

Examiners' Report
June 2013

GCE General Studies 6GS02 01

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Introduction

Most candidates successfully demonstrated knowledge, interest and engagement with the wide range of topics included in this paper.

Quality of communication (AO4) accounted for 14 marks (out of 90) on this paper and was assessed in Questions 24, 29, 30 and 31. Candidates who dropped into text-speak, wrote illegibly and/or ignored the conventions of grammar such as correct spelling and the appropriate use of capital letters, sentences and paragraphs, generally achieved barely half these marks.

On this paper there were 3 marks for calculations in Questions 16, 17 and 18. Most candidates reached the correct answer for Question 16 but many fewer were successful in calculating answers for Questions 17 and 18. A few hours before the examination spent revising application of number could have paid rich dividends.

Thinking and analytical skills (AO3) accounted for 14 marks on this paper; many candidates achieved well under half of these marks from Questions 14, 15, 26, 27, 28 and 29.

To achieve greater success, candidates needed to be clearer on the distinctions between fact and opinion and to have practised distinguishing between them; they also needed to be able to recognise assertions and different types of argument (such as inductive, deductive, from cause, analogy and authority) and to understand their relative strengths and weaknesses.

Although some candidates with small handwriting will not fill all the writing space in the answer booklet and those with large handwriting may need more space, the mark allocation and the number of writing lines, taken together, should signal to the candidate approximately how lengthy an answer examiners are hoping to see. Many candidates wrote far more than was required – for example, in answering Question 24, using up time which could possibly have been used more effectively to gain higher marks elsewhere.

More candidates than usual failed to offer any answer at all to one or two of Questions 29, 30 or 31; Question 29 carried 7 marks and Questions 30 and 31 carried 20 marks each. The rubric requires all questions to be answered and even a couple of paragraphs on such questions might have made a big difference to a candidate's final score.

It is worth reflecting on the fact that an extra 2, 3, 4 or 5 marks could have meant an improvement of at least one grade on this unit. An extra 7, 8, 9 or 10 marks could have brought an improvement of two grades.

Gaps in candidates' knowledge were revealed in Section A where correct answers to Question 3 (store cards), Question 4 (frictional unemployment), Question 6 (Handel and Vanbrugh), Question 7 (Harold Pinter), Question 13 (appointment) and Question 20 (Cyprus) were disappointingly rare.

In Section B the least successful answers were for Question 24 (where the suggestions offered were often wholly improbable), Question 26 and Question 29 (in which candidates were asked to discuss evidence and arguments but many preferred instead to offer their own opinions on the passage rather than display AO3 skills).

In Section C, candidates generally gained more marks for Question 31 than for Question 30. Rather too many candidates who responded to Question 30 (spending on, and outcomes from, various international bodies) achieved very low scores by offering suggestions about domestic priorities and spending with little or no reference to the rest of the world. Effectively it would have been difficult to work out the question actually asked from reading these answers. Although answers to Question 31 were stronger, some candidates failed to exploit the full potential of the question by limiting their discussion to just one of the bullet points in the stimulus.

While candidates could have improved their performance to some extent had they followed the advice in this report, it is nonetheless true that there were many strong responses which demonstrated knowledge, understanding and transferable skills that will surely benefit these candidates later on in higher education or employment.

Question 21

Most answers gained marks from pointing out that the NHS/ welfare state has actively campaigned to get people to act healthily.

In contrast, the USA largely depends on individuals paying for treatment through private medicine when needed (without health campaigns) leading to a lower life expectancy than in the UK.

The following response was awarded 2 marks.

21 Using paragraphs 1 and 2 of the source, give two reasons why life expectancy is higher in the UK than in the USA.

- 1 'The USA largely depends on individuals paying for treatment when needed through private medicine' but in UK healthcare paid for by NHS
- 2 proactive NHS healthcare campaigns to get people eating more healthily, smoking less and to improve medical care have paid off.

(Total for Question 21 = 2 marks)



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Examiner Comments

This answer picked up 2 marks by referring to the need for patients to pay in the USA and the more proactive nature of NHS campaigns in the UK.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

The question tells candidates to use paragraphs 1 and 2 of the source. Answers drawn from other parts of the source gained no marks. Always make sure you study the part of a source to which you are signposted.

This response scored only 1 mark.

21 Using paragraphs 1 and 2 of the source, give two reasons why life expectancy is higher in the UK than in the USA.

1 UK has NHS which is free health care.

2 NHS runs campaigns to get people eating more healthily, smoking less.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This answer gains 1 mark for the second point. The question tells candidates to use paragraphs 1 and 2 of the source. These paragraphs do not say anything about the NHS being a free service, so the first point made by the candidate is not mark-worthy.

