

Examiners' Report  
June 2013

GCE Government and Politics 6GP03 3A

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## Introduction

As in January 2013 this paper saw a pleasing level of focus on contemporary events from many candidates, particularly in the areas of the environment, economy and education with strong awareness of such recent policy initiatives as coalition academies and the green investment bank.

However it was noticeable that where questions did not *force* a recent focus, a significant number of candidates still placed an excessive reliance on pre-2010 content, and did not achieve the highest marks. This was particularly noticeable with regard to the law and order topic where many answers were very Labour focused, with some candidates still invoking more Thatcher and Howard than Cameron and May. This is especially critical because this topic remains the most popular by far, particularly for essay questions. Balance is critical to achieving Level 3 in essay responses and it should be emphasised that this can refer to an appropriate balance between governments as well as between 'sides' of the debate.

It is therefore essential to success in this paper that candidates embrace the contemporary approach and consider the policies of the coalition, even where the question does not demand an exclusive focus on the post-2010 period. It is also worth noting however that some candidates fell into the opposite trap of trying to be *too* contemporary with regard to welfare, thus mistaking a straightforward question on universal benefits with a question on the recent universal credit. As debate moves on it remains very important that candidates are familiar with subtle but important distinctions in political terminology.

It was pleasing to again see few candidates eschewing a political approach in favour of a Business Studies approach (Question 1), a Sociological approach (Question 8) or any of the numerous other such traps for those who study related subjects. In general there was a strong political focus.

It was also pleasing that the recent trend of a more subtle understanding of synopticity was continued. Many candidates brought the views of environmental groups and of factions *within* parties and the coalition into Question 6, and made useful reference to the views of competing theorists in Question 7. More candidates than previously were also willing to specifically engage and contrast the different views, as opposed to tackling one 'side' followed by the other without reference back. Less common was to recognise the subtlety of governmental positions with regard to Question 8, where a case could be made both for and against the question for both Labour and the Coalition. This was only done by the strongest candidates.

It was interesting to note a better spread of short responses than in previous years and even within the essays there was a better split than is sometimes the case. The law and order question proved to be clearly the most popular. It was pleasing that the economy especially attracted more candidates than is sometimes the case. With the increasing political importance of the debate around approaches to austerity and growth, it is very useful for candidates to ensure that they have a strong grasp of the economy.

It was also noteworthy that candidates have acted on feedback with regard to making a series of underdeveloped points in short responses, and as a result, more candidates offered a sensible number of better developed arguments.

One weakness that was relatively common, and not new to this paper, was a tendency to engage the question, but not the whole question. Answers to Question 7 did not always give proper regard to 'to what extent', often embracing the premise of the question rather than adopting a balanced approach. Equally responses to Question 3 often missed the plural in 'governments' and focused exclusively on either Labour or the Coalition, whilst many candidates entirely disregarded the requirement to 'assess' on Question 2.

A further trend that candidates should be aware of on short responses is to disregard the importance of offering a brief definition unless specifically demanded by the question. Although candidates could access Level 3 without offering a short summary of the concept of a green tax, community sentence or universal benefit, such a brief definition greatly aids clarity and its absence makes the highest marks harder to reach.

## **Question 1**

This was the second least popular short response question, despite its very contemporary focus, but more popular than some other recent economy questions. The precise wording allowed candidates to consider governments in general and to have some flexibility with regard to dates, but most naturally chose to focus on the Coalition since 2010. Most candidates also gave a great deal of focus to the question of austerity versus growth, and the degree to which they were also able to move beyond this particular debate often determined how high they went within Level 2 or Level 3. Some candidates chose to focus on this aspect exclusively, trying to bring several points out of essentially a single challenge, such as cutting the deficit whilst maintaining growth. Better responses also considered this issue but went wider into issues such as international factors, political climate, and the causes of deficits.

Level 1 responses were often marred by not engaging deficit reduction and simply offering a general discussion of current economic problems. Others offered a basic explanation of austerity versus growth but did not expand or move beyond it.

Level 2 were generally characterised by either a solid exposition of a single point, generally the contrasting approaches of Keynesianism growth or monetarist austerity, or else offered two points but did not develop them sufficiently. A number of candidates recognised that there were economic factors beyond the control of single countries, but could only offer a vague explanation of what they were, whilst others recognised the political challenges of cutting spending but offered limited or no examples.

Level 3 responses offered detailed argument on at least two clearly distinct factors limiting debt reduction and backed these up with specific examples. For example the unpopularity of particular tax rises or spending reductions, such as the 'bedroom tax', were often cited. Some candidates were also able to demonstrate the impact caused by potential cuts that are not politically possible, such as the ring fencing of NHS budgets, and the impact of specific international factors.

The budget deficit is the term used to describe the difference between government spending and the money it makes through means such as taxes. The coalition agree that this has been difficult to reduce because of Labour's <sup>reckless</sup> spending before and after the credit crunch. For example, before the recession Labour had increased spending hugely on things like the NHS (7% per year) and education (50% per pupil). This therefore makes it difficult for the ~~same~~ coalition to make cuts (the way in which they intend to cut the deficit is through austerity) without severely damaging the quality of public services. For example, it was announced today that NHS waiting times have reached a ~~9~~ year low, with  $\approx \frac{2}{3}$  of hospitals

Governments have found it increasingly ~~difficult~~ difficult to reduce a budget deficit for different reasons. One such reason is that often public spending is inevitable and is needed to improve essential public services. For example, currently in the NHS, Ambulance waiting times of more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour has increased by 58% (The Independent). As the ageing population continues to increase, necessary public spending is needed to streamline certain ~~services~~ public services like this.

Also, ~~the~~ government also ~~find~~ find it difficult to reduce a budget deficit as they have no control over inflation or interest rates, this is the job of the Bank of England.

Also there are often contradictions in policy areas.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

Two reasonable and relevant points are offered here - the difficulties of making cuts to key services and the impact of cuts on growth - but neither are fully drawn out. The point that the deficit is hard to cut simply because it is so big is very weak. This was a clear mid Level 2 response that achieved 8 marks.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

It is more valuable to spend time developing potentially strong points than adding additional weak ones.

The Coalition government since 2010 has attempted to cut the UK budget deficit, ~~set~~ with a loose target of 25% over four years. It is hard to cut a budget deficit for many reasons

Firstly, for a deficit to be reduced, government spending must be below what is raised through taxation. Henceforth, cuts need to be made to government spending. This is often very unpopular and deciding where cuts should come from is politically and socially divisive. With governments keeping one eye on the next election at all times, this question becomes even more difficult. For example, many ministers in the coalition are attempting to rival George Osborne's new call for savings, with Owen Patterson reportedly saying he doesn't want to be remembered as "the man who endangered Britain's flood defences".

Furthermore to the argument that spending needs to be below taxation, it seems logical in itself



deficit and voter hostility to many of them  
is a key concern for government, who are  
able, and would rather, borrow than be  
disliked by voters



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The points made here are explained in a much clearer manner and well linked to political realities such as the impact of cuts on electoral chances and the coalition's tax policies. Good use is made of contemporary policy examples and a specific point on the impact of growth is not missed. This answer achieved 14 marks.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Always try to bring in relevant contemporary policy examples as it will boost your mark and often makes the difference between being low and high within a particular level.

Governments have found it increasingly difficult to reduce a budget deficit for different reasons. One such reason is that often public spending is inevitable and is needed to improve essential public services. For example, currently in the NHS, Ambulance waiting times of more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour has increased by 58% (The Independent). As the ageing population continues to increase, necessary public spending is needed to streamline certain ~~services~~ public services like this.

