

Mark Scheme (Results) January 2011

GCE

GCE Government & Politics (6GP03) Paper 3A

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January 2011

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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.

No. 1	To what extent have tax policies since 1997 been used to redistribute income?
Indicative content (<i>this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points</i>)	
<p>Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that the Labour Party has traditionally seen economic policy as an instrument for the redistribution of wealth.</p> <p>Labour governments have used tax revenues to invest heavily in public services, which disproportionately benefits the poor, but this has not been a redistributive policy as it has not required the wealthy to carry an additional financial burden. Taxation levels were, however, reduced for the poorest sections of society to try to keep people out of the ‘poverty trap’ e.g. the creation of the 10 percent taxation band for low level incomes in 1997.</p> <p>In almost all respects, therefore, Labour governments have not attempted to promote redistribute wealth, as shown by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the standard rate of income tax and not increasing the higher rate • The new tier of income tax is for deficit reduction, not redistribution of wealth • Business taxation has also been reduced • Programmes to support the poor, particularly benefits and social housing, have not seen a boost in funding. • Tony Blair frequently expressed admiration for ‘wealth creators’ • Other taxes which affect the large sections of the population have crept up (e.g. fuel duty, council tax) <p>The 2008-09 recession, saw the Labour government introduce additional tax cuts for the poorest sections of society and new higher tax rates for higher earners (those earning over £150,000) of 45% from late 2008 and then 50 % from April 2009. Critics, however, would argue that these were moderate redistributions of the taxation burden.</p> <p>The coalition has also pledged to increase the income tax threshold, funded by not going ahead with the cut in the employee element of the national insurance contributions (NICs) and also increasing capital gains tax for non business assets. The coalition has largely focused on spending cuts rather than redistributing income to tackle the economic recession.</p>	
A01	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (4-5 marks)	Full and developed knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 2 (2-3 marks)	Satisfactory knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates

Level 1 (0-1 marks)	Poor knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
A02	Intellectual skills
<p>The skills that are relevant to this question are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify key taxation policies and analyse the extent to which they are redistributive 	
Level 3 (5-7 marks)	Good or better ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 2 (3-4 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 1 (0-2 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
A03	Communication and coherence
Level 3 (3 marks)	Sophisticated ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 2 (2 marks)	Adequate ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 1 (0-1 mark)	Weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

No. 2	What anti-terrorism measures have been introduced since 2001, and why have they been criticised?
Indicative content (<i>this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points</i>)	
<p>Candidates should be aware that there have been four anti-terrorism laws passed since 2001 relating to: acts of terrorism, planning, supporting or encouraging acts of terrorism.</p> <p>They have been subject to two distinctively different types of criticism.</p> <p>First, they have been criticised for being too ineffective on the grounds that they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactive, with procedures being devised to meet threats only when a terrorist attack has succeeded or come close to success • Cumbersome, and create unnecessary levels of inconvenience - especially at airports • Ineffective, in that a number of arrests/trials of terrorist suspects have not led to convictions <p>Second, they have also been criticised for infringements of civil liberties, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detention without trial of terrorist suspects (until overturned by the House of Lords) • The extension of the period terrorist suspects can be held before being charged • The use of anti-terrorism measures against people exercising their democratic rights eg demonstrators • Some aspects of anti-terrorism measures are incompatible with existing legislation e.g. ECHR and the HRA- so bringing the government into conflict with the judiciary <p>Some candidates may wish to argue that anti-terrorism measures have served to marginalise and alienate Moslems and minority communities and may do so if they provide evidence (note that it is not sufficient to presume that they have had this effect and personal anecdotes cannot be accepted as evidence)</p>	
A01	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (4-5 marks)	Full and developed knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 2 (2-3 marks)	Satisfactory knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1	Poor knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions,

(0-1 marks)	processes, political concepts, theories or debates
A02	Intellectual skills
<p>The skills that are relevant to this question are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to explain and analyse criticism of the effectiveness of the policies • Ability to explain and analyse the impact of the policies on civil liberties 	
Level 3 (5-7 marks)	Good or better ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 2 (3-4 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 1 (0-2 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
A03	Communication and coherence
Level 3 (3 marks)	Sophisticated ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 2 (2 marks)	Adequate ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 1 (0-1 mark)	Weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