Question 22

In order for them to achieve full marks, candidates needed to make three points involving issues such as:

- new treatments for heart attacks
- new drugs to lower cholesterol
- new blood pressure pills
- persuade more people to stop smoking
- fewer infections during childhood thanks to immunisation
- better nutrition has also helped people grow taller and stronger/ become healthier.

The following response was awarded full marks (3/3).

22 Give three examples from the source of means by which people's life expectancy in the UK has been improved.

Example 1

'New treatments for heart attacks'. People can be given pills for cholesterol and high blood pressure to reduce risk of heart attack.

Example 2

'Eating healthier' means people have a better diet and less chances of getting heart disease.

Example 3

'Smoking less' means healthier lungs, better for allowing exercise and reduces ~~the~~ risk of lung cancer.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

In the space allocated for Example 1, this candidate gives the first three bullet points previously listed, so earns 3 marks from this part of the answer alone.

Example 2 could have been credited since it matches the sixth bullet point above.

Example 3 says enough to gain a mark from bullet point 4 above.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

If they had been available, this candidate could have been awarded 5 marks for this answer. This meant the candidate spent more time on this answer than was required - perhaps she or he could have used the precious minutes of exam time better, gaining further marks on another question.

For the following response the candidate was awarded 2 marks.

22 Give three examples from the source of means by which people's life expectancy in the UK has been improved.

Example 1

on average, people in Britain are now living up to 8 years longer than in the 1970's

Example 2

as citizens are now living longer

Example 3

In Europe and the UK new treatments for heart attack, drugs to lower cholesterol... have helped increase life spans.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The first two points in the answer match nothing in the previous list and were therefore awarded no marks. However, the third answer includes reference to the first two bullet points given above, so 2 marks were awarded.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This answer highlights the need to read questions carefully. The question asks candidates about 'the means by which life expectancy in the UK has been improved' yet the first two examples completely fail to meet that instruction.

Question 23

This question can be answered by establishing two of these points:

- older people have more health problems
- older people need more drugs/ closer monitoring
- meeting the needs of older people increases the costs of the NHS
- fears that the state will not be able to provide adequate pensions
- the retirement age is already having to rise
- housing may become unsatisfactory/overcrowded
- jobs may become sporadic.

This response was not awarded any marks.

23 State two issues which, according to the writer, arise in the UK as a result of improvements in life expectancy.

1. New treatments for heart attacks, drugs to lower cholesterol and new blood pressure pills. also reduction in smoking
2. Living in poor or good areas.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate seems to have failed to read the question correctly - it is asking about the consequences of improvements in life expectancy rather than the causes. So no marks can be awarded.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

The question asks about 'issues which arise...' - ie: consequences. The candidate fails to provide these and gives causes instead. Not obeying the question instruction means that not only is time wasted but also that no marks can be awarded.

This response scored 2 marks.

23 State two issues which, according to the writer, arise in the UK as a result of improvements in life expectancy.

1 It costs the NHS billions of pounds to treat the ageing population.

2 Concerns that state pensions are becoming increasingly expensive and the retirement age is having to rise.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The first answer meets bullet point 3 previously listed.
The second answer matches bullet points 4 and 5.

Question 24

This question sought suggestions about how the 'postcode gap' for life expectancy could be closed. Examiners were hoping to see answers developed around ideas such as:

- improve housing/ reduce overcrowding
- improve employment opportunities/working conditions/aim to reduce unemployment
- greater efforts to reduce crime and drug-taking
- promote healthier lifestyles
- ensure healthcare provision is as equal as possible across the country
- encourage people to get better qualifications, leading to better-paid jobs
- tackle extreme social deprivation/poverty in parts of cities/ improve incomes.

Some candidates offered responses that were inappropriate or far-fetched; gaining little or no credit, but a more serious problem was that some candidates wrote more pages than required and may have left themselves insufficient time to attempt other questions.

The following response was awarded a total of 5 marks.

24 The final paragraph of the source discusses differences in life expectancy in adjacent areas within the UK.

What steps could be taken by local authorities, government or the NHS to ensure that such differences are reduced?

