

**GCSE (9-1)**

**Examiners' report**

# **CITIZENSHIP STUDIES**

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**J270**

For first teaching in 2016

**J270/03 Summer 2022 series**

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## Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

### Advance Information for Summer 2022 assessments

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## Paper 3 series overview

This paper constitutes the final component of the J270 GCSE in Citizenship Studies and comprises of a mixture of short and longer questions. As in previous series the majority of candidates attempted most or all of the questions on the paper. The pre-release information had clearly been used to a varying extent by centres. Where this guidance had been used effectively candidates were well-prepared and able to answer questions in detail.

The majority of candidates attempted the longer questions (Questions 2(e), 3(b) and 4(b)) recognising that these comprise over 50% of the total marks on the paper. These questions also allowed more successful candidates to demonstrate their advocacy and broader citizenship knowledge. These questions included extra guidance framed as 'You should consider' items. These are provided as bullet points under the question itself. Where candidates used these and the sources provided to inform their response, they typically performed better on the question.

Again, this year some parts of the specification for this paper were answered more successfully than others. The Commonwealth that formed the focus of Question 2 was not clearly understood by a significant number of candidates with some common misconceptions remaining. These will be explored further in the individual item comments, but it is worth noting that this remains an element of the specification that candidates rarely address well. Candidates were clearly interested in the topic of climate change that formed the basis of Question 4. This led to some very detailed responses where candidates wrote personal opinions that did not address the question. Personal thoughts and their own knowledge on climate action as a whole took precedence over addressing the key issue regarding the UN. As in previous years the recommendation to encourage all candidates to carefully read the questions twice before attempting them, remains good practice.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read the questions carefully and used the extra guidance to frame longer responses</li> <li>• used the sources identified in the question to formulate their response</li> <li>• paid attention to the need to argue against viewpoints given where directed to do so (Questions 2(e) and 3(b))</li> <li>• gave a range of examples to support their opinions and arguments in their responses to the longer questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• did not use the extra guidance to plan their longer responses</li> <li>• did not use the sources to answer the longer and shorter questions even where they were directed to do so</li> <li>• gave responses that did not directly answer the question asked</li> <li>• did not evaluate viewpoints critically</li> <li>• gave repetitive or insufficiently accurate responses to shorter questions.</li> </ul>

## Section A overview

In this section candidates were expected to use the two sources to support their responses on four short questions exploring the development of the Rule of Law. A clear understanding of the development of the Rule of Law and the importance of this in modern society was required in order to be successful on this section. Centres had clearly used the pre-release information to make sure candidates were well prepared for the topics covered in this section.

### Question 1 (a)

#### Section A – The development of the Rule of Law

1 Study **Figs 1.1** and **1.2** and answer questions **1(a)–1(d)**.



(a) State the name normally given to the document being signed in **Fig. 1.1**.

..... [1]

The majority of candidates correctly identified this as the Magna Carta.

**Question 1 (b)**

(b) Describe how far the document being signed in **Fig. 1.1** is still very important today. Use evidence from **Fig. 1.2** to support your description.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [4]

Most candidates answered this question at least partially successfully. Those who used Fig. 1.2 to support their own knowledge tended to score more highly. Some more successful responses tried to evaluate 'how far' with a balance of evidence. Such responses were rare but often scored very highly.

**Question 1 (c)**

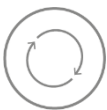
(c) State **one** piece of evidence which shows that the lords were challenging the King's power.

.....

..... [1]

Responses to this question were mostly successful. Where this was not the case it was typical that candidates had not used a piece of evidence but rather their own knowledge.

**Assessment for learning**



Centres could remind candidates to use evidence from the source, rather than their own knowledge to answer questions.

### Question 1 (d)

Study the viewpoint below and answer question 1(d).

'The rule of law is an old-fashioned idea with no relevance to modern society.'

(d) State **four** different points that could be used as part of a reasoned case **against** the viewpoint above.

- 1. ....  
.....
- 2. ....  
.....
- 3. ....  
.....
- 4. ....  
.....

