

Examiners' Report
June 2012

GCE Government & Politics 6GP03 3A

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Introduction

This paper saw a more even spread of responses across the various topics than has been seen in previous years. Question 1 was the most popular short-answer question, perhaps because secondary education is a subject close to candidates' experiences, whilst Question 6 on economic policy was the most popular essay.

As with the January examination, there was a noticeable increase in candidates' application of recent policy to the questions on this paper - with the exception of Question 2 on law and order. Many responses continued to rely on historical approaches, as demonstrated in the June 2011 paper where a similar question was posed on an essay.

The questions based on the economy remained the most challenging for candidates, particularly as the questions this year focused not only on examples of policy but also the determinants for economic policies and the reasons why such policies changed.

Failure to address the question as set continued to cause knowledgeable candidates difficulties, particularly on Questions 3, 5 and 6. There were far fewer candidates, however, who drifted out of political arguments and into more general discussion of the issue at stake, particularly on the environment.

Question 1

This was the most popular short-answer question, and it was particularly pleasing to see many candidates demonstrate a wealth not only of knowledge of policy targeting secondary education, but also a clear understanding of how such policy aimed to improve standards. Candidates who could demonstrate this with reference to recent coalition policy were able to access the highest parts of level 3, as indeed a significant number of candidates did.

As expected, the majority of candidates were able to explain the Labour government's academies scheme, with many linking this explicitly to the coalition government's extension of this policy. This was where most candidates focused their analysis, with discussion of the impact of budgetary changes and parental choice in conjunction with this policy.

Many candidates were also able to focus their entire answer on coalition policy. This was an alternative route to level 3, with good explanations of changes to the curriculum, the academies programme and the creation of free schools. There were, however, some spurious passages on the abolition of the EMA, which were not relevant to this question. The EMA was designed to encourage students to stay on at school, rather than specifically targeting standards within schools. Candidates who failed to reference the coalition anywhere in their response, however, were limited to the top of level 2 as it is expected that candidates include recent policy where relevant on this key issues paper.

Weaker candidates wrote in general terms about education policy, so including many irrelevant points on literacy and numeracy hours (primary education) or tuition fees (higher education) - such discussion would receive no credit, as this question was explicitly on secondary education.

There was also a tendency amongst weaker candidates to list policies carried out by both Labour and the coalition governments, with no explanation of how they were intended to improve standards - such responses were limited to the middle of level 2.

A number of weaker responses also strayed into assessing the general merits (or otherwise) of the measures introduced, again limiting the mark to mid level 2 for a lack of focus on the question.

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Chosen Question Number:

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In 1998 and 1999, literacy and numeracy targets were unveiled. Alongside them - the introduction of literacy and numeracy hour for primary school students. The targets of 80% and 75% of 11 year olds meeting standards in literacy and numeracy respectively was to be met in 2002. They were met in 2004. Although targets were met late - standards were met for these students who were entering secondary education.

Focusing at secondary education - Academies were Labour's flagship education policy of the 2000's. Underperforming schools were closed and reopened - with the new school directors being less influenced by the Local Education Authority (LEA). These Academies have proved successful and struggling schools have reopened as successful Academies - thus improving standards.

Education Action zones were set up to pump money into ~~socially deprived~~ schools in socially deprived areas.

This did its part in improving standards.

You should start the answer to your second question choice on page 6

Publication of OFSTED reports and school league tables ~~boosting~~ boosted standards by making schools improve to increase their rank. Parents could choose their children's secondary schools - with many using league tables and OFSTED reports to choose.

New Labour funded education massively in a bid to improve standards. Secondary schools were provided with e-vouchers to purchase computers and given free internet access. Money was spent to train teachers in ICT.

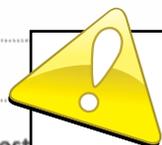
The Standards and Effectiveness agency was created to improve standards by closing and reopening schools under new management. And in a disastrous bid to ensure schools are held accountable to their performance - Education minister Blunkett named and shamed over a dozen failing schools.

The coalition has tried to make its mark on the education landscape by introducing free schools to boost standards. Based on the Swedish model - groups of parents and teachers can open their own schools from September 2011.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a classic example of a top level 2 response where the candidate is very knowledgeable about Labour government policy, but less so about the coalition. There is one reference to the coalition and free schools in the last paragraph, but this in the form of a statement of a policy, rather than an explanation of how this policy is designed to improve standards. This keeps this response in level 2, rather than level 3.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

It is not necessary to describe every single policy connected to the question, as this leads candidates into focusing on description of policy, rather than the required level 3 skill of analysis and evaluation. Instead, choose 2 or 3 policies and explain them in detail in relation to the question - remembering to include an example from the current government where possible.

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Since 1997, a number of ways have been adopted to try and improve education standards.

One main way has been through increased spending. Between 1997 and 2010, Labour increased education expenditure from 4.5% to 5.5%. Labour argued this was highly important in helping to improve standards as it helped build new schools, hire teachers and buy equipment. However, this appears to have come under fierce opposition from the Conservatives, who argued this spending was "financially unsustainable" and "lavish". However, Andy Burnham, Labour MP, said this spending "dramatically improved standards". So ~~for~~ ~~this~~ this certainly has been a major

You should start the answer to your second question choice on page 6

policy initiative. The Conservatives seem to now be cutting back on education spending, arguing this is necessary for deficit reduction.

Another way standards have tried to be improved is by enhancing the role of competition. Labour introduced city academies, which are ~~semi~~ autonomous and can make their own spending decisions. They hoped these would improve choice and make them more competitive. Indeed, the Conservatives keenly supported these, and in the 2010 Academies Act allowed any school to apply to become one. ~~The~~ Cameron argued competition is "the best way to drive up standards". Their Free Schools are also aimed at enhancing the role of competition, as local parents can establish them where they feel education is poor. So an increase in competition in driving up educational standards has certainly taken a very important role in education policy since 1997. However, Trade Unions such as the NUT argue that this

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impacts ~~was~~ women's rights as their wages might fall, and that by taking them out of local authority control, they are less accountable.

More recently, the Coalition have tried to improve standards by refocusing on traditional subjects. The English Baccalaureate is intended to provide special recognition to academic subjects - and ~~the~~ Education Secretary Gove wants exams to become harder. He argues this will improve standards as it will bring "rigour" to education. However, Labour have fiercely criticised ~~the~~ this, with Andy Burnham ~~the~~ saying ~~the~~ it will create a "two-tier" education system.

It can also be said tougher targets are intended to help improve education. Under Labour, a school had to get 30% or less of pupils achieving 5, A*-C to be classed as "failing", however Gove has said this should be 50%.