Government may have to reallocate their funding to all these various places in a fair manner, for example, London may receive £25 billion a year for healthcare whereas an area in York may receive £12 billion for example. This leads to worse technologies to deal with patients in these areas with less funding. However, the population is much greater in London so it could be argued the extra funding is necessary. Moreover, local authorities and government around poorer areas could potentially encourage the growth of more service sector businesses and less manual labor ones. This could probably lead to a healthier

population and less unemployment. However, these manual labor jobs are necessary to build goods and maintain British exports for example, someone has to do them. The government could also simply increase funding to more and hospitals to bring them on par with other ones. However, this involves huge costs and will increase the government's already huge fiscal deficit. It will also increase the national debt, which is already huge. Moreover, the government could cut funding to more well funded hospitals. This would improve the fiscal deficit but be considered incredibly unethical.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This answer meets bullet point 5 from the points above (equal healthcare provision) and the discussion of heavy/lighter employment meets bullet point 2 (working conditions).

The answer is clear and well expressed, so 3 marks are awarded for AO4.

2 + 3 = 5 marks.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

This answer is about the right length. Candidates, who took longer to answer the question and wrote more, may have gained a mark or two more but possibly at the cost of having no time left to attempt other questions for which they might have gained many more marks.

This response was awarded a total of 7 marks.

24 The final paragraph of the source discusses differences in life expectancy in adjacent areas within the UK.

What steps could be taken by local authorities, government or the NHS to ensure that such differences are reduced?

The source suggests that the differences arise due to poor housing conditions in poorer areas, jobs involving heavy labouring, and high levels of crime and drug-taking in poorer areas. To combat this, local authorities could build better-quality housing, and the government could introduce greater amounts of regulation ~~of~~ on the quality of houses built by councils and private companies. More regulations could also be put in place with regards to health and safety in the workplace. To reduce crime, more money could be spent by the ~~gov~~ government on the police and training police officers, on rehabilitation in prisons and on ensuring the availability of welfare for the unemployed. Crime can be reduced by ensuring that it is not the only option people turn to for survival. To reduce drug-taking, more NHS campaigns could be run in schools. To make it safer, certain drugs (e.g. cannabis) could be legalised, simultaneously reducing the risk of impure, more dangerous substances being bought on streets, and reducing the profit made by the illegal drug industry. Safe clinics where heroin addicts could use clean needles and have medical staff close at hand would also reduce fatalities from drug use (this has worked in Canada: for instance, in Vancouver).



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Most of this answer concerns improvements to housing (bullet point 1 above), working conditions (bullet point 2 above) and reducing crime and drug taking (bullet point 3 above). The points in the final 6 or so lines of the answer also reflect a concern for promoting healthier life styles (bullet point 4 above). 4 marks are thus awarded for AO2.

The answer is presented with appropriate vocabulary, accurately expressed, so 3 marks are awarded for AO4.

Total: $4+3 = 7$ marks.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Writing concisely can pay off. This is a shorter answer than the previous example but note that it is awarded 2 marks more.

Question 25

To answer this question effectively, candidates needed to recognise that verification means 'proving' Professor Leon is what is claimed - eg:

- is he a scientist at all?
- what is he a professor of?
- we would need to find evidence that he has undertaken research...
- ... or has expertise/ specialist knowledge in science - physics, chemistry, biology, etc
- what evidence might support the idea that he is a leading scientist?
- qualifications or the job he holds could all provide such evidence
- publications could be identified accessing a reliable website
- also evidence of experience, showing he was an authority on the subject, could also provide evidence that he is a 'leading scientist'
- is the paper itself a sufficiently respected /authoritative source, to itself justify the description?

This response was awarded 2 marks.

25 In the first paragraph Professor Leon is described as a 'leading scientist'. Explain how you could verify this.

Leading scientist will often have ~~a~~ good qualifications such as a PhD in their topic of expertise. They may also have published material on their work and investigation. This could be found on the internet and used to judge ~~them~~ them.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The reference to PhD/qualifications relates to the sixth bullet point previously listed and gains 1 mark.

The reference to publications/published material via the internet relates to the seventh bullet point previously listed and gains 1 mark.

Total: 2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Some candidates' efforts to verify Professor Leon's status were poorly conceived. 'He is a professor so he must be a leading scientist,' some argued. But logic was against them - he could be a maths or politics professor! Some said he was a leading scientist because he was quoted in a newspaper article but think of all the people quoted in newspapers - they can't all be leading scientists, surely. The best answers tended to focus on qualifications, experience and publications.

Question 26

For the fact only phrase, candidates could choose:

- the USA largely depends on individuals paying for treatment; OR
- the USA has lower life expectancy than the UK.

For the opinion only phrase, candidates could choose:

- the NHS and the welfare state have been doing well
- we must not squander what has been achieved
- this may well be the reason why.

Sadly a significant number of candidates failed to realise that by leaving 'the USA has lower life expectancy' attached to the final example given above, the statement contained an opinion and a fact, meaning that no mark could be awarded.

