



Politics exemplars - commentaries to answers

Question 1 (a) - Evaluate the view that UK democracy is in crisis.

In your answer you must:

- Compare the different opinions in the source
- Use a balance of knowledge and understanding both arising from the source and beyond the source to help you to analyse and evaluate

Commentary for response 1

Using a 'best fit' model this response largely falls into Level 2. It fails to exploit and fully develop the points in the source and own knowledge is limited and not developed either from the source or innately.

Commentary for response 2

This is a much stronger response and would be considered to be in Level 5 as the best fit overall.

Question 3 (a) - To what extent do modern and classical liberals agree over the role of the state?

You must use appropriate thinkers you have studied to support your answer.

Commentary for response 1

This closely adheres to the demands of the question, it is succinct and focused. It relates to key thinkers in the specification but has included other key thinkers which are appropriate. It defines key concepts in each strand of liberalism and explains the links and makes the relevant connections. As such there is little else to say - we could have cited the works of key thinkers - but it is more vital to express their ideas than their

publications – though the latter is relevant and shows depth. This hits the criteria for Level 5 as it satisfies many of the characteristics identified in that level.

Commentary for response 2

This is once again a very impressive script and it takes us to material not presented in the first response and makes the topic contemporary. The examples which are used are very clear and correct. However it has one big flaw – and one which causes major problems in that at no point in this answer does it make reference to any political thinkers. It notes their ideas implicitly but not explicitly and we cannot award marks for what we suppose is implied. The text would attain level 4 but the limits imposed by the mark scheme limit the reward to the top of level 2 – a big restriction on what is an excellent answer.

Component 3 Comparative Politics – USA

Question 1 (a) – Examine the ways in which the US and the UK Constitutions are similar.

Commentary for response 1

This response is quite brief and contains three points not all of them full and encompassing. In terms of level this is a level 2 response: it shows some accurate knowledge and some comparative analysis. It would be towards the top end of level 2.

Commentary for response 2

This is a much improved version of Q1a – the points which are made are both detailed and informative and link together well. It only makes one more major point than the first response but this is not a numbers game - it has to be about quality and depth and remember there are equal marks for AO1 and AO2. This merits the highest level – which on a 12 mark question is Level 4 and is at the maximum of what we could expect in the given timeframe.

Evaluate the extent to which cultural globalisation has had a greater impact on the world than any other form of globalisation

Q1a) (stronger)

This is an expansive response (longer than we would normally expect for a 12-mark question) and it gives a clear insight into how both the IMF and WB are Washington based and influenced. It is well written – and would be a low Level 4 response

Q1a) (weaker)

This is perhaps less strong than the previous answer but it contains relevant information and the use of China not on the mark scheme is relevant and rewardable. This is longer than we would normally expect for a 12-mark question and would be a low Level 3 response.

Explain the criticisms that have been made of both the IMF and the World Bank

Q2) (stronger)

This is an expansive and detailed response. It covers all the key elements which divide the two theories and cites key thinkers to support the premises of each standpoint. It would be a level 4 category for marks. It is near the maximum for what would be expected in the time frame allocated.

Q2) (weaker)

Right away here one can see that there is a lack of detail and depth – there is simply not enough material to gain a high mark. It has marginally more material for realists than for liberals. Overall this would gain a mark at the top of Level 2 or the bottom of Level 3.

Analyse the divisions regarding human nature that exist between realists and liberals

Q3a) (stronger)

This makes several key points which are contained in the mark scheme and are clearly worthy of credit. It is a mid-level 4 response which covers the question, being well structured and forming clear AO3 judgements which are sustained by accurate AO2 points.

Q3a) (weaker)

This can be seen to be clearly weaker than the previous response. It makes judgements (AO3) but these are simplistic and the AO2 points of analysis are weak. It also does not deliver a full range of points – it has a limited AO1 base upon which to progress. It is a Level 2 response.

Supreme Court essays

The two Supreme Court essays are very different in their approach.

Number 1 - This is very clear with a logical structure similar to the mark scheme. It attains at the top of L4, entry into L5. The analysis is a little limited and the use of examples slightly dated.

Number 2 - The second Supreme Court response has its strengths in a very reasonable use of examples, better than the previous one. Generally however, although quite sound, it is a shade historical and does not go into the depth that the typed one does. It should make L4 or top of L3 perhaps.

Congress essays

The two essays are very different in their approach and are good exemplars.

Number 1 - This is a well composed response. It is analytical, the arguments flow logically and it is very well-illustrated with relevant, current examples. It is not over-long but for 45 minutes it is pretty good. It would be in L5.

Number 2 - The second Congress essay is also well written and thorough. It is more detailed than the first and good on foreign policy. However it is less analytical and a little more pedestrian but certainly will make L4.