(Total for Question = 15 marks)



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Examiner Comments

This response covers a wide range of policy areas from both the Labour and coalition governments. There is some description of the policies as well as an explanation of how most of the policies will try/have tried to improve standards - so meriting a high level 3 award of 14 marks.

Question 2

This is a common theme on this paper, and one which has been answered as an essay, as well as a short-answer question. It was surprising, therefore, to see how few responses accurately identified 'the consensus' early in the answer. Some responses confused the time period, going back to the 1970s, rather than focusing on the recent debates over changing party ideologies and approaches. This invariably left insufficient time to focus on the question by the time the discussion moved on to contemporary political developments. Such responses were generally limited to the middle of level 2, as the knowledge demonstrated was often historical or in very general terms of how harsh/soft political parties are on crime.

There were, however, a number of responses demonstrating a very good ability to identify areas of disagreement between the major political parties, but were often less able to highlight the areas of consensus. This would limit candidates to the top of level 2 if there was no attempt to balance the answer, or to the bottom of level 3 if the areas of consensus were merely described or asserted rather than explained. Responses which merely argued that the opposition disagree with government policy with no understanding or explanation of how such policies can be similar but with a different focus - e.g. the ASBO versus the CBO - were also limited to level 2 for the lack of focus on the key term *consensus*.

Many responses suggested that the 2011 riots showed a degree of consensus over tough sentencing, which neglected to identify that the Liberal Democrats (and, to some extent, Labour), distanced themselves from the 'tougher' rhetoric of leading Tory politicians. Some responses did well in highlighting the Liberal Democrat concerns with civil liberties, although they did not necessarily acknowledge that these concerns were also shared by a number of Conservatives, including senior front-benchers such as David Davis.

Relatively few responses focused on policing reforms, including the issue of elected police commissioners, perhaps because they were 'saving' those points for question 5. Candidates could legitimately have discussed elected police commissioners here, as one factor in a multi-factor question. Those candidates who made police reforms the sole focus of their question, however, would have been limited to a mid level 2 for lack of range and depth.

A significant number of responses generally explored the 'tough on crime agenda', often in quite general terms of changing ideology, with little specific reference to particular policies. However, relatively few of these clearly identified splits in the Tory party (Ken Clarke vs Theresa May), which could have lifted their responses to the very top of level 3.

There was also a worrying number of candidates who tried to make this a single-issue question, usually on prisons (so re-using material prepared for the January 2012 essay). This reinforces the need for candidates to prepare for the range of topics within each unit of work, rather than re-learning the points required for previous examinations.

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Throughout the last century there has been much debate surrounding the best lines of law and order policy. Traditionally the conservatives favoured a more hardline approach where as Labour sought to crackdown on the causes of crime making prison a last resort. Since 1997, however a consensus had been reached and to some extent is still aparant today. Tony Blair's slogan "Tough on Crime; tough on the causes of crime" best describes this suggesting that criminals have to be punished, but measures must also be in place to stop reoffending.

However since the coalition government has come into office and the UK has gone into a double dip recession, funds are subsequently NOT as readily available. The austerity measures imposed by the government has seen the rehabilitation side to law and order come to an end. This has sparked outrage within Milliband's Labour opposition who believe keeping the UK safe should be a top priority, meaning both sentencing and rehabilitation would be on his agenda for government. Under Blair's government, levels of crime were decreasing, however, since

You should start the answer to your second question choice on page 6

Cameron and Clegg took office in 2010 it has steadily risen suggesting the consensus Cameron shared with Blair whilst in opposition has gone.

Consensus has also diminished in the keeping of law, with Labour ~~Atti~~ leader Miliband criticising cuts to the front line services of the police, once again suggesting he is putting the economy ahead of public safety. It is from this we can see that consensus over law and order has not come to a complete end but it is drifting back towards the parties original ideologies of 50 years ago. The Conservatives traditional 'tough' stance with Labour examining the social causes.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of a mid level 2 response, where the candidate has focused on one main issue - the impact of the recession. The points made are very general, with little specific reference to policy, other than the cuts to the police service. There are some indications that the candidate has at least a limited understanding of the similarities and differences between policy, but not enough to move beyond 8 marks.

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Chosen Question Number:

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Consensus hasn't come to end in terms of prisoners and crime. There is still ~~an~~ a consensus that social aspects and youth crime are key areas to crime and the main way to tackle these is through social methods. For example, Labour had 'tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime' and introduced policies like ASBOs, ~~for~~ ~~truncy~~ ~~officers~~ etc. This 'tough on the causes of crime' approach is shared by all the parties, as can be seen by the coalition introducing therapy for younger prisoners that is community and family based. This has taken into account the need for community measures in line with Labour's ASBOs, and the family, as a strong family unit is proven to ^{prevent} ~~reduce~~ crime.

However, in terms of terrorism and the war on terror, the consensus ends. Labour was committed to the war on terror, following 9/11 and the 7/7

You should start the answer to Section B on page 13

bombings, and primed terror legislation above regards to civil liberties. For example, control orders and 28 day detention have removed to some extent our rights to a fair trial. Whereas the coalition have attempted to reverse these policies in the form of the Great Repeal / Freedom Bill, which has aimed to restore civil liberties that Labour removed.

To some extent there has been consensus on policing, in terms of both Labour and the coalition accepting a need for more officers on the street. Labour increased police numbers by 20,000 and introduced 15,700 community support officers in order to have more physical presence on the streets. The coalition have taken a different approach by removing bureaucracy for the police, to free up more time for patrolling the streets. However, the consensus ends there as the coalition ~~want~~ to introduce elected police commissioners for 47 areas, ^{holding} elections in November 2012. This is in order to make policing more accountable. Whereas Labour had no such plans and wanted to increase police power, through stop and search and access to private information i.e. sex, credit card fraud and terrorist offenders cases.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate clearly addresses both sides of the question, but not always in depth. There is a clear understanding of the key term *consensus*, and some specific policy referenced - so meriting a level 3 award of 12 marks.

A distinction between the coalition partners would have helped progress this to a top level 3 mark.

Question 3

This response was equally popular with the other short-answer questions, demonstrating that centres and candidates are now giving the topic of the environment equal status.

Most candidates were able to demonstrate a reasonable knowledge of coalition environmental policies - mainly focusing on the Green Investment Bank and the third runway at Heathrow. In many cases, however, responses did not fully explain the actual criticisms of the government's policies e.g. why is nuclear energy regarded as an environmental risk? Why is wind energy so controversial? This limited many candidates responses to the middle of level 2 - as often occurred with secondary education policy on question 1 - for the lack of analysis and evaluation required for such a question.