Also, the government also find it difficult to reduce a budget deficit as they have no control over inflation or interest rates, this is the job of the Bank of England.

Also there are often contradictions in policy areas.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

There is one moderate point with respect to public services here and little else; it just achieved the threshold criteria to enter Level 2, scoring 6 marks.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Offering a single point, even if well explained, will always make it hard to achieve a good mark.

## Question 2

This was the least popular short response question, as was also the case with the extended essay on the environment. However, it did give fertile ground for candidates and numerous specific examples to discuss. Most candidates who attempted this question discussed a number of benefits, but many were held back from achieving high marks by not addressing the word 'assess'. To reach Level 3 it was necessary to consider some of the limitations to the benefits of such taxes. Others made points that were correct, but a little too general. It was also surprising that relatively few candidates took the time to offer a brief definition of a green tax.

Level 1 responses were rare but were characterised by confusion as to what a green tax was, some suggesting that it was any tax where the proceeds are spent on the environment, or by offering a very simple exposition of their benefits, in terms of 'they tax the people who cause the pollution, which reduces it'.

Level 2 responses commonly either explained a number of benefits, but did not assess them, or else focused the advantages mainly in terms of what specific taxes did, without drawing out the wider benefits from this.

Level 3 responses offered a number of clear advantages of green taxes, often drawing the wider benefits from specific examples such as the congestion charge and linking the benefit of additional revenue to specific environmental projects. They also offered clear assessment of these benefits, which in the strongest cases was also able to link to specific examples.

Green taxes are an effective means of incentivising businesses to trade and perform in a more 'greener' way. This is an effective approach, as it gives them the opportunity or allows them to trade with a more positive outlook towards the public.

Another benefit is that it may be the only way to force a business to become greener, which is a benefit towards the public as it shows the business that there are ways to be 'green' and it doesn't allow them to exploit their opportunity to save.

Another benefit of green taxes is that it allows the govt. to gain a better control over climate change and pollution over a wider area. This is essential as without it, the govt would find it harder to implement green policies with ~~similina~~ a new tax to support it.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is one point, explained in a reasonably clear manner not linked to a specific example and with no assessment, thus not escaping Level 1. It achieved 5 marks.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

The word 'assess' requires you to give some consideration to the contrary view.

Green taxes have often been criticised for being 'stealth taxes.' However, environmentalists argue that the benefits of green taxes outweigh the arguments against them by a vast margin.

Green taxes such as that on fuel duty can act as a disincentive for the public to carry out harmful activities that damage the environment. By increasing the price of fuel, it means motorists are more likely to ration their fuel consumption and only undertake journeys that are absolutely necessary. This means a reduction in car emissions and this helps to reduce pollution in the environment. The congestion charge in London will also reduce the number of cars in inner city London and this will reduce pollution in this area.

Green taxes are also a way in which to raise

UK's funds that the government can then use to invest in green technology such as the £400 million investment into electric cars by the coalition government. As well as raising funds the green paper will educate people into making environmentally friendly choices. Road tax on hybrid vehicles is very low due to the low emissions and ~~there is~~ ~~no~~ ~~tax~~ ~~on~~ ~~electric~~ ~~cars~~ ~~as~~ ~~there~~ ~~is~~ ~~no~~ ~~tax~~ ~~on~~ ~~electric~~ ~~cars~~. This makes them more attractive to consumers as a viable vehicle and so the low tax on these cars is a good thing in helping to reduce emissions.

Environmentalists would also argue that green taxes are vital as they are unavoidable and thus force people to contribute to environmental causes. They argue people need to help to protect the planet and if this needs to be forced upon them via tax then it should be done. However, the 2000 fuel duty rise brought out anger in the public and blockades to the fuel garage were built in protest to the rise of fuel duty. This shows the public opinion of green taxes. They've also been criticised ~~for~~ for being too unevenly distributed throughout the economy such as the focus on the motor industry due to the known damage of car emissions. People also argue that the revenue raised goes to the government and not to green projects.

the ~~question~~ ~~with~~ ~~more~~ ~~the~~ However investment such  
as the setting up of the Green Investment Bank  
can be seen as a product of green tax revenue  
in a time of economic instability.

Overall despite the public's negative attitude  
towards green taxes and the declaration that they're  
"stealth taxes" green taxes play a vital role in  
environmental protection in the form of incentives  
and disincentives and even rebates for companies who're  
particularly environmentally aware.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Two clear benefits are explained and linked to specific examples. There is also a good attempt to 'assess' these benefits. The question is only held back within Level 3 by the lack of a clear definition, although it is implicit through the examples. Also the assessment is more focused on public opinion than on specific disbenefits, with a very brief point on revenues not always being used for green projects. This response scored 12 marks.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Although public popularity is very relevant to contemporary politics it is most effectively used when it is clearly explained why the public support or oppose something.

### **Question 3**

This question was of middling popularity within the short response questions, which perhaps reflects a relatively unusual area of focus but one that is currently much in the spotlight of political debate. Key to achieving the highest marks here was a recognition that the question made multiple demands - to consider both the reasoning (why) and methodology/incentives (how) behind increased academies and to encompass governments both pre and post 2010. Candidates tended to be stronger on why than how and to focus more on one government than another, but it was pleasing to see that most candidates clearly did grasp the concept of academies and many recognised that the policy has evolved over time. A few candidates did stray into a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of academies; the former gained some credit for addressing the 'why' part of the questions, whilst the latter did not.

Level 1 responses did occasionally confuse academies with free schools or grammar schools although this was rare. More commonly they were vague in their explanation as to the reasons why governments have supported academies and offered little if any explanation of how this has been done or else, occasionally, focused on the disadvantages of academies.

Level 2 responses generally focused more on either how or why, although offering a clear explanation of that section of the question, or else covered both how and why but focused exclusively on one government.

Level 3 responses were able to offer a solid exposition of both how and why covering governments before and after 2010. The strongest answers were able to identify the subtle changes in motivation between Labour and Coalition, as well as the different ways in which different schools had been encouraged to convert. However, even at this level few candidates grasped that the Coalition is also forcing some 'failing schools' to become academies, in addition to encouraging more successful schools to take this option.

Recent governments have encouraged schools to become academies for many reasons.

A non-academy school is awarded a restricted budget from a local council in which to afford necessary equipment within a school. Many schools believe ~~they~~ to gain an academy status gains the school a higher reputation and will be directly paid by the government from a higher budget. Michael Gove believes this will encourage the schools to achieve better grades and the money will allow them to employ better teachers. A reason why governments are encouraging academies is so they gain a better relationship with the schools and allows the education minister the chance to amend the curriculum if need be. Some ways in which the government has

done this is allowing the schools more /  
higher budgets compared to the budget set  
for schools by the council. Governments also  
try to influence the teaching and the work  
load placed on teachers. This allows the  
UK government a reputable feeling when  
it comes to children's achievements and  
allows other countries a view into  
a high standard of education within  
the UK.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

This is a reasonable explanation of both how and why the coalition has supported academies on the front page, but nothing about previous governments. The development on the second page is not especially clear or helpful. This was a mid Level 2 response that achieved 8 marks.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Where a question specifies *recent governments*, aim to discuss both the current government and one other.