Although neither of the examples of answers from candidates given below do so, some candidates offered factual or opinion statements from other parts of the source or even phrases invented by themselves. This proved to be another case of 'disobey the rubric and you will receive no marks' for such candidates. Only answers drawn from the extract given were acceptable.

This response scored 1 mark.

26 The following extract is taken from the second paragraph of the source:

'The NHS and the welfare state have been doing well and we must not squander what has been achieved. The USA largely depends on individuals paying for treatment through private medicine when needed. This may well be the reason why the USA has lower life expectancy than the UK.'

Write out one **fact-only** phrase and one **opinion-only** phrase **from this extract**.

Fact-only phrase

(1)

The USA largely depends on individuals paying for treatment through private medicine when needed.

Opinion-only phrase

(1)

This may well be the reason why the USA has lower life expectancy than the UK



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate earns 1 mark for the fact-only phrase, but no marks for the opinion-only phrase since the fact 'the USA has lower life expectancy' has been included.

This response was awarded 2 marks.

26 The following extract is taken from the second paragraph of the source:

'The NHS and the welfare state have been doing well and we must not squander what has been achieved. The USA largely depends on individuals paying for treatment through private medicine when needed. This may well be the reason why the USA has lower life expectancy than the UK.'

Write out one **fact-only** phrase and one **opinion-only** phrase **from this extract**.

Fact-only phrase

the USA has lower life expectancy than the UK. ⁽¹⁾

Opinion-only phrase

The NHS and the welfare state have been doing well. ⁽¹⁾



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate gains 2 marks by identifying the second fact-only example above and the first opinion-only example given.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

If the question asks you to quote from the extract then please make sure you do.

Question 27

Candidates could select either of these types of argument: argument from authority (Dr Leon) OR argument from cause but no marks were awarded for 'analogy', even though it was chosen by many candidates.

Satisfactory explanations of weakness in these forms of argument were few and far between, though this part of the question was generally tackled more effectively in the case of arguments from cause. Candidates could have given: argument from authority - depends on the expertise of the person cited - but experts can (and often do) disagree OR argument from cause - relationship may not be causal; correlation may be spurious.

Many candidates used terms such as facts, evidence, statistics, status, which rarely (if ever) led to successful answers.

This answer gained both marks.

27 In the third paragraph, the writer says 'In western Europe and the UK, new treatments for heart attacks, drugs to lower cholesterol and new blood pressure pills, as well as a reduction in smoking, have helped increase life spans.'

(a) Is this best described as an argument from cause, analogy or authority?

(1)

Argument from cause

(b) Give one reason why this form of argument is considered weak.

(1)

This type of argument is weak because there is no evidence ~~that~~ of causation. We can only assume that the noted developments are the cause of increased life expectancy but they may not be.

(Total for Question 27 = 2 marks)



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Examiner Comments

1 mark was awarded for 'argument from cause' in (a).

1 mark was awarded for 'evidence of causation' in (b) since this recognises that the 'relationship may not be causal'.

Total: 2 marks

This answer was awarded 1 mark.

27 In the third paragraph, the writer says 'In western Europe and the UK, new treatments for heart attacks, drugs to lower cholesterol and new blood pressure pills, as well as a reduction in smoking, have helped increase life spans.'

(a) Is this best described as an argument from cause, analogy or authority?

(1)

Authority

(b) Give one reason why this form of argument is considered weak.

(1)

Because it does not give any evidence, such as numerical figures, to support it.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This gains 1 mark for 'authority' in (a) but zero marks can be awarded for (b) because the answer offered talks about evidence and numerical figures when it needs to be talking about expertise.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Rarely is a paper set without questions concerning or recognising the key features of different types of argument (eg inductive, deductive, from cause, authority or analogy). It is therefore disappointing that so many candidates apparently take the exam without having prepared themselves adequately.

Question 28 (a)

This question asked candidates to identify which of these statements directly supported a view expressed in the source:

- 1 The UK can no longer afford to pay for the welfare state and the NHS.
- 2 Private medicine in the USA guarantees the highest levels of life expectancy.
- 3 In some UK cities average life expectancy for men may be as low as 55 in certain postcodes but 80 just a few miles down the road.
- 4 The unhealthiest European countries in which to live are Portugal and Denmark.

The correct answer was 3 - based on the final sentence in the source which stated: 'For both men and women life expectancy rates may differ by as much as 25 years when adjacent rich and poor areas are compared'. A number of candidates mistakenly gave 4 as their answer, no doubt influenced by the final sentence in the third paragraph which stated: 'In western Europe life expectancy is lowest for men in Portugal and for women in Denmark'. We are not told anything about life expectancy for women in Portugal or for men in Denmark so this answer cannot be said to directly support a view in the source.