Surprisingly, few responses focused on climate change, given its centrality to the environmental agenda, perhaps because of the longer-term nature of this policy area or because it was the focus of Question 8. As with Questions 2 and 5 on law and order and elected police commissioners, however, including climate change on this question as one factor in a multi-factor question would have been a valid argument.

Excellent candidates were able to include a discussion of Chancellor Osborne's recent statements that growth is far more of a priority for the government than environmental investment. This was a good discriminator between levels, because although this point was cited quite often, the discussion was frequently lacking in weaker responses, which inferred this as a criticism, rather than explaining it.

There was once again recurrent confusion in a significant number of responses between government aviation policy and 'Boris Island', once again highlighting the need for candidates to ensure they know where the policy they include comes from. There were also a worrying number of responses that discussed Labour policy rather than the coalition, as explicitly stated in the question. Such responses that made no reference to the coalition at all would gain no marks for lack of relevance.

Common policies discussed included coalition tensions over nuclear power and wind farms. Some excellent candidates were able to reference the reforms to quangos and the aborted forestry sell-off. However, these were often described and stated as a criticism of the coalition, with little specific criticism made of these policies. Indeed, this was the main weakness for many candidates, as they spent so long describing policy that they added criticisms almost as an after-thought, and often in very general terms e.g. *not gone far enough* or *not been the greenest government ever*. Such thin criticisms would limit candidates marks to level 2 for a lack of analysis and evaluation.

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Chosen Question Number:

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The governments policies on environment have been criticised by a range of groups. The development of ~~the~~ High Speed 2 (HS2) has been criticised by many on the green party who see it as a destruction of British countryside.

HS2 also aims to bring growth to the midlands but pressure groups such as Friends of the Earth say that the government should not be promoting growth as growth tends to lead to increase CO₂ emissions.

The coalitions policy of introducing a fuel stabiliser, which will decrease the duty paid on fuel when the price rises over £75/barrel, has also been unpopular. North Sea Oil companies have criticised the policy as it is funded by increased taxation on them. Green pressure groups and the Green Party say that it is just the government bowing down to pressure.

You should start the answer to your third question choice on page 9

from fuel lobbies and contradicts David Cameron's claim that they will be "the greenest government ever."

The creation of a Green Investment bank has been criticised, particularly by the Labour opposition. It is the first of its kind however the initial investment of £3 billion is believed to be far too low especially when its future holdings aim to be around the £200 billion mark.

The government's policy on Air Passenger Duty has also been slated. Their policy is the result of a government back down which aimed to create a Per Plane Duty. This change was made due to extreme pressure from the CBI and various lobbyists. Now APPD will be increased at twice the rate of inflation, however the Green Party says that "this is simply not enough."

To conclude many of the government's environmental policies have been criticised by a range of groups, due to their inability to take the issue of climate change seriously as well as conflicts of interests.

You should



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Examiner Comments

This is a typical top level 2 response, where the candidate demonstrates a good knowledge of policy but a limited understanding of the criticisms of such policy.

Indicate your third question choice on this page.

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Chosen Question Number:

Question 1

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The environment policies of the Coalition government have been criticised, by groups such as the Green Party, as they fall short of their plan for government in which Cameron pledged to be the 'greenest government ever' and yet the cuts to all areas have been allowed to hit ~~the~~ environmental policy hardest.

The Green Deal in which the government offers incentives to home owners and businesses for increasing their energy efficiency through cavity wall and loft insulation was initially supposed to benefit 11-12 million people but, due to a lack of funding, is now set to only benefit 2-3 million instead.

Furthermore, the Coalition's plan to introduce the High Speed 2 rail network (which they claim will be ~~a~~ more energy efficient than the current rail network) has also come under mass criticism from groups such as 'No to H2S2'. They claim that H2S2 will not only destroy natural habitats in its construction, therefore damaging the environment, but that it will also emit more CO₂ in its construction than it will save when it is ~~in~~ in operation. Therefore, again the Coalition's environmental policy has been criticised for ~~is~~ 'falling short of the mark' and not

You should start the answer to Section B on page 13

truly making a commitment to environmental policy.

Furthermore, the Coalition's environmental policy has been criticised for not being 'forward-thinking' enough to deal with the energy crisis expected to occur by 2015. Although the Coalition did sign up to the Durban agreement of December 2011, this agreement ^{was} deferred until 2015, to come into action in 2020 and, as the Kyoto agreement will run out in 2012, there will remain a gap of 8 years without any official environmental targets to adhere to and the Coalition has therefore been criticised for not dealing with this problem and making the environment a high priority issue.

Furthermore, the Coalition partners remain divided over the nuclear issue (the Conservatives supporting it and the Lib Dem against it) and have therefore again done little to fulfill their manifesto pledges of making the UK run on 15% (Conservative manifesto) or 40% (Lib Dem manifesto) on renewable energy by 2020. Therefore, the Coalition's environmental policy has been criticised for being merely half-hearted 'commitments' with no real legislation being made due to the economic cuts ~~of the~~ ^{due to the} recession being of highest importance. Therefore, they are failing to gain their title of the 'greenest government ever' as they are not even living up to their labor predecessors who introduced a Climate Change Act in 2008.



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Examiner Comments

This is a wide-ranging response where the candidate demonstrates an excellent knowledge of both policies and explicit criticisms of these particular policies.

The range and depth of knowledge and understanding merits a top level 3 response, 15 marks.

Question 4

This was a double-barrelled question, asking candidates not only to describe how policy has changed, but also to explain why it has changed. As is often the case with such double-barrelled questions, a significant number of candidates failed to address both sides of the question, so limiting their marks to level 2.

The strongest responses kept the focus on spending, rather than the government's economic policies in general, and were able to cite a range of policy both from the coalition and the Labour governments.

Conversely, the weakest responses strayed back too far in time and thereby spent too little time on post-1997 developments.

Not all responses were able to identify the huge change in Labour spending after the 2008 economic crisis. Instead, candidates wrote about overall Labour policy across their whole term in office in very general terms as being big spenders on welfare, the NHS and education, with no distinction between the different phases of spending. This often led to a common mistake: although change in welfare spending was unavoidably a key element of a good response to the question, some responses strayed too far into a detailed discussion of welfare policies, rather than overall spending strategies as a whole, so limiting their marks to level 2 for lack of range and depth.

Another common error was surprisingly frequent confusion of the term 'monetarism', often used inappropriately to describe government efforts to maintain tight limits on public spending.