The main reason that governments have encouraged schools to become academies is to tackle the issue of failing schools. Under New Labour, a policy was introduced whereby failing schools had their senior management removed, and replaced by figures from private management firms. In addition to this, failing schools were often given sponsors from large local businesses, seen by the Harris Academy scheme in London for schools deemed to be failing. This was seen to deal with the issue of failing schools, as by introducing the private sector into education those on the right believed efficiency would increase and aims and strategies would be much clearer, in addition to which the inward investment from local businesses would allow these schools to have access to many necessary resources to help ~~solve~~ solve the issue of failings. Therefore, by introducing <sup>the</sup> private sector into failing schools in order to help achieve success, governments have encouraged the academy scheme.

Secondly, governments have encouraged schools to be academies in order to reduce the state burden, and increase autonomy in education. By allowing academies to set their own agendas, giving them the ability to provide subjects not held on the national curriculum, whilst also taking the schools out of the jurisdiction of local authorities, governments see a twofold occurrence of reduced responsibility

One this is allowing the schools more /  
higher budget compared to the budget set  
for schools by the council. Governments also  
try to influence the teaching and the work  
load placed on teachers, this allows the  
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it comes to children's achievements and  
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### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response fulfils all four demands of the question in a clear and well developed manner. Although there are further points that could be covered, this will always be the case in short response questions and it conveys sufficient breadth and depth to score full 15 marks.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

With 'how' and 'why' questions, achieving a good balance of motivation (why) and action (how) will help you to achieve a high mark, particularly where backed up with strong examples.

The use of community sentences have both advantages and disadvantages. The difference between custodial sentences and community sentences is that one is much severe than the other.

Replacing custodial sentences with community sentences may have a negative impact on the levels of crime rate. It may be considered less serious and so it may increase crime rate instead. Community sentences is placing more focussed on improving behaviour by producing community work, however it may not be successful as more <sup>criminals</sup> people would reoffend. The use of community work may be viewed as insufficient in punishing ~~and~~ undesirable behaviour and may the public may lose its confidence on the government.

~~On~~ On the other hand, community sentences ~~also~~ have disadvantages as well. Firstly, it decreased the population in prisons and focus may be

Another benefit of green taxes is that it allows the gov't. to gain a better control over climate change and pollution over a wider area. This is essential as without it, the gov't would find it harder to implement green policies with guidelines a user to support it.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A series of points are presented but they are simplistic and lack evidence or detailed argument. This scored 7 marks.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

A range of brief and simple points is unlikely to achieve a good mark - points need to be developed and evidenced.

## **Question 4**

This was the most popular of the short response questions, being a topic area previously covered and presenting a clear set of contrasting arguments. The most surprising, and very common, limitation of responses was not to offer a clear basic definition of a 'community sentence'. Although this was not specifically demanded by the question, defining key terms should be second nature to candidates. The lack of such a definition meant that one or two candidates struggled to make it clear that they were not engaging a general 'rehabilitation versus punishment' debate. Others did reach Level 3 but did not quite attain the top of it. As ever with law and order questions there was still a little too much Howard and Thatcher from some candidates.

It was pleasing to see that very few candidates gave a wholly one sided response. The distinguishing factor in quality was often the level of detail and support evidence given, for example the contrast reoffending rates or comparison with other countries. There was effective use made by many candidates of statistics with regard to reoffending rates and relative costs although the figures cited did sometimes vary significantly. Surprisingly very few candidates considered the argument that disparities in reoffending rates might be partly due to the sort of offences for which they are used.

Level 1 responses were rare but where present generally offered a simplistic discussion of punishment versus rehabilitation without direct reference to community sentences. A few candidates suggested that community sentences were used for murderers, rapists and other very serious offenders.

Level 2 responses commonly presented a reasonable range and quality of arguments but lacked sufficient range, often focusing particularly on the argument around 'rehabilitation', or else lacked the evidence base and over-relied on assertion.

Level 3 responses either offered an explicit definition of community sentence or else made it clear, through examples, that they understood the term. They presented a balanced range of arguments backed up with specific and accurate evidence as to the cost of prisons, relative offending rates etc.

Community Sentences <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ introduced under New Labour, as part of their "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime". Their use has also continued and been promoted under the Coalition's Justice Secretary, Ken Clarke. The main argument for their use is that reoffending rates decrease dramatically. From 64% for convicted criminals who have served prison sentences, to 37% for convicted criminals who have carried out a community sentence. This may be due to the idea, that paying back to the community through work creates a greater sense of contribution to society,

rather than just being imprisoned or punished. Furthermore it offers an alternative to short prison sentences, which are proven to be ineffective if under three years. As instead prison in the short term acts as a training camp for convicted criminals and has not offered any long term rehabilitation. Also community sentences are cheaper than imprisoning, which currently costs £40,000 per year per criminal. This is vital for the current coalition government, who want to cut the deficit including 15% from each department.

On the other hand community sentences can create victimisation of criminals. As vigilantes 'attack' criminals ~~carrying~~ carrying out community sentences. As they are highly visible due to their high visibility jackets. Thus this can escalate into a crime itself, and may hinder the criminal from rehabilitating. As they feel less involved in the society, despite that being the focus of community sentences.



### ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This response gives three clear points and the two points in favour of the greater use of community sentences are strong enough to potentially contribute to a Level 3 mark. However the counter point is relatively weak, meaning that there is insufficient balance within the context of a generally sound answer to attain Level 3. This answer scored 10 marks.



### ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Where a question requires balance it need not be equal balance in order to achieve Level 3, but there must be at least one argument of sufficient clarity and strength on each side of the debate.

## **Question 5**

This was a popular question which some candidates were able to address in a balanced and well evidence way. However in a minority of cases candidates did not in fact attempt the question asked, addressing instead the issue of the universal credit. Others did not fall into this trap but did focus much of their attention on the general debate about the advantages and disadvantages of benefits. Candidates who did address universal welfare benefits did not always offer a clear simple definition, which, whilst not required specifically by the question, is certainly helpful and creditable.

Aside from addressing the question asked, the major distinguishing factors were the specific examples given of such benefits and their advantages and disadvantages, extent to which historical commentary was placed in a contemporary context and the degree to which arguments were supported by detailing reasoning and evidence.

Level 1 responses focused on the universal credit, with a small number of marks being achieved by some for content that was relevant to the question asked.

Level 2 responses usually either addressed arguments of relevance but directed them towards welfare benefits in general or else correctly addressed universal benefits without quite showing enough balance to achieve Level 3.

Level 3 responses addressed the specific question asked in a clear and balanced manner, often offering a clear set of examples to back up their individual points. Candidates were often able to discuss recent developments such as the means testing of child benefit and Labour's proposed removal of winter fuel allowance for wealthier pensioners, as well as the impact of the recession on affordability.

The universal benefits system will effectively <sup>including tax credits</sup> ~~combine~~ <sup>bring</sup> 7 different benefits and merge them into one. This payment will differ from other benefits as it will be paid monthly instead of weekly basis.

This universal benefit will ~~be~~ <sup>so</sup> combine benefits such as job seekers allowance and tax credits. <sup>and other income benefits</sup> A benefit of the universal credit is that it is more of an incentive to find work as you will be better off with a job rather than on this benefit which is what the conservative party want. Another advantage is that it will simplify the welfare system as it will be controlled by

computer systems, Furthermore because their are less benefits it will be less like to be able to commit fraud or claim benefits you do not need.

The disadvantages are that it will affect the people who really need the benefits say carers and further because it is run on computers it there is a system failure it could be disastrous a disaster

Ian Duncan Smith stated that 'The universal system will be an incentive as the people are being paid how workers are paid monthly basis'



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Although this would be a competent answer to a question on the universal credit it does not engage the question asked and scores no marks.