[4]

The common mistake here was mistaking Rule of Law for the Magna Carta and either duplicating some of the points made in their responses to Question 1(b) or using Fig. 1.2 which is not pertinent to this question.

## Section B overview

Questions in this section gave candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the UK's role in international organisations and its relationship with other countries, particularly those formerly a part of the British Empire. The questions required careful reading of the map and written source and asked for a range of short and longer responses.

### Question 2 (a)

#### **Section B – The United Kingdom's role in the wider world**

- 2 Read the introduction below.

##### **Barbados removes Queen Elizabeth II as head of state**

Barbados announced in 2020 that it planned to remove Queen Elizabeth II as its constitutional monarch and become a republic. This is the first time since 1992 that a commonwealth nation has done this. A government official pointed out that the 55th anniversary of independence would happen in 2021 and claimed that Barbados was the “best governed Black society in the world”.

Study **Fig. 2** and answer questions **2(a)–2(c)**.





(a) Using **Fig. 2** and your own knowledge, state **one** example of a Commonwealth state, other than Barbados, where the Queen is **not** head of state.

.....  
..... [1]

There was a range of incorrect responses here, some candidates incorrectly chose a country identified in Fig. 2, indicating that they had not read either the question or the detail regarding the source carefully.

Question 2 (b)

(b) State **one** reason why the countries shown in **Fig. 2** are members of the Commonwealth.

.....  
..... [1]

This question was typically answered correctly although a common error was to suggest why these countries would join an international organisation in general, e.g., support in crisis, rather than exploring their relationship with the Commonwealth in particular.

Question 2 (c)

(c) Using the introduction to **Fig. 2**, state **two** reasons why Barbados would want to remove the Queen as head of state.

1. ....  
.....  
2. ....  
..... [2]

The most common errors here came from candidates not using Fig. 2.1 for their response and instead relying on their own knowledge.

### Question 2 (d)

Study the viewpoint below and answer question **2(d)**.

‘The United Kingdom (UK) benefits from its membership of the Commonwealth.’

**(d)** State **four** different points that could be used to **support** the viewpoint above.

- 1. ....  
.....
- 2. ....  
.....
- 3. ....  
.....
- 4. ....  
.....

**[4]**

There was a mixture of errors at play here when candidates did not score the full marks available. Typical misconceptions or mistakes involved the Commonwealth being a ‘free trade’ organisation, or that members were obligated to come to the UK’s aid if the country were attacked or went to war.

### Question 2 (e)\*

Study the viewpoint below and answer question **2(e)**.

'The Commonwealth is still one of the world's most important international economic and political organisations.'

**(e)\*** Write a detailed case **opposing** the viewpoint above.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [8]

Candidates who achieved higher marks on this question carefully explained in detail reasons why the Commonwealth was no longer a politically or economically significant international organisation. Candidates at all levels tended to make comparisons with other international organisations such as the EU, UN, WTO, etc. It was interesting to note that at all levels candidates were more confident in the policies and purposes of other organisations compared to the Commonwealth.

Possibly due to the current situation in Ukraine, many candidates compared the Commonwealth with NATO, often with limited success due to a lack of clarity on the size, location and purpose of both organisations.

## Exemplar 1

The Commonwealth is not one of the world's most important economic and political organisations in today's society. The Commonwealth is outdated and does not provide a large amount of money from being a part of it. One of the world's most important international organisations is the United Nations. This is because this promotes peace and ~~the~~ liberty amongst nations, allows strong relationships between countries and provides aid to countries in need of it. (such as Syria) The UN is important politically because it allows international governments to make collective decisions that change the world. It also prevents major armed conflicts between countries and mediates with peace talks. The UN strengthens countries through trade deals, which boost the economy worldwide. The Commonwealth, however, does not provide any income or political support to any nations. Many of the nations within the Commonwealth are actually less economically advanced, so this shows its lack of relevance in today's economy and politics. [8]

The response in Exemplar 1 met the criteria for Level 3, 5 marks with three points clearly describing why the Commonwealth is no longer one of the world's most important international economic and political organisations. The viewpoint is clearly used to answer the question and there is one accurate example of an alternative international organisation (UN).