A significant number of candidates also spent too much time writing about the causes of the 2008 crash – indeed, some displayed an impressive understanding of the minutiae of the global financial system – rather than focusing on the impact of this crisis on UK government spending. This limited their marks to the bottom of level 2, unless the response was combined with specific references to particular policies that were influenced by the resulting recession e.g. Brown's abandonment of the 'Golden Rule' and the coalition's austerity programme. Others focused their entire answer on the coalition alone, thus limiting their marks for an inability to demonstrate an understanding of how and why policy has changed over time.

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When Labour came into power in 1997 they were still bound by the previous Conservative governments spending plans for 3 years & so spending policies stayed very much the same up until 2000, when Labour were free from their restraints they started their spending campaign, one major spending policy was to the NHS, from ~~1997~~ over their entire term from 1997-2008 spending on the NHS in England rose by 82%, to which significant improvements followed for example a dramatic fall in waiting times, they did this because waiting times & patient care seemed to have taken a back seat & so this was to try & get more quality into the NHS.

Another spending policy change from Labour was with benefits, Labour started to spend a significant amount on benefits to try & address the issue of poverty in Britain, to an extent this succeeded as many more council houses were built

You should start the answer to your second question choice on page 6

& so homelessness ~~took a~~ went down, it also helped people who were out of work & ~~was~~ struggling to find a job with their unemployment benefits.

The current coalition government has had a radical spending policy change largely due to the global economic crisis & large debt of our country & also to do with Labour's excessive spending which has led to a huge economic downturn & enormous debt. One major change is with their benefit system they want to introduce a universal credit instead of unemployment benefit & child benefit, this is to try & address the issue of large unemployment in the UK, the idea is to give the incentive that people would be better off in work than claiming benefits & so reducing the 'benefit binge'.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of a basic response where the candidate's main focus is on changes to benefit spending. The limited range keeps this mark in the middle of the level at 8 marks.

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<u>HOW</u>	<u>WHY</u>
1997 - Following Conservative plans	'tax & spend' party.
2000 - spend	public sector reform.
2008 - spend.	recession / financial crash.
2010 - cuts.	cut the deficit
"didn't go far further faster"	Golden Rule.

The New Labour Government continued with Conservative spending plans after 1997. This meant that they didn't overspend and increase the deficit of £50m left by Major's government. Gordon Brown followed his 'Golden Rule' of not borrowing unless it was to be invested in public services. The reason for following these spending plans is that Tony Blair didn't want the party to be known as the "tax and spend" party, so for their first term they were cautious with spending.

You should start the answer to your second question choice on page 6

In 2000, Tony Blair began to pursue his public sector reforms. This meant that the government's spending policies changed dramatically as ~~Britain~~ they invested more and more in public services. However, by 2003 the deficit was already growing as New Labour kept ~~the~~ direct taxation low, although health taxes rose. Nevertheless, Gordon Brown didn't break his 'Golden Rule' and invested heavily in ~~the~~ reforming schools, the NHS and other public services. Between 1997 and 2007, 400000 more public sector workers were employed. ~~the~~

The financial crash of 2008 led to a change in New Labour spending policy. They adopted a more Keynesianist approach and Brown's 'Golden Rule' was broken as he ploughed more and more money into Britain's struggling economy. In addition, the chancellor Alastair Darling had to ~~now~~ effectively nationalise several banks and recapitalise them to stop them from collapsing. Thus New Labour's reckless spending left Britain with a deficit of £160bn by May 2010.

The coalition, formed in May 2010, immediately changed the spending policy left by New Labour, with an emergency budget in June 2010.

You should start the answer to your second question choice on page 6

This was followed by the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010. In these budgets, George Osborne outlined plans to cut government spending across ^{most} all departments by 20%, and in 2012, it was leaked that he's asked departments to make a further 5% of cuts. The reason for this radical change in spending is to reduce the deficit and to reduce ~~the~~ the UK's debt. ~~despite~~ It is also in aim of retaining the UK's AAA credit status.

* The reason for this change in spending was that Blair did not feel that he had done enough public sector reform in his first term. After leaving ~~the~~ Downing Street, he stated that his ~~pe~~ public sector reform "had not gone far enough far enough".

(Total for Question = 15 marks)



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Examiner Comments

This is a level 3 response - the candidate adopts a chronological approach, working through the changes in policy under Labour up to the coalition's programme of cuts. More specific examples of coalition policy would have lifted this to the very top of the level - 12 marks.

Question 5

This was, perhaps surprisingly, the least popular short-answer question.

This question clearly asked candidates to explain the advantages of directly-elected police commissioners - unfortunately, a significant number of candidates lost time and marks by discussing the arguments *against* police commissioners, rather than focusing on the question. Responses often failed briefly to introduce or set the scene for the policy relating to police commissioners, for example by explaining what these commissioners will be replacing (unelected police authorities). Indeed, only a minority of candidates clearly understood the police force's current governmental arrangements.

Most candidates focused their arguments on issues of democracy and accountability, making accurate use of these terms. However, these did not necessarily make an explicit link to the specific improvements arising from directly electing police commissioners i.e. more tightly-focused policing priorities that relate to local needs.

Many candidates also failed to utilise political arguments in their responses, arguing in favour of directly-elected police commissioners in quite general terms, with no reference to the proponents within the coalition or the arguments they espouse. The strongest responses, nonetheless, were able to explain a range of arguments and even include specific examples of candidates for the first elections, to exemplify points about the skills candidates may bring to the job.

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Chosen Question Number:

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Question 5

Plan

Accountability - some/people, democracy

- theories of elitism in the police - Liberty groups

- Specialists - 2012 Chief Inspector appointment comparison

Bring up plans and standards

~~A directly elected police Commissioner~~

~~As~~

Police commissioners have a high level of power over police movements, and inspections of standards are also under the Commissioners' control. Therefore, these individuals are ultimately in control of the very force that seeks to maintain order in society, and so are of great importance to the people within those societies since they affect their lives.

~~indirectly.~~
To directly elect police commissioners would directly make them accountable to the electorate,

You should start the answer to your second question choice on page 6

fulfilling the principal of democracy. Democracy ensures there is a link between those in authority and the people, and that the people essentially have a certain degree of influence over ways in which their society is run.

Liberal groups/spectators have argued that there is ~~a degree of~~ elitism within the police force, and that power is ~~still~~ retained out of reach ~~of~~ from the electorate. Again, this reinforces theories of accountability and how the people should have ~~some~~ a say in the runnings of their lives.