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

It is critical to ensure that you fully understand the key terms in the question and direct your answer towards its requirements.

## Question 5

Universal welfare benefits are benefits received by all without regard to wealth or class - they are simply given and thus less caused problems for many, who see vast ~~disadvantages~~ <sup>advantages</sup> with them, despite their popularity.

An advantage of a universal benefit can be seen in the left wing social view as a means of redistributing wealth, as taxes collected are given out to all in the general population. The original "child benefit" is a prime example of this - those with more children were able to acquire, in some terms, the money needed to support that child, regardless of their status in society, thus not only redistributes wealth, but is a way of administering

Social justice, as popularly titled by Labour.

Universal benefits are also far cheaper to administer and run than means tested ones, as it requires far less time and effort, and indeed staff, to calculate who receives what and why. Fair Durrant-Smith's ~~field~~ diagram of a universal ~~vs~~ credit benefit system is a ~~trust~~ ~~in~~ this - it is simply cheaper to run than the old system. This also goes to explain why the housing allowance continues to be universal - despite the fact that some persons simply do not need it.

However, this throws into light a disadvantage with the "universal benefit": that being that it is not fair to those between those who need it, and those who do not. For example, those persons who receive the housing allowance and do not use it for that purpose are, in effect, simply acquiring more and more wealth without using the money as to how it was intended. On the other side, the allowance has to be limited in order to cater for all recipients - and thus those at the

Poorer aid of society may not receive the required amount - all which destroys the original purpose of the benefit. (It also therefore does not affect social justice).

Lastly, although it might be cheaper to run, the real issue is that it is illegal to a problem financially for the Treasury. If you give the benefit to all of those in that bracket, then you put an enormous strain on the economy - the growing number of elderly people is a prime example of this. Therefore, it could end up both costing more, and being less fair, than a means tested system.

Ergo, the concept of universal welfare benefits has both advantages and disadvantages in equal measure.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A very competent answer that gives a clear definition and follows it with a range of developed points linked to practical examples. This answer scored 14 marks.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

A clear structure of definition followed by a point where paragraphing aids clarity and enables the examiner to clearly see that you have understood the topic and met the demands of the question.

## **Question 6**

This was the least popular of the three essay questions available, perhaps surprisingly as it offered a straightforward question with two clear sides to the debate and a great deal of recent contemporary evidence to consider and dissect. The general level of response was high with many candidates reaching Level 3.

Almost all candidates were aware of the government pledge to be 'the greenest government ever' with many effectively contrasting this with recent polling evidence suggesting that the public feel this has not been the case in practice. Surprisingly, and pleasingly, few candidates limited themselves to a general discussion of principles and most instead focused very much on meaty policy particularly on renewable energy, the green investment bank, and Heathrow Airport. It was particularly impressive that many candidates noted tensions within some of these issues between the coalition partners on renewables and even between elements of the Conservative party on Heathrow. Some recent issues, such as promised money for councils to maintain recycling collections and the current badger cull, were surprisingly neglected.

A few candidates did sometimes fall back on the general pros and cons of the climate change debate limiting marks, but more candidates gave argument by assertion or a brief and exclusive focus on one side of the debate.

Middling responses were often fairly well balanced and, at the higher end, could offer relevant examples of coalition policy. At the lower end, candidates included a good deal of general debate as to whether the coalition, or elements of it, were pro or anti a 'green approach'. Some middling responses were strong on one side of the debate but insufficiently balanced to go higher.

The strongest responses were very focused on policy initiatives, u-turns and debates and were able to illustrate effectively how each of these supported one or both sides of the question. Specific tensions within the coalition, for example over nuclear policy or wind farms, were often discussed and the views of pressure groups were brought in to good effect.

In terms of synopticity the most fertile ground was for candidates to consider varying views within the government, without falling back on a simplistic contrast, whilst also discussing the critique made by various environmental groups. Relatively little reference was made to Labour or Green Party criticisms, which perhaps reflected the fact from a public and media point of view, the environment is not the current top priority.

David Cameron the incumbent prime minister declared that the Conservative - Liberal Coalition was going to be the greenest government yet, his pledge at the 2010 election of voting blue to go green and Liberal Democrat credentials of being environmentally friendly led to a promising picture of green unity and an environmental parliament however three years in and the coalition's promise about being environmentally friendly and the greenest ever, has not been met for many.

In previous years Green issues were never viewed as a traditional liberal right thing. After the Green's party's impressive take up of 15% in the European election led Green politicians across the spectrum to consider green policies and the green issue as a <sup>fundamental</sup> ~~important~~ and electoral important. Cameron's style of leadership was different and his promise to be the greenest government yet

in 2010 promised to deliver much, his historical visit to Iceland to see global warming in action seemed promising for many environmentalists, many now claim it to be ~~red~~ rhetoric and a stance taken to attract voters.

60% of the English countryside seemed to be suitable for fracking a BBC report found earlier this year. The ~~country and the coalition~~ immediately dismissed and sent assured the English countryside would not be 'knocked up' for many this was a acknowledgement for Cameron's green credentials but.

However, he ~~abandoned his promise~~ his insulation scheme for businesses to encourage green entrepreneurship ~~was~~ has been taken on halt ~~headed~~ with a promising start. Cameron earlier this year ~~announced~~ and said the ~~date~~ subsidy would now only cover half, protest by ~~businesses~~ was was fierce and it's estimated a loss of 825,000 jobs will be the due result. The promising initiative by the ~~Submarine~~ Chancellor George Osborne on the green investment

bank has also fallen short, lending for business will not kick off til 2015.

The coalition has prided itself on being greener than Labour who if re-elected would have invested in 'environmentally friendly nuclear plants' the Both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats have opposed this and also are against a third runway at Heathrow, however, they do back the high speed rail line (HS2) and see this as not just positive for London but also for the country connecting major cities to London quicker than ever before, this opensc will run through the countryside and ruin the area and disturb the ecology of the area and the habitat, also noise pollution is a reality.

The coalition is well set on meeting its target from the climate change act (2008) a 34% cut of carbon emissions by 2020 and 80% by 2050, the liberals prior to the election wanted a more radical cut of 50% by 2020 and a 100% by 2050. However, compromise has reached and the cuts are to remain a little

Slower.

Many point out at the tension in the Coalition on green policies between the Chancellor and the environment minister, tension and browbeats were common between the Chancellor and Chris Hune but now also with Hune's predecessor Ed David Davies who sees the Environment as key to generating growth and prosperity in the economy. Davies sees Britain as being able to take a role in green infrastructure, through the building of renewable energy such as wind farms which it can sell off to the rest of the world and generate its own energy, the Chancellor sees this idea as hard to explain especially at a time of austerity and green investment would be too expensive, this is true but the benefits would soon catch it self in and Britain could become self reliant as well as green. The reduction of becoming a 'deep green' by the Conservatives is another tenure which has lead to tension in

This is an environmental policy supported fully by the coalition government and plans have been put in place for the completion of the railway line high speed two to be completed by 2023.

However it could be argued that this environmental policy is merely just a promise at the minute as there is increasing apathy towards it. Even some conservative MP's are opposed to the idea and fear that they will lose their constituency seats to Eurosceptic party UKIP. The coalition government also face opposition from the public some feel that in times where the economy is struggling they would rather see the money go to solving the NHS than bridging the north-south divide.

In conclusion the coalition government have kept some of their environmental policy promises and turned them into actions

the future Britain want adhere to international environmental treaties and targets.