## Section C overview

This section focuses on the knowledge and understanding of the issues related to asylum, extradition arrangements between countries and the right to a fair trial.

Question 3(b) was designed to assess the skills underpinning AO3. Effective written advocacy should include focusing on the argument, selecting strong supportive points and utilising convincing examples from the sources and information provided. Stimulus material in this section comprised of an introduction and two figures that provided information to be used by candidates in the answering of both questions in this section.

## Question 3 (a)

### Section C – Asylum and rights to a fair trial

3 Read the introduction below.

#### Asylum and extradition

Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to political asylum. This means you can shelter in one country to escape persecution in your own country. Extradition is the right of one country to ask another country to hand over a suspected criminal for trial. The request will only succeed if there is a strong case that the suspect person has committed a serious crime. Asylum and extradition often come into conflict.

Study **Fig. 3.1** and answer question **3(a)**.

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(a) State **two** examples of evidence in **Fig. 3.1** that could be used to **support** the following viewpoint:

'The United States of America (USA) has good reason to demand that the UK should extradite Julian Assange to the USA.'

- 1. ....  
.....
- 2. ....  
.....

[2]

While many candidates performed well on this question, some struggled to draw out suitable information as to why the USA has good reason to demand Assange's extradition. Marks were not given for focusing on Assange's issues with the law in Fig. 3.1 that did not relate to the USA.



### Question 3 (b)\*

Study **Fig. 3.2** and answer question **3(b)**.

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**(b)\*** Write a reasoned case **against** the following viewpoint:

'The UK should end its extradition treaty with the USA and stop sending anyone there against their will.'

In your answer you should consider:

- **Figs 3.1 and 3.2** and refer to them in your answer
- at least **three** disadvantages to ending this treaty.

**[8]**

Some candidates did not read the question correctly which stated that they were to argue against ending the treaty rather than argue in support of ending it. Higher performing responses were able to create a sustained and supported argument for retaining the treaty and made critical use of the sources and the introduction to support their argument.

Candidates who were able to analyse the data in Fig. 3.2 accurately and relate this to the relative total population size of the UK and the US were able to frame a more sophisticated argument based on numerical data.

## Exemplar 2

One disadvantage to ending the extradition treaty would be that people suspected of committing crimes in the USA, such as Julian Assange, would be less likely to be brought to justice. <sup>(see page bottom marked ✖)</sup>

10

Julian Assange is alleged to have published 470,000 USA military documents online. As the USA is a key UK military ally, keeping the extradition treaty would allow those who breach USA national security to be brought to justice.

The treaty should also be kept as not everyone can be extradited. Fig 3.2 states that only those with "probable cause" can be extradited. This means that the only people being extradited are those who are highly likely to have committed a crime. Therefore, getting them to go against their own will can be seen to benefit public safety and national security.

Fig 3.2 also states that "11 people" have been extradited from the USA to the UK. If the treaty was scrapped, then these 11 people would not have been able to be brought to justice. This means that it is in the interest of the UK public that the treaty is kept as it helps to uphold the British value of "The Rule of Law" as all who can be brought to justice here are.

In my personal view, I believe that the treaty should be scrapped as it is currently doing little to help justice to be brought for people such as Harry Dunn's family as the USA are refusing to extradite Anne Saccolas. This shows that the current treaty is redundant and not beneficial to British justice.

As seen in Fig 3.1

Exemplar 2 is a rare example of a full mark response for this question. Here the candidate has clearly used Figs. 3.1 and 3.2 to support the points made in their argument against the viewpoint. Three developed disadvantages are discussed supported by the sources and a personal viewpoint is given in conclusion.

## Section D overview

This section focuses on Sustainability and the UN response to climate change globally. The figures provided outlined the UN sustainable Development Goals and adaptations of tweets from Donald Trump expressing doubts about the validity of global warming and man-made climate change.

Question 4(b) asks candidates to evaluate a viewpoint, rather than specifically advocate against a given viewpoint as in Questions 2(e) and 3(b).

### Changes to marking guidance

The marking guidance for this question has changed and now the assessment criteria AO3a and AO3c are considered separately although recorded as a joint mark.

