

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

(20)

UK government policies in reducing unemployment could include the increase in available job opportunities, reduced benefits to act as an incentive to find work, or other such as making it more beneficial for businesses to take on more employees. The effectiveness / success of UK government policies in reducing regional variations in unemployment is questionable. As figure 4 shows, all but 3 regions (North East, Scotland and Northern Ireland) saw increases in the % of people aged 16 to 64 in employment, with the UK as a whole rising from just over 72.5% to almost 74% from June-Aug 2014 to June-Aug 2015. This shows that employment levels are rising throughout the UK, potentially down to UK government policies, although there is no definitive evidence to say these results were due to government policies or not.



However, figure 5 shows claimant count for GB, North West, Cumbria and the 6 districts with Cumbria. The claimant count is based on the amount of people claiming benefits of some sort. Figure 5 shows that GB in general has seen an a monthly change of 41,894 claimants, at a rate of 0.3%. Although, figure 4 shows general rise in employment in the UK in Aug 2015 compared to Aug 2014, figure 5 claims the claimant count has increased, reducing the view of how successful UK government policies are in reducing unemployment.

In a regional view, figure 4 shows a significant increase for 16-64 year olds in employment for the North West, up to around 71%, from 70.5%. However, figure 5 shows that in the same period the claimant count in the North West saw a monthly change of 2.7%, increase of 2,924 claimants, despite Eden + South Lakeland seeing decreases.

Figure 4 and 5 offer starkly different views on the success of UK government policies in reducing regional variations in



unemployment. However, figure 4 shows that in general, regions are almost all seeing increases in employment, reducing variations. Figure 5 on the other hand does not provide actual data on employment or unemployment rates and claims may be for a multiple range of benefits. Comparison of North West rate to other districts of Cumbria is also not effective as vast differences in populations.

Therefore gov. policies

(Total for Question 2 = 50 marks)

are relatively successful in starting to reduce unemployment as there is still a range of employment levels in different regions, government policy is just starting to reduce variations, bringing them closer together. From figure 4, some areas better benefitted than others from government policies.

**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 50 MARKS**

**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 100 MARKS**