Question 28 (b)

This question asked candidates to identify which of these statements directly contradicted a view expressed in the source:

1. The UK can no longer afford to pay for the welfare state and the NHS.
2. Private medicine in the USA guarantees the highest levels of life expectancy.
3. In some UK cities average life expectancy for men may be as low as 55 in certain postcodes but 80 just a few miles down the road.
4. The unhealthiest European countries in which to live are Portugal and Denmark.

The correct answer was 2 - based on the first statement in the source: 'UK citizens are now living longer with an average life expectancy of 80, even higher than in the USA'. Perhaps based on the penultimate paragraph, some candidates mistakenly gave 1 as their answer, yet the significance of rising costs is not a contradiction such as the question sought.

Question 29

Many candidates saw this question as their opportunity to comment on the issues raised in the passage and the opinions expressed - generally this approach proved unsuccessful. Wiser but fewer candidates realised that this really was a question where evidence and arguments needed to be examined to see how far they supported a view that the 'postcodes gap' between life expectancy rates could be closed.

Arguments needed to be supported by evidence so candidates were expected to consider whether the source provided appropriate evidence to support the view expressed. Quite a number of candidates pointed out that the final paragraph gave points which suggested reasons for the 'postcodes gap' - widespread poverty, unsatisfactory or overcrowded housing, sporadic employment or jobs involving heavy labouring, lack of good qualifications and better-paid jobs, crime, drug taking, lack of healthy lifestyles - without explicitly showing how the gap could best be closed.

In assessing this question, examiners asked themselves a number of questions and awarded a mark (up to the maximum of 4 available) if the answer was clearly 'yes':

- Does the candidate critically discuss/examine the evidence?
- Does the candidate compare life expectancy rates in different countries or adjacent areas?
- Does the candidate refer to gaps, flaws or bias, perhaps specifically commenting on facts and opinions?
- Does the candidate discuss the strength of the writer's arguments?
- Is a plausible final objective assessment made for the passage's success in demonstrating that the life expectancy gap could be closed?

Marks were also available for quality of written communication. 3 marks were usually awarded where answers were clear and lucid, written in correct form, relevant, with coherent arguments well laid out, and very few grammatical or spelling errors. However, those who adopted a more colloquial approach or who lapsed into text-speak generally achieved a much lower score.

This response achieved a total of 4 marks.

29 How effectively do the **evidence** and **arguments** in the source support the writer's view that the 'postcodes gap' between life expectancy rates could be closed?

Some ~~statements~~^{evidence} in the source seem to agree that the 'postcodes gap' can be closed. The fact that 'new treatments for heart attacks, drugs to lower cholesterol and new blood pressure pills' have been created means that across the UK life expectancy should, and has, increased. New treatments are available to everyone in the UK, whether you live in a poverty-stricken area or ~~any~~ an area ~~where~~ which is extremely wealthy, your healthcare will be bettered because of these new treatments. The source also says that the NHS is proactive unlike the healthcare system in America. This means everyone is encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle and there is a lot of guidance in how to look after yourself.

However, some evidence in the source doesn't quite support the idea that the postcodes gap between life expectancy rates could be closed. The 'concerns that state

pensions are becoming increasingly expensive' could ultimately mean that they are no longer available, so people would have to pay for their own, so if someone was poor, they might not get a pension, so their quality of life would decrease, meaning they could die sooner.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This answer comments critically on evidence but does not adopt the AO3 perspective required to meet the requirements of the other marking questions, so only 1 mark can be awarded for AO3.

The vocabulary used is accurate and appropriate and communication is above average, so 3 marks can be awarded for AO4.

Total 1+3 = 4



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Brief references to the types of argument used or to the balance of facts and opinion or to meet the focus of the other marking questions listed above could have significantly improved this candidate's score.

This response scored 7 marks.

29 How effectively do the **evidence** and **arguments** in the source support the writer's view that the 'postcodes gap' between life expectancy rates could be closed?

The author contrasts both richer and poorer areas to try and show us that there is a huge gap in life expectancy. She uses many figures, which are quantitative and objective and are therefore very effective in arguing her point as they cannot be disputed. For example he ~~says~~ says in poorer areas it was 75.8, and in richer areas almost 80. Although these figures are true and cannot be disputed, when he says 'almost 80' he makes it more persuasive. The actual figure would probably have been just over 79, but he makes the gap seem bigger by using vaguer evidence. This is effective because it shows how wide the gap is, and that it can be reduced.

