



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCE In Politics

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas
(9PL0/01)

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General Marking Guidance

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

Section A: Political Participation

Guidelines for Marking Questions 1a and 1b
AO1 (10 marks) Marks here relate to knowledge and understanding. They can be awarded for using the source and developing separate own knowledge. When the rubric states that candidates should 'use knowledge and understanding to help you analyse and evaluate' it means that candidates should use only knowledge and understanding from the source. Newly introduced own knowledge cannot form the basis for AO2 and AO3 points/marks.
AO2 (10 marks) Candidates should focus their comparison on analysing the different opinions in the source in terms of similarities and differences. They should look at the different approaches and views that arise from political information and show how these can form the basis for differing opinions.
AO3 (10 marks) Candidates are expected to evaluate the information and arguments presented. They may rank the importance of the analysis. They should be able to make and form judgments based on the source and they should reach reasoned conclusion.
Marks for analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3) should <i>only</i> be awarded where they relate to information in the source.
Candidates must consider both views in their answers in a balanced way. The judgement a candidate reaches about these views should be reflected in their conclusion. Candidates who do not undertake any comparative analysis of the source and/or have not considered both views in a balanced way cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.

In AO2 and AO3, political information means source.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–6	• Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited comparative analysis of political information with partial, logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within political information, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of political information, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many of which are descriptive and lead to limited unsubstantiated conclusions (AO3).
Level 2	7–12	• Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some emerging comparative analysis of political information with some focused, logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within political information, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some relevant evaluation of political information, constructing occasionally effective arguments and judgements, some are partially substantiated and lead to generic conclusions without much justification (AO3).
Level 3	13–18	• Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused comparative analysis of political information with focused, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences within political information, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs generally relevant evaluation of political information, constructing generally effective arguments and judgements, many of which are substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	19–24	• Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent comparative analysis of political information, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences within political information, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of political information, constructing mostly effective arguments and judgements, which are mostly substantiated and lead to mostly focused and justified conclusions (AO3).
Level 5	25–30	• Demonstrates thorough and in-depth knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are effectively selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1).

		• Perceptive comparative analysis of political information, with sustained, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences within political information, which make cohesive and convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs fully relevant evaluation of political information, constructing fully effective arguments and judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to fully focused and justified conclusions (AO3).
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Question number	Indicative content
1(a)	Using the source, evaluate the view that rights in the UK are poorly protected. AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding from the source and their own knowledge (AO1) in relation to the view that rights in the UK are poorly protected. Agreement • A significant section of the UK political landscape – such as the Conservative Party and Reform UK – want to rescind the HRA and leave the ECHR. • Leaving the EU means that the Charter of Fundamental Rights no longer applies, further weakening the protection of rights. • Many UK governments have diluted or weakened human rights by introducing new legislation which acts to over-ride them. • Human rights in the UK remain narrowly defined and exclude key aspects of social and economic rights. Disagreement • A great deal of legislation is in place to protect human rights. • The courts also protect human rights via civil liberties which pre-date legislation. • Political parties are generally in favour of supporting human rights. • Pressure groups actively campaign to protect human rights. Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view: • Human rights are particularly vulnerable from sections within the Conservative Party, and Reform UK, who wish to remove the UK from the ECHR and abolish the HRA. This gains sympathy from some in the UK who are anti-European and confuse the EU with the ECHR. (AO2) We can conclude that withdrawal from the ECHR would undermine a key aspect of UK rights protection.(AO3) • With the Charter of Fundamental Rights no longer applying, courts are less likely to uphold rights. This can already be seen as UK courts, have started to shift in their willingness to challenge the government on human rights, and to take a narrower view of the judiciary's role – seen in recent rulings on the Shamima Begum case, and arguably the recent ruling on the meaning of 'sex' under the Equality Act. (AO2) We can conclude that this trends is likely to intensify in the future now that the Charter no longer applies (AO3). • Governments have weakened legislation which protects human rights and introduced new legislation which denies rights – such as the Public Order Acts which have limited the right to protest and the recent legislation which restricts the right of certain workers to strike. (AO2) We can conclude that this is a slow process of erosion that through stealth governments can take away aspects of our human rights. (AO3)