~~The~~ Specialism is a feature that can potentially be exposed if ~~a~~ police commissioners were to be directly elected. Individual candidates may possess specialities in certain areas of their work that may appeal to the electorate more in terms of how well it would benefit their society. This suggests that directly elected police commissioners may also contribute to driving up standards in policing.

You should start the answer to your second question choice on page 6

Since there is an incentive to retain their positions.

(Total for Question = 15 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a clear level 3 response, where the candidate keeps a strong focus on the question and outlines a range of arguments - thus meriting a level 3 award of 12 marks.

Indicate your third question choice on this page.

Put a cross in the box indicating the third question that you have chosen.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number:

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

An argument for directly elected commissioners taking place in November 2012 is that as part of David Cameron's Big Society Agenda, it will leave greater power in the hands of a directly elected commissioner, which will increase public trust in the police. As a directly elected commissioner has been elected by the local population, he or she will be better equipped to deal with local issues rather than direct control from the government in Westminster.

Additionally, the Home Office and Police services have to make 20bn in cuts by 2015 and the police service has become very expensive and costly.

The introduction of directly elected commissioners will allow ~~people~~ ~~the~~ elected person to have a greater control of the budget and can cut the local police service in order to make it more efficient and cater more effectively to local people's needs.

Directly elected police commissioners will also be able to cut other police services, besides what is already being

You should start the answer to Section B on page 13

Metropolitan police services, to have a greater status and an increased presence on the government agenda. Under centralised control from Westminster, it is the Met police force who have the highest budget and greater powers. Under the coalition's directly elected commissioners, other police services will have an increased presence and more power from Whitehall.

Furthermore, currently control over police budget is with unelected police authorities. Directly elected police commissioners will have to be more accountable to the local public and will increase voter participation. As the local population can cast a verdict on the performance of the directly elected commissioner, and vote them out of office in the next election.

In conclusion, directly elected commissioners will allow the local population to have a greater say over how their police service is run. Directly elected commissioners will enable power to be devolved from central government to the local area, which allow commissioners to be able to tackle the needs and concerns of the area more effectively.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a strong level 3 response, where the candidate explains a range of arguments, with some supporting evidence, in favour of directly-elected police commissioners. 13 marks.

Question 6

This was the most popular essay question.

The theme of the various factors that determine economic policy in the UK is a common one on this paper - it was, therefore, surprising to see how many candidates seemed unable to analyse more than the given factor, and even then, this was often done in quite general terms e.g. that the UK is part of a global market and so must be affected by globalisation.

There was often a lack of balance in this question; even the better responses were prone to being decidedly unbalanced, ignoring the significant opportunities that governments still have to shape the UK economy through tax changes, public spending decisions and supply-side investment and strategies. Indeed, analysing the UK government's ability to determine its own economic policy independent of international conditions and organisations was the weakest aspect of the majority of responses on this question.

Candidates should be reminded, therefore, that questions on the economy should be multi-factor, rather than based on just the given factor or the recent global upheaval.

This may be a reflection of the unusual context internationally at present, with the global economic crisis and the eurozone crisis visibly combining to exert such massive financial pressures on the UK economy and the government's balance sheet.

The best responses acknowledged that, whilst the UK is subject to WTO and EU regulation of international trade, the UK is able to influence decision-making in these for, and especially in, the EU, and, of course, has the option of withdrawing from the EU as well. Excellent responses also referred directly to the party debates about policy, such as the Conservative criticism that Labour's failure to 'fix the roof while the sun was shining' in the 2000s had made it more difficult for the UK to respond to the impact of the global credit crunch after 2008.

60% Shares in RBS, and the many other Keynesian style
reflationary economic policies of the Labour government ~~at~~
The time, were ~~also~~ the only options of the government, available
to prevent a collapse of the entire UK banking system.

The Labour government's ^{economic} policies of the recessionary period
of 2007 were arguably ~~not~~ ^{at least their} controlled and a
direct effect of globalisation. The government saw Quantitative
easing and ~~creating~~ ^{dumping} huge amounts of liquidity ~~to~~ the economy.
The only option for the global funding of interbank lending,
a ~~not~~ center part of globalisation. They would argue they
had no choice. However on the other hand Conservatives
more pro classic neo liberal economics, would argue the economic
policies of vast public expenditure from the Labour government
during this period were ~~not~~ excessive. Perhaps if the
Conservative had been in power they're ^{economic} policies would have been
less controlled by the global financial situation and like
Thatcher would have simply allowed some industry to fail.

However despite Conservatives claims that the Labour government's
policies ^{of 2007 onwards} were controlled too much by globalisation, many of
The coalition's economic policies are currently influenced by
the global financial situation. For example ~~the~~ The Coalition
would argue that one of the main influencing factors of
the UK's double dip recession is the current eurozone
financial crisis. Therefore some of their ~~pro~~ economic policies
have been influenced by this for example although interest
rate control is placed with the Bank of England if the government

didn't agree with it monetary control could be taken back, and interest rates are currently being kept at a record low of 0.5% to deal with the Eurozone situation affecting the UK. However, similarly the Conservative economic policies are arguably ~~no~~ ^{still} direct control of the government as they have argued despite the ~~global situation~~ ^{global} unstable situation of the global market, there is no ~~plans~~ 'plan b' for the government in terms of changing course away from the 6bn worth of cuts and austerity implemented by George Osborne in 2010. Despite recent comments from the IMF that more Keynesian style intervention may be needed by the government if they're their austerity ~~change~~ ^{change} and monetary policies don't work, the government has shown it still holds overall control as no foreseeable change to economic policy will be made in the near future.

Another example of globalisation taking economic control away from governments is ~~the~~ ^{is the} ~~concession~~ ^{concession} to labour, fuel and energy prices effect inflation of the economy and ~~on~~ ^{on} overall prices. For example in 2000 the Labour government was forced to make a concession to the road hauliers and pressure groups campaigning for a decrease of ~~the~~ ^{the} oil fuel duty implemented in the UK, the government was forced to decrease fuel duty as a result ~~of~~ ^{making an} ~~of~~ ^{of} impact of government expenditure policy. This is because world oil ^{and other} prices affect the UK, and so increasingly affect government economic policy. For example, arguably the high levels of inflation ~~and~~ ^{and} that has affected the

UK in the last few years are due to increased real prices in energy. The government has to take aspects like these into consideration when creating their economic policies.



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Examiner Comments

This is an excellent response by a very knowledgeable candidate which clearly and explicitly understands the various factors that determine economic policy - so meriting level 3 awards for AO1, AO2 and Synopticity. The response is only limited by the complete lack of any overall conclusion, which keeps the AO3 mark at the top of level 2.