Overall, the coalition government has failed in its bid to be the greenest

government to date, it has had some success which have been green such has had a green approach, its resistance to pricing and its ability to meet the targets set by the EU are all positive, however, its green investment bank seems continues to be useless until Sp lending can happen in 2015. The setting up of HS<sub>2</sub> is environmentally demanding and tensions within the coalition between the Energy minister and the chancellor limit the coalition's ability to full pledged green policy, also the split in the conservative party between the old traditional Tories who place more importance on the enterprise rather than the environment remain to be a problem.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A solid answer which is strongest when it is discussing specific government policies that support one side or another of the question. There is a useful consideration of divisions within the coalition although this is a little general and theoretical in places. To achieve Level 3 it would need to link more closely to policy. Nevertheless overall this answer contains both balance and evidence and reaches the top end of Level 2

AO1 8

AO2 7

AO3 5

Syn 7



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Relating arguments to specific examples of policy has a very strong reflection on essay marks.

Since David Cameron became leader of the Conservative party he has promised to modernise it ~~and~~ by making ~~the~~ more concerned with environmental issues. Since the Coalition government came into power in 2010 with the Liberal Democrats, a party who have always been concerned with the environment, it is clear that for the Coalition government environmental policies have become more important to them. However how far they have kept these promises ~~to~~ in reality will be assessed further in this essay.

One way in which the Coalition government have kept to their promises about environmental policy was to stop airport expansion, something in which both parties of the Coalition government ~~have~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~not~~ opposed to in their 2010 manifesto. By cancelling airport

expansion, in this way the coalition government have stuck to their promises and put them into practice.

However in 2012 the coalition government ordered a report to be issued investigating the advantages and disadvantages of airport expansion, done by an independent group. This report is due to be completed after the next election in 2015. However parts of the report have already been leaked indicating that there is a possibility of a third and even fourth runway at Heathrow airport. In this respect the coalition government are not keeping to their promises they made about environmental policy as this shows to the public that they may not be fully committed to stopping airport expansion.

Another way in which the coalition government have kept their promises and turned them into actions is through the building of the Englands

first Green investment bank. A project initially thought of by Labour, but the ~~UK~~ coalition government say it is a "liberal democrat led initiative". As stated in their 2010 Manifestos both the Conservative and the Liberal Democrats parties have put in place this environmental policy, putting their promises into action as the Green investment bank funds projects which look into ways of developing energy through renewable resources.

However there has been a recent decrease in support for the Green investment bank by coalition spokespeople, who have suggested that funding for the project could be "up to £3 billion" whereas before it has always been £3 billion. This point can be backed up further by recent developments in this area as the funding for the Green investment bank has in fact been almost halved and has gone down to £1.6 billion. Whilst not completely going back on their promise for this environmental policy they have not given it as much support

as they initially led the public to believe and so the chances of this environmental policy succeeding when put into practice have decreased greatly.

Another way in which the coalition government have kept their promises about environmental policy and started to turn them into action is through the approval, by the ~~conservative~~ ~~green~~ coalition of two new nuclear power stations.

These new nuclear power stations are particularly favourable to the conservative half of the coalition government as they are able to include the targets they are set to meet by making sure renewable energy is accountable for ~~15%~~ 15% of energy by 2020, and it also enables them to do it through private investment an idea dating way back in conservative ideology.

A further environmental policy in which the coalition government have started ~~to turn into~~ to put into practice is the creation of the railway link, high speed 2

This is an environmental policy supported fully by the coalition government and plans have been put in place for the completion of the railway line high speed two to be completed by 2023.

However it could be argued that this environmental policy is merely just a promise at the minute as there is increasing apathy towards it. Even some conservative MP's are opposed to the idea and fear that they will lose their constituency seats to Eurosceptic party UKIP. Some of the coalition government also face opposition from the public some feel that in times where the economy is struggling they would rather see the money go to saving the NHS than bridging the north-south divide.

In conclusion the coalition government have kept some of their environmental policy promises and turned them into actions

like saying no to airport expansion and creating the Green investment bank, however the extent to which they have completed them has almost been half hearted and with not as much enthusiasm about environmental policies as they led the public to believe in their 2010 manifesto's.

like saying no to airport expansion and creating the Green investment bank, however the extent to which they have completed them has almost been half hearted and with not as much enthusiasm about environmental policies as they led the public to believe in their 2010 manifesto's.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A very clear exposition of policy with good balance and always linked back to the question. This response also considers some tensions within the coalition although ultimately its synopticity is less strong than the other elements, as there is not the breadth and depth of alternative viewpoints needed for a Level 3 synopticity mark. Nevertheless the range and quality of evidence within the answer does push the overall mark into the lower Level 3 range and the clarity of structure and argument secures a high mark for communication.

AO1 9  
AO2 9  
AO3 7  
Syn 8



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

It is useful to try to plan your answers with the requirements of each of the four assessment objectives in mind to ensure that you are reaching as high a level as possible on all of them. This is especially important to avoid neglecting synopticity in comparison to the other AOs.

## **Question 7**

There was naturally much reference to the global credit crisis, but it was also pleasing to see detailed discussion of some more contemporary debates, for example over tax avoidance, and valid links to Unit 4A content on the degree of economic influence held by the EU.

The weakest responses sometimes misunderstood the nature of globalisation, or offered a simple, and not terribly helpful, summary of its pros and cons.

Middling responses were commonly either solid in terms of specific arguments and balance but with only an adequate link made between the concepts of globalisation and loss of control, or else strong in terms of one side of the question, most commonly that there had been a loss of control, but weak on the other.

The strongest responses offered a clear direct link between globalisation and loss of control, clear balance, links to contemporary controversies and willingness to support argument with evidence.

In terms of synopticity this question posed a challenge in that the mainstream parties do not clearly present different positions on this issue, and it was important to avoid a 'some say, but others argue' approach which would leave candidates struggling to achieve even a moderate synopticity mark.

Many candidates did get around this challenge by making references to anti-globalisation movements and to the contrasting views and influence of domestic and European politicians. There was also some useful synoptic reference made to the debate over how far EU membership limits our economy.

This question was middling in terms of popularity and quite varied in terms of quality of response. The critical element was the link between globalisation and loss of control, and the degree to which that was placed in a contemporary context with sufficient balance. One or two candidates fell into the traps of a general discussion of either the pros and cons or globalisation, or the degree in general to which governments have lost control. It was also the case that in general the evidence offered of loss of control due to globalisation was stronger and more detailed than that offered on the other side of the debate.

The ~~eco~~ global economy ~~is~~ is rapidly growing with some markets doing ~~rather~~ notably greater than others. Markets such as Germany's are currently thriving, but also are emerging markets in China and India. A good example is the car industry in these markets. Although the car industry is still expanding in the UK ~~for~~ for example, Jaguar Land Rover, it can still be said UK governments have lost their ability to control the national economy.

It can be said without UK's EU membership the country would be in even more financial trouble as the EU 'holds the country up'. Larger markets such as America have advised the UK to stay in the EU as the UK would not be noticeable without it.

Secondly, the banking sector plays a large part in the national economy. ~~But~~ The Libor scandal left UK government due to having to bail banks out due to the banks submitting false ~~there~~ libor estimates.

On the other hand it can still be said UK governments have still got the ability to control the national economy as it is the government ~~and it is the~~ <sup>who exerts so much</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>influence</sup> on businesses and the general population.

Governments can influence entrepreneurs by helping them with cash flow problems and also offering tax incentives for companies to move to sites in low employment areas to encourage growth. Although it can be argued this is only on a small scale and does not necessarily affect the global economy.