- Human rights in the UK have key omissions, especially economic and social rights, such as the right to quality health treatment etc. (AO2). We can conclude that human rights still have a considerable way to travel before we establish a truly equal society. (AO3)

Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:

- Over the years Parliament has introduced a range of legislation which defines and enhances human rights. An example is the Equality Act: which was wide ranging and much more inclusive of UK society. (AO2) There has been a growing development in how rights are protected, and the Equality Act was influential in the creation of same-sex marriage which followed. We can conclude that this a progressive and evolving approach to protecting human rights. (AO3)
- In the UK we also have an active judiciary who can use a range of civil liberties that have been place for hundreds of years to secure human rights. (AO2) We can conclude that the protection of rights is long standing, and not limited to recent legislation. (AO3).
- None of the established political parties in the UK are in favour of a major removal of human rights in the UK, and as such there is a cross party consensus on their importance. (AO2). The Conservative Party would argue that they only wish to replace the supremacy of the ECHR with our own Supreme Court. Thus, we can conclude that this is a matter not of the principle of human rights but of process and sovereignty. (AO3)
- We have an open and tolerant society with a free media, and this allows both individual and group protest. Pressure groups such as Liberty, Amnesty and Human Rights Watch actively monitor human rights protection. (AO2) We can conclude that these well-known and respected groups will always champion human rights issues and secure their protection. (AO3).

Accept any other valid responses.

Note that whilst it is creditable to argue that the public, media, and sometimes politicians confuse the ECHR and EU, and this point is creditable, where candidates themselves confuse the two it will not be credited.

Question number	Indicative content
1(b)	Using the source, evaluate the view that the most important factor in deciding the influence of pressure groups are the methods they use. AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding from the source and their own knowledge (AO1) in relation to the view that pressure group influence mainly depends on the methods which they use: Agreement • Getting the media on side is an important tactic for pressure groups. • Shock tactics and direct action have a tremendous impact on pressure groups' influence. • Educating and raising awareness with the public is effective at then influencing decision makers. • Many pressure groups ensure influence by donation to political parties. Disagreement • The status of a pressure group, rather than tactics, primarily determines its influence. • The attitude and view of the incumbent government is likewise a major determinant of pressure group influence. • The public are now well informed about political issues, so a rational case is needed rather than simply swaying them through tactics. • Direct action or shock tactics can at times be counterproductive for a pressure group and cause influence to be lost. Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view: • Getting the media to be supportive, and to publicise the pressure group even where not supportive, is vital for its influence. (AO2). We can conclude that effective media coverage and support is a tactic that makes a larger difference to influence. (AO3). • Shock tactics or direct action raise the profile of pressure groups, attracting more members and wider knowledge of the group. (AO2) We can conclude that even if the direct-action causes problems the profile-raising is what really matters to get an issue on the political agenda – for example with Just Stop Oil. (AO3) • If a pressure group can use tactics that effectively educate and raise awareness, they gain long term advocates for their cause. (AO2) When pressure groups can convert others and

make them aware of problems, influencing decision makers in turn, this is long lasting and highly productive. (AO3)

- Some pressure groups gain their influence via the contributions to party funds. The Trade Unions are big contributors to Labour and businesses make up a large percentage of Conservative Party donations. (AO2) We arrive at a verdict that if a pressure group has sufficient funds it can buy its influence as an effective tactic. (AO3)

Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:

- The status and category of a pressure group determines the amount of influence which it has. Some pressure groups are classed as 'insiders' who have a close and productive relationship with key decision makers. In contrast 'outsider' groups have no such avenues of influence. (AO2) Hence, we can conclude that status and contact with decision makers determines influence and some pressure groups such as the NFU, the RSPCA and NSCC enjoy this privilege regardless of tactics. (AO3)
- Pressure group influence is heavily affected by the political position of the incumbent government. If the government's view agrees with a pressure group, then the legislation is likely to align with its aims. If the government is opposed, then the pressure group has very limited influence. (AO2) We can conclude that the government's ideological compatibility with the group is more significant than tactics (AO3)
- In modern society the public are less swayed by emotion and do not readily accept the claims made by pressure groups without reasoned evidence, especially as there are opposing pressure groups and interests that give a credible counter-case. (AO2) We can conclude that whilst a pressure group may argue one side in a debate, the public will act rationally in coming to a judgement. (AO3)
- Not all tactics are effective: some can be counter-productive and reduce the influence which some pressure groups seek. Just Stop Oil could also be seen to support this point, as their disruption has arguably lost support for their cause. (AO2) We can conclude that whilst tactics may increase or decrease influence these factors can often balance out, making other factors more important. (AO3)

Accept any other valid responses.