AO1: 10 AO2: 10 Syn: 11 AO3: 6. Total mark: 37.

The banks have been responsible for a global economic crisis. Because they are globalised, and banks lend to different countries, when Lehman Brothers fell, a succession of economic controversies occurred. The British government could not control this through economic policy because of globalisation. Because the events were in foreign countries, the UK's government had no control over how it would affect the British economy.

However, the British government were able to prevent serious harm to the UK's economy during the banking crash. Darling's use of anti-terrorism laws to freeze Icelandic money prevented a catastrophe ~~for~~ for the Labour government. Thus the British government have control of economic policy in the framework of globalisation.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is an extract from a response which scored a top level 2 for synopticity - the point the candidate makes about the banking crisis is valid and analysed from both sides - i.e. that globalisation takes control out of UK hands and also that the UK government does retain some control. This shows a clear understanding that there are constraints on UK economic policy but also actions that the UK government can take to limit the effect of such constraints. This level of understanding and policy exemplification was repeated throughout this essay, thus allowing it to reach the top of level 2 for each Assessment Objective.

Question 7

This question saw a degree of misinterpretation by candidates, many of whom addressed the question in terms of the pros and cons of the government's reforms, rather than the specific question of continuity *versus* change. Such responses remained low in level 2 for each Assessment Objective, as candidates often failed to address any part of the question other than describing some of the government's plans for the NHS.

There was also a surprising number of responses relying heavily on minor changes such as target-setting and waiting lists, rather than focusing on the main structural changes proposed. Surprisingly few responses referred to the long parliamentary battle over health reform as the political context in which key debates took place about the extent to which the reforms were altering the fundamental fabric of the NHS i.e. the vocal opposition of Baroness Williams in the Lords.

Much of the analysis of continuity *versus* change seemed focused on the founding principles of the NHS - whilst this was a valid argument, it should not have formed the basis of the entire essay and should have been one factor. The strongest responses were able to add to this argument with a discussion of how much structural change is being made in relation to GP's powers and primary care trusts.

Put a cross in the box indicating the question that you have chosen.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number:

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

The Coalition's proposed changes to the NHS have arguably been the most controversial since the NHS birth. Political debate has continued to plague the Coalition, with many commentators suggesting that this is the single most radical ~~proposal~~ reform the NHS has ever seen. Whereas other ~~such~~ commentators feel this reform is evolutionary and a natural proceeding that will better the NHS and make it a more sustainable efficient institution. The intention of this essay is to explore this debate on whether there are any 'evolutionary or revolutionary' and come to my own conclusion on such a matter.

Those who support the ~~bill~~ Health and Social Care Bill of 2012, are often the individuals who argue the changes ensure continuity, not radical change, and point to several aspects of the bill that show continuity. The major element ~~of~~ of the current system is based upon the 1989 ~~work~~ working for patient research, which established in 1990 the ~~basic~~ element of providers and end consumers, and the Health and Social Care bill by no means abandons this ~~to~~ system, instead reforming the system so that the PCTs or the primary care trusts ~~are~~ are abolished, and instead replaced with Clinical Commissioning, which will be controlled by local medical professionals, especially

GPs. The Coalition have stated that such a reform will lead to a 'patient led' NHS, and the CCGs will know about the local needs and requirements of their patients better than the PCTs who were led mostly by business minded professions. Such an argument essentially is stating that the fundamental principle which the NHS has been based upon for the past 20 years is not being altered, but radically, but simply reformed, so that the ~~the NHS~~ ~~control~~ ~~the~~ ~~budget~~ ~~Commissioners~~, who will now be the CCGs, are in control of budget that are allocated to them via the government. This Courts no radical change, however such claims are refuted by Labour and indeed Unison. The view they provide is that the replacement of PCTs via CCGs will give the GPs far too much power, and one must remember ^{the risk of} GPs are not NHS doctors, but are the ^{the} ~~the~~ GPs' ~~at~~ ~~monopolising~~ their power as a serious threat to NHS principals and structure. For instance ~~the~~ 'Donnell' a leading Commentator on such matters state this change will lead to biggest restructuring process of ever on the NHS, with 50,000 individuals who were hired by the PCTs being made redundant. This shows the level of change taking place here, according to Labour, and that it is clear to them, the NHS is being revolutionised and continuity or the principle of evolutionary change, abandoned.

Those who feel that this change represents radical change also point to other parts of the reform package. For instance, the introduction of 'any qualified Provider' means that any Organisation who has passed the 'Scrupulous' examination

of the CQC, will be able to provide the services they wish to provide. The consequence of this means that there can be any number of providers in one sector of care, or long on these enterprises pass regulatory tests. The government has stated: increased patient choice and the joining up of standards and of costs as the rationale for the introduction, but individuals such as Polly Townbee of the Guardian are doubtful that this introduction ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ will see the NHS soften. She states that the A&P (any qualified providers) will lead to the private companies "cherry picking" the most common and profitable services, thereby leaving the NHS to deal with the more expensive procedures. This will evidently affect the NHS, as the private market will be expanded, while NHS care services would be neglected, thereby representing radical change in the NHS, as again the rejection of the evolutionary steps of change. Further more, ~~the~~ Buttwell, member of Labour's kitchen cabinet was quoted as stating as a result of these reforms, the "NHS will become a state provider of care, and no longer be the state deliverer of care". This quote exemplifies one fears of many that the opening up of the market, via the Lansley bill will simply make the NHS a 'shop like business', which purchasers being able to neglect it better deals are found elsewhere, clearly identifying the principle of ~~unitarism~~. The NHS, and thus these changes, representing ~~is~~ revolutionary change. Although such arguments are refuted by those who are 'pro the bill', explaining that the NHS will remain to be the main provider of care; Lansley stating that

Labour were involving themselves in 'score settling' of the public for political gain.

Concerns are also prominent among many, over the fact that these changes will lead to the private patients cap being lifted from 3% to 49%, meaning that hospitals who have foundation trusts will now be able to fill 49% of their beds with private patients. Foreman's proposal is the one that ^{most} concerning, and some feel that economic ability or access to disposable income will now also affect your access to care, and the nature of your treatment. The Royal College of General Practitioners have ~~not~~ adopted his stance stating that these changes will lead to a "two-tier system, where by ones access to care will be defined by their economic ability". This is a clear breach of the principle of universality, as economic ability will for the first time affect your ability to obtain care. Polly Tompkins states that this is especially worrying, as all hospitals will be come ~~become~~ foundation hospitals in 2014, meaning all hospitals will be able to have 49% of their services available to the private market. ~~There~~ This clearly shows a fundamental, radical process, that is to be initiated via the coalition. However the coalition have responded stating that these ~~changes~~ ~~are~~ were evolutionary measures, as New Labour had already embraced quasi-privatisation in their original, untested, proposed constitution.