Centres may wish to pay particular attention to this change and consider how it may impact their support and preparation of candidates for this question in future series.

## Question 4 (a)

### Section D – The United Nations and sustainability

- 4 Read the introduction below.

#### The United Nations and sustainability

Members of the United Nations agree to support the four key aims in its Charter. The United Nations has set 17 goals to help achieve these aims. These are called Sustainable Development Goals. They are to make sure that the world can develop for everyone's benefit.

Study **Figs 4.1** and **4.2** and answer questions **4(a)–(b)**.

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(a) State **two** of the aims of the United Nations.

- 1. ....
- .....
- 2. ....
- .....

[2]

The question was answered correctly by many candidates, some used examples from Fig. 4.1 while others used their own knowledge. Candidates need to be careful of repetition in such questions, where responses such as 'preventing war' and 'keeping peace between countries' were both given, they could only be credited once.

Question 4 (b)\*

(b)\* Using information from **Figs 4.1** and **4.2** and evidence from your studies, evaluate the following viewpoint:

'The United Nations should forget other issues and allocate all their resources to stop climate change.'

You should consider:

- the merits of Trump's arguments about global warming
- the benefits of Sustainable Development Goals
- the ways in which the United Nations could help to stop climate change.

[12]

Some good responses were seen, and it was clear that candidates were typically well informed about the causes of climate change and actions that both individuals and national/international organisations can take to reduce this. Candidates also chose to discuss the other work of the UN with a good degree of accuracy, using this as a counter-argument to the viewpoint.

While the majority of candidates used either Figs 4.1 or 4.2, many did not use both sources to support their evaluation. Discussion of the 'merits' of Trump's arguments tended to be lacking, even where candidates included reference to these in their responses. The lack of critical evaluation of the sources is more apparent now the mark scheme explores this separately with relatively few candidates scoring above 2 marks at Level 2 on AO3a, even when their personal response as a whole was valid and coherent.

Most candidates made use of the prompts to structure and support their response.

## Exemplar 3

Whilst climate change is a prominent global phenomenon it can be argued whether the United Nations should delegate all of its resources towards it.

It can be argued that the United Nations should allocate <sup>all</sup> more resources towards climate change. This is supported by the success of the UN's SDGs, as stated in sig 4.1. For example, the UN's <sup>sustainable development</sup> member organisations goals, in particular, 13 (Climate action) and 7 (Affordable and clean energy) are recognised around the world with many countries switching to more renewable energy sources like solar and wind power. Businesses have also been making changes to assist this movement with Tesla as a manufacturer providing its customers with electric cars - do which release no carbon emissions. Therefore the UN's SDGs have helped to inspire a movement of sustainability among countries and businesses alike.

It can also be argued that the United Nations should allocate less resources to climate change. This is especially supported with sig 4.2 outlining Trump's ~~SDG~~ skepticism regarding global warming as a phenomenon. It is notable that switching to sustainable energy is expensive and may not be affordable by tax payers and businesses alike which could have destructive impacts on the current economic climate which is currently in recession.

This problem is only exacerbated by issues such as the current war between Ukraine and Russia which have caused certain <sup>goods</sup> resources to skyrocket in price like oil. Therefore, the United Nations should delegate less resources towards climate change and more towards the Ukraine-Russia war.

Ultimately, the UN ~~the United Nations~~ should allocate all of its resources to climate change as it's the most important current crisis. They could achieve this by funding less developed countries to help them switch to sustainable energy as it's expensive.

The response in Exemplar 3 represents a coherent, relevant, logically structured and substantiated response to the viewpoint. It met the criteria for Level 4 for both AO3a and AO3c due to the inclusion of a thorough and accurate evaluation of a range of information. This evaluation included specific reference to source 4.1, source 4.2 and the candidate's own knowledge.

Sustainable Development Goals, the merits of Trump's arguments and the role the UN could play in defeating the climate change were all discussed and a substantiated although brief conclusion drawn, supported by a clear introduction and evaluation throughout. This response was given 11 marks out of 12.



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