the performance of the National Health Service in the UK since 1997 ?

Indicative Content

Knowledge will be shown of successes such as reduced waiting lists , better A&E performance. Progress made in primary care facilities and performance. Also improvements in treatments of heart disease and many cancers etc. Development of new powerful drugs. On the other hand there are still problems with performance of some health trusts, postcode lottery, some diseases are hrowing worse. Note also the recent problems over over-spending by some trusts , redundancies etc. Problems with MRSA etc. Problems with new system for doctor recruitment.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- The extent of knowledge by the candidate of successes and failures of the NHS (AO1).
- How successfully the candidate has evaluated successes and failures (AO2)

Level 3

A good range of knowledge is indicated of both success and limitations in NHS performance. The answer is well balanced, with good assessments of how well reforms and funding have succeeded in improving performance. There is a strong overall assessment.

Level 2

A less extensive range of issue raised, but there is a balance between positive and negative developments. There is some assessment, but this is relatively limited.

Level 1

A much narrower range of issues raised. Evaluation of performance will be either absent or weak.

3. In what way, and to what extent, have race relations in the UK been adversely affected by the threat of international terrorism ?

Indicative Content

Measures taken by government have had effects. For example police activity, shoot to kill, incidents such as Charles de Menezes, Forest gate etc., detention without trial, closure of mosques, arrest of various religious leaders, selective searches on the underground and at airports. Incitement to religious hatred legislation etc. should be mentioned. Note this has caused resentment, feeling of alienation among Muslims. Note various demonstrations and signs of a backlash. However balance is shown by the lack of any major breakdown in community relations, relatively little violence. The attitude of the Muslim community over terrorism and anti terrorism policies remains finely balanced. Experience of terrorist activities such as 7/7 has also caused racial tension.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- The range of knowledge of the measures which is demonstrated (AO1)
- The understanding shown of the links between the anti terrorist measures and race relations (AO2)
- The strength of the evaluation of how much race relations have been affected (AO2)

Level 3

A wide range of issues and incidents is described. The effects of these on race relations are thoroughly described. There is good knowledge shown of linkages and there is a strong evaluation of the state of race relations.

Level 2

There are a number of issues raised, but a more limited range. Links between the policies and measures and race relations are made successfully, but may not be fully developed. There is some, but limited evaluation.

Level 1

Some measures are described and there may be a generalised assessment of race relations, but linkages are weak. Evaluation is very limited or absent.

4. How and why have Labour governments since 1997 advanced the principle of 'welfare to work' ?

Indicative Content

Welfare to work describes a number of systems and a philosophy that aims to direct welfare benefits at those individuals and families who actively attempt to support themselves. This involves such measures as jobseekers allowance, family tax credits and incentives for single parents and the disabled to seek work. The system should save money from the social security budget as it is targeted. The overall aim, however, is to take as many as possible out of the welfare net permanently. It should also boost the UK's productive capacity. It is part of a more targeted welfare system in general. It also acts as a disincentive for some not to seek work and simply rely on the state. Can be related to the 'Third Way' of new labour.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- How well the candidate has understood the concept (AO1 and 2)
- The range of measures under the philosophy that the candidate raises (AO1)
- Degree of understanding of why the Labour government adopted the policy (AO2)

Level 3

A thorough knowledge of the concept is demonstrated with a good range of examples. The candidate demonstrates how welfare to work is supposed to work and there is a strong explanation of why what objectives the government has sought to achieve its objectives and what these objectives have been.

Level 2

Likely to be stronger on factual illustrations than on understanding of the reasons for the policy. Range of examples is more limited and the links between policy and objectives are variable in depth and quality.

Level 1

A limited description of the policy, varying in accuracy. Links between the measures and the objectives will be absent or weak.