UK governments can only ~~be~~ control the national economy to some extent themselves anyway, due to the membership of the EU and the transfer of legitimacy. So, this said and referring to a point made earlier, the membership of the EU can have either a positive or negative effect on UK governments ability to control the national economy, depending how you look at it.

In evaluation, UK governments often have to follow market leaders to keep up to date and make sure they do not fall behind too much.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This response gives brief points of varying quality and which are not clearly directed to the link between globalisation and loss of control. There is some balance but not sufficient to rescue it from the higher end of Level 1 for most AOs.

AO1 5

AO2 4

AO3 3

Syn 3



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

It is of fundamental importance to answer the question, the whole question and nothing but the question.

It can be argued that UK Governments have lost control over their economy as the world becomes more globalised. But what is control, ~~Madness~~ John Maynard Keynes once argued that in some times governments can do nothing to control their economy. I feel today that control of your economy simply needs to have prosperity via actions that a government takes, rather than ~~pro~~ prosperity via actions of external forces.

Firstly, ever since Britain joined the European union and signed up to the IMF it has lost control as percentages of GDP to funds it must pay into. When Greece and the other "PIIGS" fell into crisis Britain had to pay in significant amounts of money to rescue them. Therefore at that time at least Britain lost control of great deals of its GDP to bail out other countries, even if we didn't want to. A Euro Sceptic

may argue that it is of times like these that Britain would be better off alone, rather than leaving to pick up the pieces of other fallen economies. Here Britain lost some control over its spending and hence part of its ~~financial~~ economy.

Secondly when Britain was hit by the banking crisis it was not necessarily its own fault. Many banks like RBS had money invested overseas in other countries and businesses. Also our banks had great deals of money invested in American banks like the Lehman Brothers, when companies around the world began to lose money due to factors like the Euro crisis and the collapse of the American property market via negative equity Britain felt the pinch too. Companies and foreign banks could not give back the money they had borrowed so Britain's economy which is so reliant on the financial sector went into recession. Here Britain had no control over its own economy. A labour MP would argue that if Thatcher had not deregulated the banks then our banks would not have risked so much of its

own money, while a conservative with a more  
laissez faire attitude to the economy could  
argue that banks now take risks, they should  
have been more careful and regulated their  
- selves.

Thirdly under the new coalition government  
Britain is beginning to manufacture and  
export more of its own products. one area  
of this has grown considerably, car manufacture  
like Jaguar and Land Rover now provide  
3% more GDP to the economy than they did  
under Labour. This is largely because of  
exports to China, China is one of the  
fastest growing economies in the world  
, if they hit recession they would no longer  
buy British cars. Hence much of Britain's  
economy would be affected. A conservative might  
argue that Britain needs restructuring to  
secure growth, yet a Labour M.P or a  
left wing, liberal Democrat could argue that  
more legislation is needed to ensure manufacturers  
don't damage the economy if they stop  
selling as many cars.

However many people believe that Britain  
is in control of its own economy and that

Globalisation has less impact than one may think.

Firstly even after RBS collapsed unlike the USA, Britain decided to support its banks by buying over 80% of RBS's shares. With no external or global help RBS is now back on its feet with help coming solely from the British Government. Obama President Brown because "We saved the world no the banks". A Liberal Democrat may argue that more international government was needed in the first place to avoid RBS's collapse, yet a New Labour like may say that Britain needed a free market to become the economic power it is today, and that at least RBS's is recovered unlike Lehman brothers.

Secondly, despite our soaring debt in the US today a conservative M.P. or indeed a coalition member would argue that Britain has reduced the deficit, without external global sources helping. Cameron and Clegg have cut over 20% from all government departments but international development and the NHS. Only ~~that~~ the government can control its spending so here globalisation has not affected who is in control of the British economy.

Thirdly many Monetarists like those in the conservative party argue that controlling inflation is important to maintain a strong economy. And indeed the coalition have done that.

currently the UK economy inflation rate fluctuates around 1.1 - 0.8%. Hence leaving the £ is still more, and will stay that way for longer. No external global forces changed this, only a British government has control over its inflation. A left wing Labour MP though may argue that controlling inflation is less important than growth.

In conclusion I feel that because there are ways in which the international community and its market place can affect the British economy, yet I feel obliged as we remain in the Sterling and don't join the Euro we have ultimate control over our economy. Yet it is arguable as to whether this is a good thing, in "ever closer union" politically and economically may we day be better than voluntary withdrawal from outside the Euro.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

A clear and balanced series of relevant points, directly engaging with the question and couched in terms of contemporary political debate. Although the candidate does adopt a potentially dangerous approach from a synoptic point of view by considering a series of points on one side and then a series on the other, it is done whilst clearly considering alternative perspective and points of view.

AO1 10

AO2 10

AO3 7

Syn 10



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Whilst the most fruitful approach to synopticity is often where arguments are alternated and directly contrasted. This is not the only route to a high synoptic mark provided that, within whatever structure you use, you engage a variety of pertinent viewpoints.

## Question 8

This was a very popular question but, as is often the case with law and order essays, many candidates did not bring their responses fully up to date with contemporary political debates. Despite the clear time frame, some candidates could not avoid the temptation to begin with Thatcher. Others did take the cue from the question and started in 1997 but then focused very heavily on the 1997-2010 period.

It is understandable that most candidates chose to focus on the aspects of civil liberties related to the war on terror and high marks could be achieved with such an approach. Nevertheless police powers and, to an extent, penal policy could also be validly considered and it was pleasing to see a great deal of specific policy evidence offered to support the vast majority of responses.

However it was surprising that very few candidates chose to compare the situation in the UK with that in other countries.

In practice it was not the number of policy examples that tended to distinguish candidates, but rather their breadth and balance in terms of both governments and sides of the question. Many others fell into the trap of embracing the premise of the question, and assuming that the post-1997 trend had been entirely against civil liberties. In fact this question offered the opportunity for candidates to adopt a highly sophisticated approach and examine the tensions between civil liberties and security within all recent governments. They recognised that both Labour and the Coalition had boosted civil liberties in some areas, for example with HRA and the abolition of ID cards respectively, and removed them in others, such as anti-terror laws and closed material procedures, but only a few candidates were able to do this.

Some responses offered only patchy or general evidence with a few candidates simply repeating alternative versions of the 'tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime' mantra. At a slightly higher level, evidence was reasonable but often focused on only one of the four possible aspects of the question. Most commonly this was that Labour had eroded civil liberties with little or no consideration of any other view.

Middling responses were also commonly focused on the Labour government or, at the higher end, briefly considered the coalition but not in sufficient depth to achieve Level 3. Alternatively they might clearly consider governments both pre and post 2010, but focused entirely on the premise that both had solely eroded civil liberties. Often good quality policy examples were offered in support of the areas considered.

The strongest responses recognised the need to address both sides of the debate, and governments both pre and post 2010, within a clear policy context. A number of candidates achieved Level 3 for most assessment objectives but high Level 2 for synopticity for reasons outlined below. The very highest responses showed strong synoptic sophistication and awareness of the nuances and tensions within the approach of both Labour and the Coalition, espousing general strong support for civil liberties and sometimes boosting them, whilst also taking actions that reduced them.

Some candidates focused on two governments, facilitating a strong synoptic approach, but the tendency noted above to focus predominantly on Labour limited several candidates' synoptic mark. A dichotomous 'Labour eroded civil liberties but the coalition have reversed it' approach to synopticity, if properly evidenced, could reach the higher end of Level 2 but strong synopticity demands the recognition of competing viewpoints and evidence within, as well as between governments. The very strongest candidates were also able to recognise tensions between the coalition partners and a few, though perhaps less than might be expected, cited Teresa May's plans to replace HRA.