Guidelines for Marking Questions 2a and 2b
AO1 (10 marks) Marks here relate to knowledge and understanding. It should be used to underpin analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3)
AO2 (10 marks) Candidates should form analytical views which support and reject the view presented by the question.
AO3 (10 marks) Candidates are expected to evaluate the information and arguments presented. They may rank the importance of the prior analysis. They should be able to make and form judgments and they should reach a reasoned conclusion.
Candidates must consider both views in their answers in a balanced way. The judgement a candidate reaches about these views should be reflected in their conclusion. Candidates who have not considered both views in a balanced way cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2. On question 2a in order to reach Level 4 both parties and their internal divisions must be covered. On question 2b in order to reach Level 4 at least three general elections must be referenced. Other valid responses are acceptable

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–6	• Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited analysis of aspects of politics with partial, logical chains of reasoning, which makes simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many which are descriptive and lead to limited unsubstantiated conclusions (AO3).
Level 2	7–12	• Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some emerging analysis of aspects of politics with some focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing occasionally effective arguments and judgements, some are partially substantiated and lead to generic conclusions without much justification (AO3).
Level 3	13–18	• Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused analysis of aspects of politics with focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs generally relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing generally effective arguments and judgements, many of which are substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	19–24	• Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent logical chains of reasoning, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing mostly effective arguments and judgements, which are mostly substantiated and lead to mostly focused, justified conclusions (AO3).
Level 5	25–30	• Demonstrates thorough and in-depth knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are effectively selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Perceptive analysis of aspects of politics, with sustained, logical chains of reasoning, which make cohesive and convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs fully relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing fully effective substantiated arguments and

		judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to fully focused and justified conclusions (AO3).
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Question number	Indicative content
2(a)	Evaluate the view that the Labour Party is more internally divided than the Conservative Party. AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in agreeing with the view that the Labour Party is more internally divided than the Conservative Party: Agreement • Labour remains deeply divided over its historical legacy and past between 'Old Labour' and 'New Labour'. The two 'camps' still manifest themselves today across a range of policy divides • Labour has also been divided over the leadership, leading to further splits. • There is a clear and continuing division within Labour over elements of foreign policy. • By contrast the Conservatives have consistently shown the ability to ultimately unite. Disagreement • The Conservative Party has been split since 1979 over its commitment to One Nation policies or the New Right, and these divisions still remain relevant today. • The issue of Europe and in particular membership of the EU has plagued the Conservative Party since the 1990s. • Policy divisions still permeate the party over issues such as immigration, taxation, and its green agenda. • By contrast Labour was remarkably united during the 2024 election, and largely since, whilst the Conservatives continue to be divided Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view: • Labour as a party was created from and by the trade union movement and the working classes. This is reflected in 'Old Labour' policy, for example on taxation or renationalisation. However, in recent times the party adopted the policies and views of the Third Way as 'New Labour'. This gave competing views of its strategic direction. (AO2) We can conclude that these fundamental tensions remain at the core of the party today. (AO3) • In and out of office the Labour Party have been divided by its leaders who are seen as either too left or not left enough. Such a fate arose with Jeremy Corbyn, and now arguably Keir Starmer; and can be seen in disputes over issues like welfare cuts, winter fuel allowances, and the two-child cap. Similarly from 1997 to 2007 leadership rivalry existed between Blair

and Brown (AO2) We can conclude that the divisions in leadership, and over leaders' policies, are continued manifestations of the ideological split in the party. (AO3)