The author uses a lot of causal arguments to support his view. She states that, 'it was almost 80 for men with healthier lifestyles from wealthier areas...' The author makes a direct correlation between the two. This is used quite effectively, because it presents no other alternatives ^{reasons} that the life expectancy may differ because. This makes the reader think that it must be because of this. Although it is a weak form of argument it is used effectively here.

~~The author also uses~~ In conclusion, the way the author presents the argument, with words like 'contrast' and 'as much as' ~~seems~~ seems quite effective on first reading. On ~~one~~ a more in detail scrutiny,

we see that the entire argument is based on a correlation between two variables, backed up by some statistical data, and then some vague statements about unsatisfactory housing etc. It is weak, as it can be argued against very easily, but effectively convincing on first reading.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This answer does comment on evidence, does discuss life expectancy rates in other areas, does discuss the strength of the writer's arguments and does attempt a final objective assessment at the end, so 4 marks were awarded for AO3.

Communication is good so 3 marks were awarded for AO4.

Total $4+3 = 7$

Question 30

The focus of this question was clearly on financial contributions to international bodies and the outcomes achieved. Answers therefore needed to focus on a mainly international dimension giving some tangible examples of expenditures and a simple evaluation of outcomes. It was acceptable for candidates to argue that, given the UK's economic position, expenditure at home was currently (or should be) a higher priority but such an argument was acceptable only if the overseas expenditures had been discussed, explained and explored in terms of some of the following:

- economic - efforts to achieve economic stability, activities of World Bank/IMF
- social - attempts to limit discrimination, secure equal rights (eg for women in Afghanistan)
- political - work of Commonwealth Secretariat, further integration in EU - eg emerging foreign policy role through High Representative following Lisbon Treaty
- cultural - role of UNESCO and Commonwealth (eg Commonwealth Games)
- humanitarian - NATO involvement in Libya to protect civilians from Gaddafi; activities in former Yugoslavia; aid from UN/EU for those involved in East Africa famine or Bangladesh floods; work of UNICEF and UNHCR
- peacekeeping - UN activities in Darfur, South Sudan, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Haiti, Cyprus and Kosovo.

Section C questions (Questions 30 and 31) are marked by awarding separate marks for AO1 and AO2 points as well making an overall assessment of quality of communication (AO4).

Since a levels mark scheme is not used, examiners focus on individual points or statements made by candidates, giving a separate mark for each. AO1 involves knowledge and understanding which we usually see in the form of a factual statement. For AO2, we are looking for 'so ...' or 'therefore ...' or 'because...' or 'so what this means is ...' statements. If examiners can put these words (or similar) in front of something the candidate has written which will usually involve explanation, interpretation, evaluation, integration of ideas, exemplification (selection of suitable materials/examples) then an AO2 mark can be awarded for each such point.

This response scored 5 marks.

30 The UK government contributes billions of pounds every year to bodies such as the Commonwealth, NATO, the European Union and the United Nations, including its various agencies. This money is used for economic, social, political, cultural, humanitarian and peacekeeping activities.

To what extent is this sort of expenditure justified, for example by the outcomes achieved?

I don't see how money invested in peacekeeping activities can be justified at all as if it were being spent properly to improve the situation, we wouldn't have soldiers dying in Afghanistan and wouldn't have needed to send soldiers into Iraq, so I don't believe billions of pounds being spent is justified in

participating activities.

The same applies to cultural activities, if a heritage is rich with culture and tradition then money wouldn't be needed to be spent on activities to do with it, also in the current economic state of recession, I don't see how we can pour money into maintaining old buildings rather than spend more on things that actually matter to the future of our country such as education, healthcare and economic uses.

I also fail to see how funding social activities can be justified, as now in the UK we now live in a civilised society, a multi-faith society where people get along much better than previously, and society in this country is good, and anything that is wrong with our society e.g. issues with prejudice cannot be solved by investing money.

However, with the economic state our country is in, spending on economic issues is entirely justified, and maybe even to the point where we should be ~~spending~~ spending even more on it. It is vital to the future of our country and if things don't get better, we will end up having to spend even more money on it in the future, just to prevent the situation from worsening, and let alone improve it.

Overall the only aspects I think money is justified being spent on is economic and political

issues, the rest either are unimportant such as cultural, or not working such as peacekeeping ~~all~~ or ~~not~~ just not needed anymore, like the activities ~~of~~ in society.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

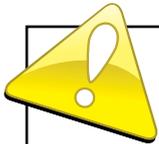
This question is about an international dimension. Answers which deal solely with domestic matters are not creditworthy. This answer picks up the idea of 'justification' but fails to provide any supporting evidence or to show how it relates to the international dimension.

The answer rejects the need for peacekeeping overseas (AO1 - 1, AO2 - 1), but no further points clearly relate to an international dimension.