Since New Labour were elected into government in 1997, ~~there has been an~~ and there has been a strong shift back towards perhaps "harsher" more neo-liberal policies in a bid to tackle the ongoing issue of crime and law and order up until this very day. This may indeed be seen as positive in terms of reinstating the necessary order and stability within society. However, an ongoing argument is that such "tough on crime" solutions may be severely detrimental to the rights ~~and~~ of those accused, and civil liberties campaigners have been unfurled by such actions arguing that they are unjust ~~through~~. In this essay I will analyse a number of policies that have emerged over the past sixteen years and explore the extent to which they have eroded civil liberties.

Perhaps a crucial place to start would be in the early days of New Labour, and their ~~new~~ proposal to be "tough on crime and

though on the causes of crime". Already, this was reminiscent of a neo-liberal time and almost a return to the hard-line crime policies of the previous conservative governments. New Labour's primary focus was on the issue of youth crime, and in 1999, they introduced the Anti-social behaviour order (ASBO). ASBOs consisted of curfews ~~being~~ and limits being sanctioned on those accused of committing "anti-social behaviour". In order to achieve an ASBO, one would have to be complained about to the police, by either a victim or person affected by such behaviour. As effective as this may ~~seem~~ have been in preventing ~~such~~ social disruption and ~~young~~ petty youth crimes, it was highly controversial in that ~~it~~ offenders simply had to be complained about to police. There would be no fair right to trial or defence for the accused to defend themselves, and for this reason it can be seen as an infringement of civil liberties. For an individual to have their freedoms taken away, it could be seen that they would have the right to at least have their say in the matter, or defend themselves as is the right in the system of crime and justice. However, ASBOs did not provide this

right, so in some ways it could even be seen as false imprisonment, thus being a large ~~transgression~~ erosion of civil liberties.

On the other hand being said, ASBOs may in fact protect the civil liberties of those victimised by the ~~to~~ accused, as they provide a quick solution without the fuss and drama of a trial, or the trauma of the victims having to give evidence in court, especially if there had been a physical confrontation like an assault or vandalism of property beforehand. Whilst these reduced New Labour approaches may possibly erode the civil liberties of some ~~to~~ individuals, it protects the liberties of society as a whole, thus actually preserving rights in the long run.

Perhaps the most controversial Law and Order policies since 1997 would be the anti-terrorism acts of the 2000s. In the wake of 9/11<sup>and 7/7</sup>, Labour felt it necessary to implement radical policies to legislation in order to stop any and all possible ~~loss~~ future acts of terrorism from arising. Such measures included increased power for the police to stop and search those they merely "suspected" of committing an act

of terrorism. Therefore, they could now ~~to~~ stop arguing that they thought "looked" like a terrorist. Not only ~~does~~ <sup>has</sup> this infringe civil liberties through not giving the "suspect" the chance to go defend himself, but it also allows racism and pre-emptive prejudice to seep into the law and order system through legislative policy - an issue that was widely controversial in 2005/2006. For example, the shooting of innocent Juan Charles De Menezes in 2005 contributed to the arguments that such policy seriously infringed the rights of normal people going about their day. Again, civil liberties eroded for little or no reason. Another seriously controversial Act was the Terrorism Acts of 2006 and 2008, when the number of days a mere terror suspect could be held with out charge. Again this unjust imprisonment infringed the civil liberties of ~~and~~ possibly innocent ~~and~~ individuals, not to mention undermining the age-old criminal belief "innocent until proven guilty".

However, if we are to look at it from a purely hypothetical standpoint, the phrase 'better safe than sorry' comes to mind. Like the ASBO issue, only on a far more large-scale and severe level.

The detentions of such prisoners could infringe  
save lives in that such suspects may actually  
be a danger to society. We must not be  
too hasty in believing that all who are  
"not proven guilty" are innocent, more lies beneath  
the surface, and police must have a valid reason  
to ~~is~~ just imprison suspects.

Thirdly, ~~the~~ New Labour introduced tougher sentences  
through a "Serial warning system" for repeat  
offenders, in an attempt to obliterate the issue  
of repeated offences. This was successful in that  
it protected the civil liberties of those in  
society, preventing them from further disruption  
and ~~and~~ cruel behaviour. It could be argued that  
this ~~is~~ would erode the civil liberties of  
the offenders as they have already "served  
their time". However, if they have the capacity  
to offend ~~one~~ and over again, they should be  
prepared to serve ~~or~~ again and again. Whilst  
the argument that it invades their rights.  
Therefore, these ~~policy~~ policies infringe ~~on~~  
rather than ~~to~~ erode civil liberties.

Finally, ~~in~~ in terms of ~~the~~ the current  
government, recent issues of law and order  
have come to light in terms of civil liberties.

For example, in the 2011 London Riots, there was a huge clamp down in discipline on those involved, including rough, immediate sentencing and deportments of those implemented or seen on CCTV images. This ~~may be seen~~ as an erosion could be seen as an erosion of civil liberties based on the incredibly weak arguments that many were people who were aged 16, whilst the relatively small amounts of money caught (in comparison to those involved as a whole) had to pay the full price for a crime that also involved others.

On the other hand, this clamp down in discipline also provided protection of society and a reinstating of social order, protecting society and those living in the ~~the~~ riots, thus also again protecting civil liberties.

Furthermore, some civil liberties were also protected when Nick Greig closed down youth detention centres in 2011, whilst now a complete erosion of civil liberties ~~to~~ for youths to be detained, to ~~give~~ ~~gone~~ gave them a chance to be reunited with their families and so hopefully be rehabilitated back into functional members of society.

In conclusion, it is an unavoidable fact that some law and order policies since 1997 have eroded civil liberties through lack of charges when being detained, implementation of disciplinary actions when there is no proof, and outrageous controversial terrorism laws. However, it is imperative to look at both sides of the argument, and see that in some circumstances the ~~total~~ erosion of civil liberties for a small minority of people may be necessary in protecting society as a whole.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

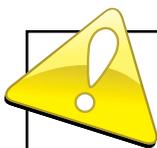
This response gives a great deal of knowledge and discussion of Labour's policies that could easily have constituted the basis for a Level 3 answer had there been more awareness of the ways in which Labour protected elements of civil liberties, and/or the impact of the coalition. As it was this response remained at the very top of Level 2 for AO1, Synopticity and AO3 and just reached Level 3 for analysis.

AO1 8

AO2 9

AO3 6

Syn 8



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Content on Labour is clearly very relevant to essays that specify 'since 1997' but it is very important not to neglect the coalition, which, as the more contemporary government, should receive at least as much attention.

Since 1997 under both Labour and the Coalition there has been somewhat substantial debate over governments infringement upon individuals civil liberties. While governments have retained the notion that certain measures are both necessary and desirable to control law and order, those more liberal in nature have argued otherwise. However it does appear that since Tony Blair took to office in 1997 governments have in fact attempted to prevent crime at the expense of ~~it~~ civil liberties. Civil liberties include freedom of movement, right to protest, right to a fair trial, freedom of speech and many other privileges groups such as Liberty believe each individual is entitled to.

Perhaps the most prominent example of civil liberty erosion is the surge of laws that followed Blair's war against terror. This somewhat recent phenomenon has pushed governments to pass various legislation to enable the police and legal system to do everything in their possibility to fight this crime. Labour between 1997-2010 introduced various measures such as control orders in 2003.

