

Mark Scheme (Standardisation) Summer 2008

GCE

GCE Government & Politics (Unit 6B/6499)

General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Question Number	Indicative content
1	<p>The ideological complexion of the Labour Party has been the subject of considerable debate. Some believe that it has successfully forged a 'third way'. The idea of the third way is the notion of an alternative to both capitalism and socialism, and in particular to the free-market theories of Thatcherism and 'traditional' social democracy. This can best be seen in ideas such as liberal communitarianism, advanced through a rights and responsibilities agenda. Labour has expanded individual rights through its programme of constitutional reforms but it has also attempted to strengthen social responsibilities through welfare reform, tuition fees and by the so-called 'respect agenda'. Labour's welfare policies appear to conform to a third way model, in that they reflect continuing support for public services and the benefits system but have been reformed to take more account of targeting and a commitment to welfare-to-work.</p> <p>However, such a view has been criticised in at least three ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critics of Labour's modernisation process have sometimes argued that its real substance consists in an accommodation with Thatcherism and an acceptance of the 'rolled back' state. This view is supported by evidence of Labour's acceptance of privatisation and its adoption of a pro-business economic strategy. • An alternative view is that Labour remains committed to 'old' Labour goals such as equality and social justice, reflected, for example, in its continuing commitment to end child poverty and to tackle global inequality. • Another view suggests that the third way was little more than a convenient slogan to conceal Labour's lack of ideological direction. The idea of the third way has, anyway, largely been abandoned by most involved in the 'new' Labour project, as it hinted at a level of ideological coherence that is difficult to identify in practice.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	0-17	Poor to weak understanding of the 'third way', with little awareness of it's relevance to the modern Labour Party. Limited analysis and evaluation of political information
Level 2	18-32	Limited to sound understanding of the idea of the 'third way' with a reliable ability to apply it to the modern Labour Party.
Level 3	32-50	Good or better understanding of the 'third way', and an effective evaluation of its significance within modern Labour politics.

Question Number	Indicative content
2	<p>Progressive forms of nationalism are forward-looking, orientated around the idea of progress towards a desired goal. However, reactionary forms of nationalism are backward looking, in that they seek to 'turn the clock back' to an earlier, preferred time. Some forms of UK nationalism have a clearly progressive character. This certainly applies to Scottish nationalism, which is largely orientated around the goal of self-determination and independent statehood. This form of nationalism is essentially political and rationalist in character. Other forms of nationalism that are linked to self-determination, such as Welsh nationalism and Republican nationalism in Northern Ireland, are also, to some extent, progressive.</p> <p>However, there is evidence that UK nationalism is often reactionary. The cultural nationalism found in Wales can be said to be backward-looking in that it seeks to preserve a cultural and linguistic identity that is clearly rooted in history. Unionist nationalism in Northern Ireland is also reactionary as it harks back to, and tries to maintain, the union between Ulster and Great Britain. Forms of English or British nationalism are commonly seen to be reactionary. This certainly applies in the case of far-right groups such as the BNP, which is based on a long-outdated model of all-white Britishness. UKIP and Eurosceptics in the Conservative Party can also be said to be reactionary in that they seek to return to a condition of sovereign independence that the UK supposedly enjoyed before it became a member of the EC in 1973. Nationalism and nationalist traditions are highly complex in practice. Not uncommonly, they blend progressive and reactionary characteristics, seeing the nation as both historically defined and embarked on a progressive quest.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	0-17	Poor to weak understanding of the nature of progressive and reactionary nationalism and of nationalisms in the UK.
Level 2	18-32	Limited to sound understanding of the nature of progressive and reactionary nationalism as found in the UK.
Level 3	32-50	Good or better understanding of progressive and reactionary forms of nationalism in the UK.