The conclusion has nothing to say either about the outcomes achieved by bodies such as the Commonwealth, EU or United Nations or in justification of the funding they receive.

Communication - average, so 3 marks (out of 4) are awarded for AO4.

Total 1+1+3 = 5 marks.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

If a reader looked at this answer without knowing the question to which it was responding, she or he would surely be mystified. There always needs to be such a clear and explicit link between the question and the answer that an intelligent reader could recognise the question asked from the answer given.

This answer was awarded 16 marks.

30 The UK government contributes billions of pounds every year to bodies such as the Commonwealth, NATO, the European Union and the United Nations, including its various agencies. This money is used for economic, social, political, cultural, humanitarian and peacekeeping activities.

To what extent is this sort of expenditure justified, for example by the outcomes achieved?

The £ money the UK government government contributes to the European Union they get benefits from also. One of the benefits is relaxed policies when the UK trades with other EU countries for example ~~we are not if~~ we are not charged taxes to ~~we~~ customs when we import and export within the EU. The EU also redistributes the money throughout the poorer countries that are the members of the EU. The UK's contribution to the EU is a small price to pay when you consider the advantages gained by trade trading with EU countries. Money that the UK gives to the United Nations helps its members. For example the United Nations helps ~~third~~ third-world countries and less economically developed countries. When they become ~~are~~ more economically developed eg. such as China or India are becoming they can provide the UK with lots of benefits such ~~such as~~ such as cheap imported goods. This urbanisation is ~~to~~ long-term therefore it may be decades before

long term rather as oppose to the short term.

In conclusion I think the expenditure is justified justified justified.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This answer clearly addresses the question from an international perspective. With this approach, answers which go on to argue that such money could be better spent in the UK are creditworthy, since they give the answer a sense of balance.

The answer recognises that Britain benefits from the contributions it makes to the EU (AO1 – 1, AO2 – 1). It discusses the absence of customs duties among members, presumably referring to the Single Market (AO1 – 1, AO2 – 1).

The role of the UN in supporting less economically developed countries is discussed in the following paragraph, with special reference to countries such as India and China becoming a source for cheap imports for the UK (AO1 – 2, AO2 – 1). But urbanisation can be a long-term process (AO2 – 1).

How Britain could spend the money given to support other countries is outlined in the following paragraph with particular reference to the recession, healthcare, education (AO1 – 1, AO2 – 2). However the candidate recognises that if we failed to pay up, this could expose our country to criticism (AO1 -1).

The answer concludes with the observation that the expenditure is justified because the benefits of membership of (international) organisations become more apparent in the long-term rather than the short-term (AO1 – 1).

The points in this answer are simple but relevant and the communication level is reasonably clear so 3 marks are given for AO4. 16 marks were awarded overall.

Question 31

Strong answers examined all three types of communication and then identified the one which they considered had had the most significant effect on life in the UK, giving reasons to explain how and why this conclusion was reached. Weaker answers tended to focus on just one of the forms of communication saying little if anything about the other types mentioned in the preface to the question - such answers were generally less successful than more comprehensive responses.

Topics discussed by candidates often included:

- television - increasing range of channels, services
- telephone - growth of mobile services
- motorways - now they reach most parts of the country
- trains - intercity and high speed services used more as commuting increases- steam trains now seen as heritage/leisure interest only
- Eurotunnel now means trains can replace travel by air/sea
- domestic and international flights – foreign holidays have become commonplace
- instant world-wide communication eg via internet and 24 hour rolling television news
- e-mails, social networking sites, Skype now widely used – but could lead to bullying or sexual grooming.

Generally candidates produced better answers to Question 31 than Question 30; however rather too many quite strong candidates attempted only one of the Section C questions (when the rubric said both questions were to be attempted) thus possibly sacrificing at least one or even two grades as a result.

The following response was awarded 13 marks.

31

UK Communications since the 1960s

- Since the early 1960s the rail network has been almost halved. There are fewer train stations but the numbers of rail passengers and car owners have soared.
- At the same time the number of domestic and international flights has increased as foreign holidays have become commonplace.
- Now there is instant world-wide communication via the internet and 24-hour rolling television news.

Which particular changes in travel, broadcasting or electronic communications have, over the past 50 years, had the most significant effect on life in the UK, and why?

over the past 50 years, there has been many changes socially, for example there has been huge changes in terms of travel, broadcasting and electronic communications

To begin, there has been a lot of prosperity due to the amount of car owners. This has caused social effects on the British people, for example, they can now enjoy their cars as a ~~new~~ leisure facility. Above all, it has benefited the UK economically, making profits from the petrol and diesel rates and also giving British citizens opportunity to travel therefore getting jobs in different places.