The Health and Social Care Bill without doubt represents the most radical change to the NHS, since its birth. The restructuring, and the creeping privatisation the Government refer to is undeniable, and although the coalition have been in support of evolutionary change to most majority of the medical profession, rightly feel including ~~that~~ BMA, feeling that is a radical set of measures that will change the way the NHS functions, treats patients, and will invest in the future. However such changes are indeed a requisite due to changes in the economic fortunes in Europe.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is an excellent example of what a candidate can achieve, with detailed, explained references to specific policies and a clear focus on the question throughout. Full marks were awarded for the clarity of arguments presented.

Put a cross in the box indicating the question that you have chosen.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number:

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

Since the Coalition formed in ~~2010~~ 2010, NHS policy has been a crucial issue. Andrew Lansley's Health Bill looked set to radically change the NHS, however after 14 months and two reforms to the bill passed in March 2012; many argue to what extent these reforms are radical change or just continuity in the progression of the NHS.

Continuity can be seen with the coalition's intentions to set up 4 new hospitals in England cities through Private Finance Initiatives (PFI). Though they criticised Labour for PFI usage in opposition, they have confirmed further usage of them. PFI's involve companies buying buildings, refurbishing and lease them back to the government. NHS hospitals are still run by government but the buildings are owned by private companies. Certainty in regard to funding the NHS there is continuity as the coalition has made no budget cuts to the NHS, promising to maintain full NHS spending at around 80 billion.

Though continuity within funding may be the only area of continuation of policy. The coalition has proposed radical changes to how care in the NHS is purchased. Directing 80% of the NHS budget to GPs who will head the new Clinical Commissioning groups. The CCGs will replace Primary Care trusts and Strategic health authorities to centralise and cut bureaucracy in the NHS.

Managers will be minimised, though reforms to the original Bill mean nurses and hospital doctors will also be involved in CCGs. These reforms are radical however it does show a continuation of the idea of providers and purchasers introduced by Margaret Thatcher. Market forces in the NHS are not a new thing, Labour created quality and efficiency competition in the NHS and this has been continued through goals such as cutting waiting times. These reforms represent radical shifts in where competition stems and who is concerned/interested but the premise is not entirely new. Though context may be radical, no other government has put forward plans to reform the Primary care trusts that are already well established.

The Coalition's NHS reforms are not radical but a continuation in new faces to override the post code lottery we in regard to health provision.

Health care provisions in more economically prosperous areas is better than in poorer areas. Certainly the strain of health is not so great. With this in mind the coalition has set up the Cancer drug fund, offering £200 million to provide new cancer drugs not provided by local NHS services. Cases are taken to the fund and specialist governors make decisions on how drugs new expensive drugs are awarded, aiming to combat post code lottery unfairness. There is also a continuation of placing elderly care provisions and mental health provisions the responsibility in local authority care, so distribution can match elderly populations across the UK, this is a continuation of May's Community and Care act.

However the NHS reforms introduced by the coalition are radical in how they change the relationship with the NHS and private health care. The major concern from public and labor is this reforms radically part privatise the NHS. Though the coalition argue they are creating a 'sustainable NHS for the future' according to Downing. The reforms are going to end the 2.5% Cap on private patients in NHS hospitals, to the cap will now be 49%. This is highly radical as doctors would likely focus more attention on private patients than NHS patients.

More over these private patients can become part of NHS ~~test~~ statistics for operations suggesting doctors may opt for more private operations. However the reform does ensure that private patient lists are 3% in NHS hospitals will be under the supervision of hospital governors who can continue to cap at 2.5% if they feel it is justified. It however the concept of privatising the NHS has been further seen as CIPs controlling the budget can purchase private health care. This means NHS money can be used so patients can use private facilities, though arguably this will improve standards it is highly radical. Eroding a primary principle of the NHS that state taxes should fund it. These aspects of reform are highly radical and have caused much controversy. Though the Coalition argues patient care is of primary concern, Labour amongst other parties fear this is the 'slow invasion of private sector' in the NHS a Labour MP has suggested.

The Coalition's plan also to create competition amongst doctors, surgical teams etc is new but not necessarily radical. Patients will soon be able to exercise greater choice on the hospital they are treated in and doctors who break their. Creating a NHS League table of

Doctors and hospitals, this is a continuation in many respects of Thatcher and Blair's aims for competition in NHS. Focusing on Labour's idea of quality competition. However it is highly radical to take power from doctors and health officials. It is argued this will burden NHS and double waiting lists.

In conclusion the Coalition NHS reforms certainly show aspects of continuity but however in context aspects are highly radical. The NHS needs reform urgently to better improve standards, and cope with the ageing population problem. Creating a sustainable NHS protecting the key principle of free at the point of delivery is important. The coalition aim to achieve these goals through radical reform primarily the introduction of private health into NHS healthcare provision.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Another good example of a level 3 response - the clarity of argument presented is less sophisticated than the previous response in this report, but the detail and understanding demonstrated of the extent of change under the coalition merits level 3.

AO1: 11 AO2: 11 Syn: 9 AO3: 8

Question 8

This question was equally popular with the question on the NHS, again suggesting that centres and candidates are now fully confident and comfortable with this topic.

However, a significant number of candidates misread the question as focusing on environmental policies in general and some, in a worrying minority of cases, discussed the EU's involvement in agriculture and even fisheries policy. There was also a tendency to link general environmental policies to climate change in a way that was not always tenable, or to mention policies like recycling, without clearly establishing the link with climate change.

Some responses also misinterpreted the question by assessing the success of British government efforts to deal with climate change, rather than what has motivated policy targeting climate change.

Those candidates who did address the question often described recent conferences and treaties and assumed they had made an impact on UK policy e.g. signed Kyoto so climate change policies must be due to that. Others demonstrated an understanding of the influence of EU membership, but as with the discussion of conferences and treaties and, indeed, political party policy, asserted that all environmental policy must relate to climate change.

Excellent responses were able to analyse the extent to which the UK has led the way internationally, with domestic legislation and targets that go well beyond its legally binding international obligations. In many cases this included links to current coalition policy or lack of policy e.g. on renewable energy.