5. Has a genuine political consensus emerged in the UK over economic policy ?

Indicative Content

Examples of consensus include the following : The need for fiscal responsibility, the need to keep monetary control out of political control, agreement that objectives should include steady growth, low inflation, low interest rates, poverty relief and consistent levels of capital, social and human investment. However there are some conflicts over the level and distribution of tax. Labour and Conservatives are closer on tax than the Lib Dems. There continues to be conflict over Europe. There is also conflict over social justice in relation to tax and welfare. The extent to which this is a *genuine* consensus may be addressed, asking whether this is electoral politics or a real coming together of economic philosophy. It should also be pointed out that there is not a consensus *within* the main parties. The Conservative 'Way Forward' wants a return to low taxes and disengagement while the left of both Labour and the Lib Dems want economic policy that reduces inequality and restores more social justice. Interpretation of what constitutes economic policy may be quite wide.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- The extent of the range of issues raised (AO1)
- The strength of the assessment of how much consensus there is (AO2)
- Analysis of the term 'genuine' in relation to this question (AO2)

Level 3

Good, wide knowledge shown of issues that are matters of consensus and those that remain issues of conflict. The candidate develops a good assessment of the extent and depth of the consensus and evaluates how genuine the consensus is. It is likely, though not absolutely essential, that such responses will identify conflict *within* parties.

Level 2

A narrower range of issues, but a successful evaluation of the extent of both consensus and conflict. Responses correctly identify party attitudes to economic policy, but there is less development. There will probably be no sensitivity to conflicts within parties

Level 1

Some issues of policy will be identified, but assessment of consensus will be either absent or weak. Range of issues will be narrow.

6. 'The fear of crime is a greater problem than crime itself.' Explain and discuss.

Indicative Content

The question suggests perhaps that crime itself may be decreasing, but there remains a great fear of crime and policy makers must address this problem. This may be due to perceived lack of police on the beat (despite community support officers) . Also some crime is on the increase, notably street robberies, crimes of violence, sex offences. These create fear. Crimes which are decreasing such as

burglary, fraud and car crime instil less fear. Youth crime and disorder also causes fear of crime. Note may be taken of media attitudes to crime.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- How well the candidate understands the difference between the two phenomena (AO2)
- The extent to which the candidate can differentiate between perceptions and incidence of crime (AO2)
- The range of issues raised (AO1)

Level 3

A very good understanding shown of the difference between the two phenomena. A thorough knowledge is shown about developments in the incidence of crime. There is a good assessment of the extent to which fear of crime has grown and the extent to which crime itself has increased. The candidate understands well the reasons why fear of crime is persisting.

Level 2

The response understands well the distinction between crime and fear of crime. A number of relevant distinctions are made. Evaluation, however is weaker and the reasons why fear of crime has increased are less clearly demonstrated.

Level 1

A generalised answer about crime and its incidence. There will be weak or no knowledge of the distinction between crime and fear of crime.

7. 'The Welfare State has been in danger since 1979'. Discuss.

Indicative Content

The principles of the welfare state, including universality, compulsion, equality etc. are an essential part of any good answer. The range of possible threats to these principles is quite wide. Charges for various services have increased, notably prescriptions, tuition fees. The private sector (PPP, PFI, contracting out) is increasingly involved. Some pillars of the welfare state have been eroded, notably the old age pension, subsidised local authority housing, care of the elderly and the mentally ill. Introduction of targets and quasi markets may have threatened equality. On the other hand, have the principles been abandoned? The vast increases in funding of education and health have arguably improved provision. Labour claims that targeting benefits preserves the principles of social justice. Does private sector involvement equal privatisation. No party has yet challenged the basic principles.

Judgements should be based on the following criteria

- Extent of knowledge of the principles of the welfare state (AO1)
- The strength of the assessment of how much the principles have been eroded (AO2)
- Range of knowledge of the various issues at stake in this question (AO1)

Level 3

A full description of principles is included. There is a wide range of issues well described. In each case they will be evaluated in terms of whether they represent erosion. Some issues concerning improvements in the welfare state will be balanced against possible erosions and an overall assessment well developed.

Level 2

There is some assessment, with a reasonable range of issue raised on both sides of the argument. The evaluation will be sound but somewhat lacking in depth.

Level 1

A limited range of relevant issues will be raised Understanding of welfare state principles will probably be absent. Evaluation and assessment will be either weak or absent.

Unit 4 Marking Grid

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

Unit 5

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

Unit 6

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