The number of domestic and international flights has also benefited the individual in society. As people have a greater disposable income nowadays and the attraction to travel abroad to ~~increased~~ foreign places such as France or Spain, it has ~~to~~ become very common for the "typical Briton" to travel abroad.

Instant world-wide communication such as the news and the internet have allowed us to connect with others. This type of communication has proved to be a window to the world. It has huge effect as people have had mixed emotions, changed beliefs and an insight to other cultures.

These 3 ~~is~~ 'change' ~~or~~ have all had a significant impact on Britain and

Its people. The change I consider most important is the domestic and international flights as it has brought money into the country via airlines, and tourism. It has created jobs for example air hostesses, tour representatives and pilots. Furthermore it has ~~also~~ helped the culture by bringing in money, in other ways for example in leisure facilities like beach cafes, restaurants, cinemas etc. Furthermore it has benefited the people giving them a break in lives and allowing them to use their disposable income. ~~Minors~~



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The rise of car ownership and its consequences are discussed (AO1 - 1, AO2 - 2).

Now people have more disposable income, it has become typical for British people to travel abroad (AO1 - 1, AO2 - 1).

People are now able to be much better informed as a result of improvements in world-wide communications (AO1 - 1, AO2 - 1).

Earnings from airlines and tourism lead this candidate to justify travel as the most significant change, particularly since it also increased employment and improved lifestyles (AO1 - 1, AO2 - 2).

Communication is acceptable so 3 marks were awarded for AO4.

Total: 4+6+3 = 13 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Note that this answer does touch on all three aspects of (i) cars and rail, (ii) air travel and (iii) broadcasting and the internet, so it was regarded by examiners as a stronger response than those which simply focused on one of these aspects.

This response was awarded 17 marks.

As technology improves, the way we live has changed dramatically, from the way we travel, to the way we socialise.

Over the last 50 years, methods of travel have changed. The ability to see anywhere in the world in often less than a day means that the world has become an easier place to travel.

Air travel was a thing for riches over 50 years ago but now as more 'budget airlines' are around and places are becoming greener and more cost effective, the idea of travelling across the globe is made easier.

Cars are also becoming a more common sight than in the 60's so people are able to commute on a daily basis and are willing to travel much further distances, but as the price of fuel has increased, more people are turning to public transport such as HSI (High Speed 1) or the London Underground to travel.

The increase in electronic technologies has also meant that it is much easier to see the world, ~~through~~ travel from wherever you are.

Electronic communications, such as the mobile phone have advanced so much over the last 50 years that it is now possible to hold have everything you need on one device.

Broadcasting has also become much more global means that news is able to travel the globe much quicker, and can be received anywhere and everywhere.

The internet allows people to find anything they want worldwide and now with the enhancement of mobile networks such as 3G & now superior 4G it is now possible to surf the web anywhere.

As companies are now adapting to make everything more efficient, we are now able to see the world more quickly and more regularly.

Also the use of 24 hour technologies such as rolling news means that we are now capable of finding information any all the time, and also means that the timezone is no problem.

The recent addition of social networks such as Facebook means that it has become much easier to communicate with other people which has led to people making less conventional visits to friends & families overseas due to the ease of being able to video call easily.

But now that technologies have evolved this much, some say that the world has become so easy to discover and that it has made people less active and creative.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The ability to travel almost anywhere in the world in a day is a real change in transportation over the past 50 years, especially with budget airlines reducing the cost of travel (AO1 - 2, AO2 - 2).

Cars too are now much more common, leading to a growth in commuting longer distances but as fuel costs rise, people turn to public transport such as HS1 or the London underground (AO1 - 2, AO2 - 2).

The growth of mobile phones, the internet, rolling news and electronic communications has greatly widened access to news and information so time zones have less significance (AO1 - 2, AO2 - 2).

It is now easy to keep in touch with friends through Facebook, etc so we may make fewer actual visits (AO1 - 1, AO2 - 1).

Communication is acceptable so 3 marks were awarded for AO4.

Total: 7+7+3 = 17

Paper Summary

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

- take greater care over your use of English (AO4);
- remind yourselves of the mathematics you learned for your GCSEs;
- check that you fully understand the skills you are expected to possess to gain AO3 (thinking and analytical skills) marks;
- pay closer attention to the instructions on the paper and the ways in which questions are framed;
- use the mark allocation and the number of writing lines allocated to a question to signal the ideal approximate length of your answers; and
- answer ALL questions, especially those such as Questions 29, 30 and 31 which between them carried more than half the marks on this paper.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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