Question Number	Indicative content
3	<p>The Conservative Party has gone through many changes since the overthrow of Thatcher, the process of change having accelerated since the election of Cameron in 2005. Under Cameron, the party has embraced a variety of ideological themes. In one sense, the free market ideas of economic Thatcherism remain in place. Conservatives have certainly not abandoned the broad notion of 'rolling back' the state, as is reflected in Cameron's belief that 'there is such a thing as society, it is just not the same as the state'. Cameron therefore prefers non-state solutions, for instance emphasising the importance of faith groups and community action. Tax cuts are also still seen as desirable, even though the party is unwilling to commit itself on the issue if economic conditions are not conducive. However, quite different ideological themes have also emerged. There is some evidence of growing support for social inclusion, for example. This can be seen in at least three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, public services, particularly health and education, have been more openly endorsed. • Second, greater concern has been shown about poverty and levels of social inequality, even though there has also been support for a Thatcherite toughness on entitlements to benefits. • Third, there has been an attempt to widen the appeal of the party that had seemed to be too closely associated with white, middle class, 'middle England'. Attempts have therefore been made to appeal to the young, women, ethnic minorities and so on, although this has largely to date taken the form of rhetoric rather than hard policy commitments. Cameron appears to be trying to balance the need to change the Party's image, away from the 'nasty party' of old, while also retaining the support of traditionalists in the party and amongst its supporters.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	0-17	Poor to weak knowledge of Conservative ideas and policies in recent years.
Level 2	18-32	Limited to sound knowledge and understanding of different ideological trends in the Conservative Party.
Level 3	32-50	Good or better knowledge and understanding of ideological trends in the Conservative Party and the balance between free market social inclusive priorities.

Question Number	Indicative content
4	<p data-bbox="391 275 1281 734">Constitutional liberalism is based on the belief that political power is inherently corrupting, in which case a collection of devices are needed to protect citizens from the danger of over-mighty government. Limited government has usually been associated with external constraints in the form of codified constitutions and entrenched bills of rights, internal constraints in the form of institutional checks and balances, and democratic constraints in terms of regular, free and fair elections and PR voting systems. All of the UK's major parties now subscribe to some form of constitutional liberalism: however, this applies to different degrees in different parties:</p> <ul data-bbox="391 786 1281 2004" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="391 786 1281 987">• The Liberal Democrats are strong and consistent supporters of constitutional liberalism. They advocate a codified constitution incorporating a bill of rights, support federalism rather than devolution and back the introduction of PR for Westminster elections. <li data-bbox="391 999 1281 1626">• Since 1997, Labour has shown much greater sympathy for certain themes within constitutional liberalism. This encouraged the party to pursue the most radical programme of constitutional reforms of any elected in the twentieth century. Reforms such as devolution, the wider use of referendums, the introduction of PR for newly-created bodies, the Human Rights Act and so on were all designed to strengthen checks and balances and provide greater protection for individual freedom. However, these reforms have not fully satisfied constitutional liberals. Notably, they leave the uncodified character of the constitution unchanged, and Labour has shied away from major reforms that would substantially reduce executive power, such as the introduction a fully elected second chamber and PR for Westminster elections. <li data-bbox="391 1637 1281 2004">• The Conservatives, the party that has traditionally been least sympathetic to constitutional liberalism, has gradually shown greater interest in ways of limiting government power. The Party came quickly to accept devolution after 1997, and it formally supports an 80 per cent elected second chamber. However, the Conservatives remain the party least committed to constitutional liberalism. For example, Cameron has talked about replacing the Human Rights Act with a 'British bill of rights', which would be likely to abandon the HRA's semi-

	entrenched status. Similarly, the Conservatives remain the party least committed to electoral reform and most concerned about expanding the powers of devolved bodies.
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Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	0-17	Poor to weak understanding of constitutional liberalism and current party policies.
Level 2	18-32	Limited to sound understanding of constitutional liberalism and current party policies.
Level 3	32-50	Good or better understanding of constitutional liberalism and of the constitutional policies of the major parties.