There was a tendency in weaker answers simply to describe the measures taken by UK governments to combat climate change, without evaluating the factors behind the decisions and the influence of international agreements and organisations like the EU.

Put a cross in the box indicating the question that you have chosen.
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number:

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

To ~~be~~ what extent have UK policies on climate change been influenced by EU and other international agreements?

~~The~~ The UK has never been very prominent on environmental issues politically, as the environment is not seen as a vote-winner or loser, however governments since 1956 have become increasingly aware of the problems we face with climate change and other environmental issues.

The ~~Rio~~ Rio de Janeiro, ^{Agenda 21 meeting} ~~was~~ ~~organised~~ organised with John Major ~~representing~~ representing his own conservative government, was to discuss cutting ~~emissions~~ emissions and was the first agreement of its ~~type~~ type. However, so early in the knowledge and assessment of climate change, the targets set to cut emissions were far too vague and imprecise.

A few years later however, another

meeting was called to discuss climate change ~~and~~ in Kyoto, Japan. This initiative set precise targets for the reduction of ~~the~~ harmful emissions and aimed to cut the EU's pollution by 8%. Our representative was John Prescott for the labour government, and after this there was more of a focus by the labour party to be doing something about emissions and they began to offer more environmental incentives for people for example they subsidised vehicles with low emissions, particularly hybrid cars. They also experimented in opting into Biofuel, influenced by Kyoto. Biofuel was a ~~new~~ seemingly brilliant idea, fuel that is efficient and less harmful to the environment, however it was later found that the production of biofuel led to a steep increase on ~~the~~ world food prices that was simply unacceptable so the idea was quickly dropped. It is, however, highly ~~The EU also set up policies that influenced~~ UK policies on climate change. The ~~EU also set up policies that influenced~~ ^{Common Fisheries Policy} ~~EU also set up policies that influenced~~

~~the attitudes to wildlife preservation,~~
~~as did the Single European Act. This~~
~~influenced ~~government~~ to New~~
~~Labour governments to~~

effective and is currently quite fashionable.
~~the~~ ^{New Labour} government ~~has~~ actually offered
money to those who wanted to convert
their car to run on vegetable oil and
other more renewable biofuels.

The EU also influenced government
with their Single European Act which
alerted governments into looking into
other methods of harnessing energy
to those harmful to the environment.

New Labour, environmentally were
focused on renewable sources of
energy like wind turbines, ~~and~~
~~and~~ tidal power and, if it can
be counted, nuclear energy. ~~the~~

~~the Environment minister~~ + Liberals
and environmental pressure groups
argued, however, that the focus should
be on reducing ~~the~~ the energy we
use rather than finding out how
we can use more. The Conservatives
also promised to match or beat ~~the~~

~~improvements to~~
New Labour's improvements to Environment.
David Cameron was conscientious, without influence of EU or other global agreements to show he was interested in the environment, contrary to the ideologies of his party. For example ~~in~~ in 2006 he ~~got~~ started to cycle to work (as did Boris Johnson) although he also had a wind turbine fitted to his house - which didn't work leading ~~to~~ many to believe ~~it~~ he was gaining the popularity for loving the environment that it was all too easy to win from New Labour's lack luster attempts. However the coalition's policies on climate change are not nearly sufficient enough to be able to claim independence of ~~policy~~ ^{climate change} ~~environmental~~ policy from international agreements and the EU. Therefore ~~in~~ I conclude that although UK policies are ~~created~~ most likely created out of need and want of the governments, they are mostly influenced by EU or international agreements.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is an example of a level 3 response - the candidate clearly understands a range of factors that have affected UK climate change policy in recent years. The range of policy examples and explicit understanding of the synoptic element of the question merit level 3, but the mark is limited to the bottom of this level by the lack of reference to specific coalition policies.

A01: 9 A02: 9 Syn: 9 A03: 7

However, there are many policies which are influenced by the UK alone (arguably it would not have introduced them if the international agenda had not changed, but the policies directly were not influenced.) This includes the Plug-in Station investment Strategy of 2011, which proposes 4000 more electric vehicle charging stations by 2013, as well as the government's £5000 grant for anyone buying an electric car, which was 55 people in 2009.

The zero-carbon homes scheme which was introduced in the 2011 Energy bill ~~for~~ incentivises domestic homeowners to install energy efficient systems into their homes and pay it back through installments as opposed to a lump sum. The "green homes agenda" was introduced entirely off the coalition's own initiative, as was the floor price for carbon energy, which will be £16 in 2013, rising to £30 in 2015.

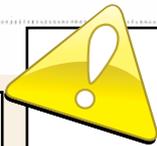
~~the~~, stating the cost may be passed on to the consumer, in order to deter them to more sustainable energy sources (and raise more money). This at a time when fuel bills are rising and pressure is mounting for the government to reduce them, is a bold decision in favour of the environment (and more money for the treasury) ~~rather~~ a decision taken by the government alone.

A decision which was certainly not backed by any E.U. or other international institution was the decision to ~~also~~ make the investment in nuclear energy easier, in which the Liberal Democrats could abstain on the vote. Organisations such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth vehemently oppose nuclear energy, as do most environmentalists. However, the government has stated that no public money will go into the scheme so if ~~there~~ no one invests, nothing is built. This may arguably would have not been the case if international organisations were not against it.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an extract of a response where the candidate explains a range of coalition policy. Whilst these paragraphs are a little descriptive, the level of detail included and the comparison of nuclear policy to pressure group influence help this response to move into level 3.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure candidates link every paragraph back to the question with not only a passing reference but also an explanation of what their point is trying to prove/disprove in relation to the premise given in the question.

In this case, what does the description of the "plug-in station investment strategy of 2011" tell us about what influences UK government policy on climate change? The reference at the beginning of this paragraph to the international agenda changing, needs to be more specific to boost the mark into the top of level 3.

Paper Summary

In order to improve performance, candidates should note the following advice.

- Ensure they address the question as set and keep within that framework e.g. not including unnecessary counter-arguments (Question 5).
- Answer all questions in a **political** way - whilst they are planning an answer, candidates should always check that they have referenced specific political party ideology/attitudes/policies (Question 5).
- Make sure they do not include too much **historical** information (Question 2).
- Check that their knowledge and understanding of economic issues and what determines that economic policy is up-to-date.
- Remember that simplistic yes/no or agree/disagree answers do not **explicitly** demonstrate synopticity, and so will require a longer, more evaluative conclusion to show the examiner you have utilised this skill.
- Check the time frame on questions - if the question specifies post-1997 policy, candidates will be expected to include coalition policy to access level 3.

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