

(d) With reference to Figures 4 and 5, evaluate the success of UK government policies in reducing regional variations in unemployment.

(20)

Unemployment is anyone who is actively seeking for work aged between 16 and 64. The number unemployed does not include people who are not seeking work, those unable to work or full time students. ~~The~~ The unemployment rates vary from region to region for a variety of factors such as resources and location i.e. near a port.

Government policies have been successful in reducing the regional variations in unemployment to a certain extent. This is demonstrated in figure 4, which shows decreased variations in the level of unemployment in many areas when comparing 2014 to ~~2014~~ 2015, and in figure 5 which shows the claimant count in ~~at~~ various areas of Britain. Policies which could be used to decrease the regional variations in unemployment could include tax incentives for firms to set up in areas which have increased levels of unemployment such as Nissan were given tax cuts if they set up in Sunderland. This therefore increases the rates of unemployment in areas such as ~~these~~ those which decreases the regional variety. This is shown in figure 5 by many areas having very similar unemployment rates, including Eden and South-Lakeland which both have rates of 0.6.

Although it is also clear that regional variations have not all been reduced. Figure 4 shows that there is a larger difference between the locations with the highest and lowest percentage in employment in 2015 than there was in 2014. This suggests a larger range of unemployment. In 2015 the range was around



13% whereas in 2014 it was ~~at~~ only 9%. This suggests that there are greater regional differences in unemployment rates. This would therefore suggest that the government policies had not been successful as the rates have increased.

Although overall the change in rates in figure 4 show an increased range in the number of people ~~unemployed~~ employed. If you look more closely at the individual data sets 10 out of the 13 nations have had increases in the proportion of people employed from 2011 meaning that ~~3~~ just 3 locations had a decreased employment rate.

The 3 locations which had decreased employment rates are Yorkshire and the Humber, the North East and Northern Ireland. These were already 3 of the locations with the lowest rate of employment in 2011. So this could suggest that the government need to focus more on fixing the rate of unemployment in these areas as unemployment has negative consequences on the individual and society as it is a de-ment good.

So to some extent the UK gov policies have been able to reduce some regional variation in unemployment although as a whole the spread has increased which would suggest that the government intervention had not been successful. This means that there was government failure as some people in the locations with increased unemployment rates would be work off. It also suggests an increasing development gap which has the potential



to cause increasingly social tension and means greater inequality. So no government policies have not been successful in reducing regional policy, although they have been effective in ~~reducing~~ increasing the rate employed in many locations such as the South West and the East of England. In order for gov intervention / policies to be more successful in reducing regional differences schemes such as tax incentives and subsidies must be used as these are effective in attracting a business to a location seen by Nissan in Sunderland.

(Total for Question 2 = 50 marks)

**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 50 MARKS**

**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 100 MARKS**