- A significant split arose in the Labour Party over its stance on EU membership and divisions in the party created a period of dithering on which stance to take (AO2) Whilst Brexit itself is no longer as relevant, clear divides on foreign policy - such as overseas aid, Gaza, and how to engage President Trump - remain (AO3)
- In contrast the Conservatives showed a remarkable unity on Brexit during the 2019 election, and indeed are currently united in opposing many labour policies (AO2) Thus, we can conclude that the Conservatives have a stronger tradition than Labour in overcoming disunity (AO3)

Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:

- Just as the Labour Party has two clear camps, so do the Conservative Party with its New Right and One Nation sections. For much of its history One Nation was dominant but Mrs Thatcher moved the party in a different direction. The party has had ideological division since her departure and leaders claimed to represent both traditions. (AO2) We can conclude that as these two traditions are in many ways incompatible that this created a fundamental divide which persists today. (AO3)
- Since the 1990s the party has had fundamental splits over Europe, originally the Eurosceptics were a minority but since 2010 they became the dominant section of the party. (AO2) This anti-European trend continues as sections of the Conservative party wish to leave the ECHR and revoke the HRA, and disagree about the impact of Brexit – hence divides over Europe for the party continue. (AO3)
- The party has clear divides and tensions over key policy areas: it cites green credentials but has opened up new sites for the extraction of more fossil fuels and is divided on 'net zero'. It is divided over how immigration should be handled and has problems with simultaneously providing public service improvements and tax cuts. (AO2) We can conclude that the party is at a crossroads and uncertain how to structure its flagship policies and create a new political agenda. (AO3)
- Whilst the Conservatives struggled to unite in the 2024 election, and there is already talk of replacing Badenoch, Labour showed strong unity in the election campaign and there are currently no serious rivals to Starmer (AO2) This can lead us to conclude that, as in the years following 1997, the usual perception of 'united Conservatives and disunited Labour' has been reversed (AO3)

Accept any other valid responses.

	It should be noted that the question is about the current situation in the parties. Historical content is therefore creditable <u>where</u> it is used to cast light on current divisions.
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	Candidates must consider both views in their answers in a balanced way. Candidates who <i>have not</i> considered both views in a balanced way cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.
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Question number	Indicative content
	Evaluate the view, with reference to at least three general elections, that social class and region have very little impact on voting behaviour.
2(b)	AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the view that social class and region has little impact on voting behaviour: Agreement • Class dealignment has meant that class, and as a knock-on impact region, has diminished as a factor in determining how people will vote. • A person's age or ethnic background are now better demographic indicators of how a person will vote. • Voters are now more rational and make voting choices based on a more logical calculation based on policy. • Alternatively party unity, election campaigns, or leadership could be seen as stronger factors in voting behaviour. Disagreement • Social class remains a very important factor in how people vote, even as class and party identity evolve. • When we combine social class with turnout, we can see how relevant class remains. • The region where a person lives continues to have a large impact on how a person votes, especially when combined with class. • By comparison other factors can be seen as less important, or as actually reflecting class or regional issues. Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view: • Society is no longer clearly defined by social class. Whilst social class was previously a good indicator of voting behaviour it no longer accurately predicts how a person will vote, and this also impacts on regional voting; the move of middle class voters to Labour in 1997, and collapse of the 'red wall in 2019' and 'blue wall' in 2024 are all valid examples of this. (AO2). We can conclude that even if some form of social class structure exists, both class and region fail to give a clear indication of voting. (AO3) • Age or ethnicity have replaced social class or region as demographic indicators of how a person will vote. There is a strong bias towards the Labour Party, as well as the Greens, Lib Dems etc, amidst younger people or ethnic minorities – but white and older voters are more Conservative or Reform

leaning. (AO2) We can conclude that age and ethnicity are more helpful indicators than a person's class or region. (AO3)

- Voters now make rational policy choices on how to vote, rather than following class based interests. For instance, a person may cast their vote based on how their views of climate change, or their economic self-interest (AO2) We can conclude that rising education levels lead to a more rational choice model of voting behaviour. (AO3)
- There are multiple other factors that can be seen to drive voter choice, other than demographics of policy – with voters preferring parties that are unified, campaigning well or have strong leaders (AO2). We can therefore conclude that demographic factors, such as class or region, are comparatively less important (AO3).

Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:

- Social class continues to play an important role in determining how a person will vote, as it is closely aligned to occupation, housing and economic interests, even as the party allegiances connected to this shift (AO2) We can conclude that social class has evolved rather than declined, and these new class-based factors and allegiances are very relevant (AO3).
- When we combine a person's social class with the turnout rates its significance soars, as higher social classes have an increased turnout compared with the lower classes across all recent general elections. (AO2). We can therefore conclude that the impact of class on the outcome of elections is even stronger than simply *how* people vote (AO3).
- Although there are variations between general elections there is a clear regional voting pattern. Labour is more dominant in the North, London, other major cities, which also has a class aspect. The Conservatives are far more secure in the south and more rural areas. (AO2) We can conclude that although these patterns were disturbed by the Red Wall in 2019 and Labour loss of Scottish votes since 2015, former regional bases are now returning to the fold (AO3).
- Perceptions of leadership and competence are often related to existing prejudices, just as apparent issue based voting is heavily tied to economic self-interest (AO2). Thus the factor that are supposedly replacing class could be argued to actually be a reflection of class and region (AO3).

Accept any other valid responses.

Candidates must consider both views in their answers in a balanced way. The judgement a candidate reaches about these views should be reflected in their conclusion. Candidates who *have not* considered both views in a balanced way cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2.

Section B: Core Political Ideas

Guidelines for Marking Questions 3a and 3b	
AO1 (8 marks)	Marks here relate to knowledge and understanding. It should be used to underpin analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3)
AO2 (8 marks)	Candidates should form analytical views which support and reject the view presented by the question.
AO3 (8 marks)	Candidates are expected to evaluate the information and arguments presented. They may rank the importance of the prior analysis. They should be able to make and form judgments and they should reach a reasoned conclusion.
Candidates must consider both sides presented in the question. The judgement a candidate reaches about these sides should be reflected in their conclusion. Candidates who <i>do not</i> refer to specific thinkers from the specification and/or only consider one side cannot achieve beyond Level 2. Accept any other valid responses and use of other appropriate thinkers identified in the specification.	

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–4	• Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited comparative analysis of aspects of politics with partial, logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences, making simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many which are descriptive and lead to limited unsubstantiated conclusions (AO3).
Level 2	5–9	• Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some emerging comparative analysis of aspects of politics with some focused logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences, making some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing occasionally effective arguments and judgements,

Level	Mark	Descriptor
		some are partially substantiated and lead to generic conclusions (AO3)
Level 3	10–14	• Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused comparative analysis of aspects of politics with focused, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences, making mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs generally relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing generally effective arguments and judgements, many of which are substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	15–19	• Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences, making relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing mostly effective arguments and judgements, which are mostly substantiated and lead to mostly focused, justified conclusions (AO3).
Level 5	20–24	• Demonstrates thorough and in-depth knowledge and understanding of political concepts, theories and issues, which are selected effectively in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Perceptive analysis of aspects of politics, with sustained, logical chains of reasoning making cohesive and convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs fully relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing fully effective substantiated arguments and judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to fully focused and justified conclusions (AO3).

Question number	Indicative content To what extent is socialism united in its view of human nature?
3(a)	AO1 (8 marks), AO2 (8 marks), AO3 (8 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the extent which socialism is united in its view of human nature: Agreement • Socialists have a generally optimistic, positive view of human nature. • Socialists believe that cooperation benefits human nature more than competition. • Socialists value the community, and a collective approach to society, which is at the heart of their view of human nature Disagreement • Third way socialists are less optimistic than social democrats or revolutionary socialists about human nature • Revolutionary socialists and social democrats are divided on the impact that capitalism has on human nature. • Third way socialists embrace the benefits of individualism more than social democrats and revolutionary socialists, emphasising communitarianism over common humanity. Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when reviewing the extent of the agreement: • All socialists believe that it is our environment within society that shapes human nature, which is naturally sociable and co-operative (Marx and Engels). (AO2) Socialists therefore agree that society has a significant influence on human nature, and negative human behaviour is a result of this and not because human nature is itself negative. (AO3) • Socialists understanding of human nature is of people bound together with a common humanity, cooperating and working together. (AO2) Socialists conclude that when people and communities work for the common good human nature is less competitive and more productive than when driven by competition (Webb). (AO3) • All socialists echo the thoughts of the poet John Donne that 'no man is an island' as the individual is inseparable from society. (AO2) Socialists therefore suggest that community and collective endeavour is at the root human nature. (AO3) Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when reviewing the limits to the agreement:

- Third way socialists have a less optimistic and cooperative view of human nature, giving more emphasis to how human nature can be problematic (AO2) Hence, socialists are divided over the degree to which human nature is essentially positive (AO3)
- Revolutionary socialists are adamant that human nature is damaged by inequality and the capitalist system, therefore if capitalism is abolished human nature will be transformed. By contrast social democrats suggest that although capitalism may limit human nature it does not need to be abolished in order to benefit human nature. (AO2) We can conclude that this is a significant divide on the impact capitalism has on human nature. (AO3)
- Revolutionary socialists and social democrats believe that there is a common humanity amongst all people which motivates humans to support each other. However, the Third Way's belief in communitarianism, indicates that humans should take greater responsibility for themselves and their community (**Giddens**) (AO2) We can conclude that Third Way socialists are saying the power of the community is not always desirable, thus a collective approach is limited and individuals have a role to play. (AO3)

Accept any other valid responses.

Question number	Indicative content
	To what extent is liberalism united in its ideas about democracy?
3(b)	AO1 (8 marks), AO2 (8 marks), AO3 (8 marks) Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the extent which liberalism is united in its ideas about democracy: Agreement • All liberals agree with citizens having a political voice and freedoms under a democratic system based on consent, as opposed to authoritarianism or dictatorship. • Equally there is clear unity in liberalism over the concerns about democracy advancing group control over the individual. • All liberals endorse constitutionalism to mitigate democracy by ensuring separation of powers, and checks and balances. Disagreement • Modern liberals and classical liberals disagree about how far democracy can co-exist alongside individual rights and freedoms. • Classical liberals feared that mass participation might create social unrest and possible revolt, sometimes favouring a limited franchise, whilst modern liberals see participation as developmental and strengthening social cohesion. • Modern liberals accept a wider scope of democracy, to venture into areas such as social justice, whereas classical liberals emphasise its limited nature. Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when reviewing the extent of the agreement: • All liberals prefer democracy to authoritarianism or dictatorship, extending political rights to individuals, with regular free and fair elections. (AO2) We can conclude that all liberals believe political freedom and personal choice, based on democracy, is both compatible with and essential for a free society. (AO3) • Equally it is a common fear amongst liberals that too much decision making based on the majority can override individual freedom, and lead to the tyranny of the majority. (AO2) All liberals are therefore concerned that democracy can threaten individual liberty unless based on some form of contract (Locke). (AO3) • All liberals are united in the belief that any democratic system must be accompanied by a clear and strong constitutional framework to control democratic power and ensure accountability. (AO2) Liberals accept Locke's beliefs that separating and codifying the constitution is essential to

preventing the dominance of any one individual or tyranny of the majority. (AO3)

Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when reviewing the limits to the agreement:

- There is disagreement between classical and modern liberals as to how far individual rights and freedoms can be protected under a democracy. Whilst Modern liberals came to a compromise between freedom and democracy, Classical liberals were always concerned about this issue. (AO2). We can conclude that whilst this balance is the cornerstone of what is termed 'liberal democracy', liberals continue to disagree on where the balance lies (AO3)
- Classical liberals such as **Mill**, often whilst supporting some extension of the franchise, were initially suspicious of mass democracy as giving power to the uneducated masses could destroy the state and its institutions, destabilising society. In contrast modern liberals are less fearful of the consequences of majority rule, seeing it as developmental and promoting social unity. (AO2) We can conclude that there is a tension over whether democracy is the 'best' system, or merely the 'least bad' (AO3)
- Classical liberals felt that democracy should operate with a limited state, and therefore be restricted to choosing a government rather than to encourage a greater government role; whereas modern liberals welcome calls from the electorate for greater government involvement. (AO2) We can conclude that Modern liberalism's focus on justice, as seen by as seen by **Rawls** in his Theory of Justice, or in the cause of formal equality and equality of opportunity as advanced by both **Wollstonecraft** and **Friedan**, represents a significant departure from Classical liberal ideas. (AO3)

Accept any other valid responses