These, some argue, are effectively house arrest - they restrict a suspected terrorist to a location chosen by government. Access to the internet is limited and in extreme cases even contact with other individuals. Civil liberties campaigners have stressed this infringes upon many civil liberties. Firstly, right to a fair trial as ~~the~~ those who have been detained under this 'offence' are suspects and not in fact convicted criminals. Freedom of movement and speech are thus also eroded as the government has given itself the ability to detain these suspected terrorists, therefore showing civil liberties ~~to~~ have indeed been eroded ~~at the~~ ~~to~~ in this global fight against terror. But a possibly the most controversial measure in this arena came as a factor of the 2006 terrorism act introduced by Labour. Government gave police the ability to detain suspects for 28 days without trial. This ~~was~~ again caused much ~~dis~~ especially from the Liberal Democrats as individual civil liberties were subsided under attempts to control terrorism. Furthermore one study has suggested that up to 50% of these 'suspects' ~~was~~ were not charged after being held, not only showing that basic civil liberties have been eroded, but also that Labour's measures against terrorism were not entirely effective.

Another area that has caused much conflict is the infringement of the civil liberty that states every individual has the

right to protest. The right to protest is in theory implemented in every modern democracy as it allows freedom of expression and freedom of speech to give the the ability to individuals to show any dissatisfaction or discontent with any aspect of society and many have argued this is a very important right to maintain. However under the Labour government there was certain laws introduced which many would argue threaten this basic right and essentially these have been upheld to an extent under the coalition. Under the 2000 terrorism act section 44 states that police may stop and search any suspect of terrorism. However it has emerged that protesters have been stopped by the police on the way to the anti Iraq war demonstrations and anti-capitalist protests ultimately under section 44. This shows that not only government measures have restricted the right to protest but also that police further abuse their civil-liberty-eroding 'powers'. Another example that demonstrates this is the introduction <sup>under Labour</sup> and maintenance by the coalition, of restrictions to protest within 1km of a parliament or on a site of 'national security'. This denies individuals the right to protest and freedom of expression on a site that they feel will be most effective for their campaign, such as GAO protesters, showing governments have substantially eroded many aspects of the right to protest.

finally it appears that governments since 2007 have eroded individuals right to a fair trial 'Habeas Corpus'

is a principle maintained in most liberal democracies that anyone suspected of crime has the best possible protection to their civil liberties when being convicted. Law and order policies since 1997 have introduced measures that mean the erosion of this liberty has become extremely questionable. ASBO's introduced in 1998 and the coalition's recent proposal to, essentially, rebrand these as 'CRIMBO's' has raised some concern over the issue of fair trial. Although ASBO's are not in themselves a criminal offence and can be given out, since 2003, very easily and vastly by the police and in some cases for just drinking on the street, breaking an ASBO is a criminal offence. Furthermore the controversial use of Parenting Orders, which push responsibility of the behaviour of juveniles onto their parents, can also be a criminal offence if broken. Therefore it can be seen that individuals can be convicted, even sentenced to prison, for a crime that was initially not punishable by law thus the right to fair trial is removed as the individual may not even have committed a criminal offence. Fair trial? It appears this measure is not 'fair' at all.

On the otherhand law & order policies since 1997 have, in some ways, attempted to uphold many civil liberties. In 1998 Labour passed the Human Rights Act which incorporated the ECHR into British law. This adds another so called 'layer' to judges ability

to maintain civil liberties and in some cases can even over turn UK law. The coalition in 2010 pledged to introduce a British Bill of Rights which many civil liberties campaigners claimed would not be as effective as the ECHR in protecting civil liberties. However due to the influence of the Liberal Democrats, the ECHR has been retained. The power and ability this ~~is~~ policy has had on retaining civil liberties can be demonstrated through the Price vs Leeds City Council case. ~~The~~ Roma family were threatened by ~~the~~ with eviction from the council to a piece of land they had been living on. However the judge ruled that ~~it~~ under the ECHR this would snatch the families basic right to a home. Therefore it could be said that the ECHR incorporation into British law and the willingness of judges to favour individuals civil liberties over the power and policies of government (also local) has in fact strengthened civil liberties. However many argue many of these policies are superficial and cases like the one stated are rare furthermore usually judges do not always side with government.

The coalition have recently introduced various policies and notions that both appear to ~~be~~ reverse many of Labour's liberty eroding policies and introduce ways in which these liberties are ~~not~~ ultimately strengthened. For example the coalition in 2012 reduced the number of days a suspect can be held without trial to 14 days down

from 28. However it must be indicated that this is only 'having' the <sup>2</sup>problem<sup>3</sup> of a right to fair trial, and not actually fully amending the erosion of this liberty showing that perhaps this is just an appeal to the more liberal electorate. In addition Control Orders have been scrapped and TMIIPs introduced. These are similar to Control orders except they do not entirely limit contact for the individual and ~~allow~~ can only be placed for 2 years instead of the indefinite nature of Control orders. However Labour have pointed out these are just Control orders with "botox" and brought up the fact that on boxing day 2012 someone under a TMIIP escaped and was never found. Although these measures improve Labour's erosion of civil liberties, alone the amendment to number of days without trial, ~~the~~ TMIIPs just patch over some of this erosion but do not in any way, and how groups such as Liberty would say, amend this definite erosion.

More recently however, and in all fairness most likely due to the Liberal Democrats new found power in the coalition, the right to privacy has in many ways been restored and improved. Under Labour, policy introduced allowed the storing of all suspects DNA whether convicted or not. Although this has helped to solve over 3,000 crimes, the right of innocent people to privacy was removed at the expense of this

policy. Prior to 2010 Labour also put forward plans to introduce ID cards and increase the use of CCTV. Quite clear erosion to the right of privacy. Almost immediately the coalition scrapped these proposals and have also cleared the DNA database of over 5.4m innocent people. This clearly shows in recent years there has been a desire to restore the right to privacy. Miliband even admits that his party "got it wrong" over the proposal of ID cards, showing these policies by the coalition enjoy a consensus and are thus likely to be maintained.

Overall it is clear that civil liberties have definitely been eroded by government policy, however what is apparent is that the question boils down to whether governments see ensuring crime is prevented as more important or the retention of civil liberties. Since 1997 however it seems apparent that governments have tended to opt for the ability to prevent crime, most likely due to the recent threat of terrorism.



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

In some ways a similar type of response to the previous example, but with a little more awareness of the coalition and clear understanding that Labour increased as well as reduced some civil liberties, notably via HRA and that the Coalition has considered repealing this.

AO1 10

AO2 10

AO3 7

Syn 10

## ***Paper Summary***

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

- Address the question as set, paying particular attention to the words 'to what extent', and noting where a question demands consideration of more than one government.
- Understand clearly the key political terminology, particularly where new terms, such as 'universal credit', are similar to existing concepts.
- Maintain a contemporary focus and avoid overly historical content. In particular, content pre-1997 at most should be discussed only briefly and any relevant philosophical, theoretical or historical points should be linked to specific contemporary policy. Candidates should also embrace post-2010 content.
- Avoid assertion or general debate in favour of specific argued points, for example the ways in which a flaw in monetary union led to economic difficulties and not simply that it did.
- Ensure that any and all statistical evidence cited is robust, particularly with regard to law and order statistics.
- Continue to develop the use of synopticity, avoiding simplistic yes/no, agree/disagree approaches and making use of competing viewpoints between, within and outside of parties, where appropriate to the demands of the question.



## **Grade Boundaries**

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