No. 3	Explain the advantages and disadvantages of universal welfare benefits.
Indicative content (<i>this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points</i>)	
<p>Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that universal benefits are those which everyone receives regardless of their income, such as child benefit, old age pension and cold weather heating allowance, NHS services free at the point of access.</p> <p>They have been subject to criticism because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are extremely expensive, costing the exchequer over £7billion per year • A substantial proportion of those who receive them have large incomes and do not need state payments • They can lead to a ‘dependency culture’ where people rely on them and avoid work • They are responsible for high taxation and are a symptom of an over-powerful government, according to neo-liberalists • The UK’s ageing population makes them an ever-increasing drain on a economy ill-equipped to deal with such demands <p>However, they have been defended (and maintained) because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are consistent with the founding principles of the welfare state - mutual assurance, with contributions made by all and enjoyed by all • In the case of the old age pension, everyone contributes to it and everyone should benefit from it • The move from universal to means tested benefits always creates a “poverty trap” in which people just above the qualification threshold suffer real hardship • They are a means of ensuring social justice 	
A01	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (4-5 marks)	Full and developed knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 2 (2-3 marks)	Satisfactory knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-1 marks)	Poor knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
A02	Intellectual skills

<p>The skills that are relevant to this question are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to analyse the advantages of universal benefits • Ability to analyse the disadvantages of universal benefits 	
<p>Level 3 (5-7 marks)</p>	<p>Good or better ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences</p>
<p>Level 2 (3-4 marks)</p>	<p>Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences</p>
<p>Level 1 (0-2 marks)</p>	<p>Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences</p>
<p>A03</p>	<p>Communication and coherence</p>
<p>Level 3 (3 marks)</p>	<p>Sophisticated ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary</p>
<p>Level 2 (2 marks)</p>	<p>Adequate ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary</p>
<p>Level 1 (0-1 mark)</p>	<p>Weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary</p>

No. 4	To what extent have UK transport policies been influenced by green ideas?
Indicative content (<i>this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points</i>)	
<p>Candidates should demonstrate an awareness of the growing importance of environmental issues since the 1960s.</p> <p>New Labour's 'Third Way' philosophy included a commitment to treating environmental affairs as a key political issue. Labour governments have been committed in theory to tackling traffic and congestion issues as a way of reducing emissions.</p> <p>Some measures aimed at helping the government meet its carbon emissions targets have enjoyed success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car duty depends on engine capacity • Electric cars have zero taxation, hybrid cars have very low taxation • Incentives have been provided for local authorities and private transport providers to use low emission vehicles • From 2010 petrol companies were forced to source 5% of forecourt sales from renewable • A programme of building cycleways was encouraged <p>However, Labour governments has been accused of bowing to business interests and public opinion rather than upholding their stated 'green' principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road building programmes have not been cut back and indeed were extended e.g. new lane M1, new M6 toll road • The government did not openly support the introduction of the London congestion charge • The government have seemed reluctant to introduce road tolls to combat traffic levels • Gordon Brown was seen as giving in to road protesters in 2000 when he reduced fuel duties and pledged to hold them at that level in the immediate future • Pledges to keep aviation emissions at 2005 levels by 2050 were not followed up by action • Airport expansion was approved for Heathrow in 2009 <p>Candidates may also reference recent coalition policies/actions which suggest that green policies are important e.g. the planned third runway at Heathrow has been scrapped and Cameron recently made a high-profile visit to Norway to see the effects of climate change first-hand.</p>	
A01	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (4-5 marks)	Full and developed knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates

Level 2 (2-3 marks)	Satisfactory knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-1 marks)	Poor knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
A02	Intellectual skills
<p>The skills that are relevant to this question are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to analyse a range of factors that influence transport policy • Ability to evaluate how much of an impact 'green' ideas have had on transport policy 	
Level 3 (5-7 marks)	Good or better ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 2 (3-4 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 1 (0-2 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
A03	Communication and coherence
Level 3 (3 marks)	Sophisticated ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 2 (2 marks)	Adequate ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 1 (0-1 mark)	Weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

No. 5	To what extent is there disagreement between government and opposition parties over policing?
Indicative content (<i>this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points</i>)	
<p>Candidates should demonstrate awareness that there has been a growing consensus on tackling law and order through targeting the causes of crime as well as punishing criminals between the main political parties, but that differences still exist in specific policies.</p> <p>Under Labour governments, more powers were given to the police. For example, ‘on-the-spot’ fines were introduced, greater discretion given to inform local communities about sex offenders in the area, anti-terror laws giving the police more surveillance powers etc .</p> <p>Broadly speaking, extending police powers- especially with regards to anti-terror legislation- have been supported by the Conservative Party. However, they have expressed concern over the growth of the ‘surveillance state’- David Davis resigned his seat and triggered a by-election in 2007 in protest at this.</p> <p>In opposition, the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats were broadly in agreement about making the police more accountable to elected individuals or bodies, and devolving responsibility for policing down to a more local level. Both also agreed that there was a need to reduce police bureaucracy.</p> <p>However, the Conservatives also focus on giving more powers to the police in order to prevent crime, whereas the Liberal Democrats believe there need to be more police on the beat. The Conservatives also pledged to abolish police authorities, where the Liberal Democrats wanted to raise the profiles of police authorities and make them more accountable through elected representatives.</p> <p>In coalition, they have agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace police authorities with directly-elected police and crime commissioners are to be introduced in 2012 • Police bureaucracy will be reduced <u>but</u> there is no guarantee that this will avoid reducing police numbers • Gove police more powers to deal with licensed problems that are causing problems • Cut funding by £10 million but ring-fence funding for community officers for 2 years <p>Labour have criticised the additional layer of politicians proposed, and also the funding cuts but have yet to form a comprehensive set of policies under their new leader.</p>	
A01	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (4-5 marks)	Full and developed knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates

Level 2 (2-3 marks)	Satisfactory knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-1 marks)	Poor knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
A02	Intellectual skills
<p>The skills that are relevant to this question are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to analyse and explain the consensus between government and opposition policies • Ability to analyse and explain the conflicts between government and opposition policies 	
Level 3 (5-7 marks)	Good or better ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 2 (3-4 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 1 (0-2 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
A03	Communication and coherence
Level 3 (3 marks)	Sophisticated ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 2 (2 marks)	Adequate ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 1 (0-1 mark)	Weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

No. 6

'The welfare state would be safer under Labour than under the Liberal Democrat-Conservative coalition.' Discuss.

Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that disputes about the most appropriate way to fund public services have been at the heart of election campaigns since 1997 and that this debate has become even sharper since the increase in the budget deficit since 2007/8. Answers will most likely focus on party ideology and policy in the months preceding the 2010 General Election, as the coalition has yet to pass any laws on welfare reform.

Candidates should, however, also demonstrate an awareness that there are no proposals to dismantle the welfare state, and that all the measures proposed to date aim to cut spending and end the 'dependency culture' and therefore improve the benefits system, as both coalition parties promised in their 2010 manifestoes.

New Labour has consistently maintained that public services should be funded at/around the European average in order to set high standards and that this should be accompanied by "accountability" in the form of targets and efficiency savings. The party argues that any proposed spending below these levels will inevitably lead to poorer services. However, the left wing of the party argues that nothing has been done to extent the welfare state since Labour won office in 1997 and has been critical of the leadership's willingness of use 'market forces' and private companies in the provision of the welfare state, the limited efforts to reverse the effects of the Thatcher government's sale of council housing, the failure to restore the link with earnings for the old age pension and the low level of unemployment benefits.

Conservatives have come to accept, broadly, the level of spending established by the Labour government but argue that in future there should be "shared" proceeds of growth, with some increased spending (or protected spending) on public services but any available funds also being spent on drawing down the deficit and/or tax cuts. They believe that far more could be done to improve services through efficiency savings and abandoning targets set by the central government. They vehemently refute claims that they favour cuts in spending on key services, although this is how their opponents characterise reduced rates of increased spending. The right of the party, however, continues to express concern about the cost of the welfare state and associated regulatory burdens on business as well as the risk of promoting a dependency culture.

Liberal Democrats favour even higher levels of spending on public services than Labour and claims that this can be achieved through the cutting of waste and locally-determined priorities.

The initial coalition statement has been influenced by the economic recession of 2007-08 and reflects the agreement between the main parties that savings need to be made in all areas. The coalition's Welfare Reform Bill is designed to reform what the Conservatives

have called a ‘broken’ benefits system- both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are in agreement that the current benefits system is wasteful and in need of reform. Measures include reforming how incapacity benefit claimants are assessed, a new Universal Credit, a new Work Programme to help older claimants find work, new sanctions for those who refuse job offers and overall simplifying the benefits system.

A01	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Full and developed knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Satisfactory knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Poor knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
A02	Intellectual skills
<p>The skills that are relevant to this question are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to analyse and explain the ideology and policies of the Labour Party on the welfare state • Ability to analyse and explain the ideology and policies of the coalition on the welfare state • Ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the claim 	
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good or better ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
A02	Synoptic skills

Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good or better ability to identify competing viewpoints or perspectives, and clear insight into how they affect the interpretation of political events or issues and shape conclusions
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations.
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations.
A03	Communication and coherence
Level 3 (7-9 marks)	Sophisticated ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 2 (4-6 marks)	Adequate ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 1 (0-3 marks)	Weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

No. 7	To what extent are governments still able to exert meaningful control over the economy?
Indicative content (<i>this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points</i>)	
<p>Candidates should demonstrate an awareness that the question implies that governments were once the main factor shaping economic policy (on an ideological basis) and that this is no longer the case.</p> <p>Points that could be developed to support such a view include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The withdrawal of the government from strategic areas of the economy, as a result of privatisation, and no expectation that this will change • Devolving power over interests rates to the independent Bank of England and also making regulation of the financial sector the responsibility of independent agencies • The sheer scale of global economic and financial forces that have the capacity or overwhelm, and dictate, government policy as happened on ‘black Wednesday’ and in the aftermath of the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008 • The requirement to adhere to EU economic regulations, especially in respect of the Single Market where decisions are made by QMV <p>Points that could be developed to challenge such a view include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments set taxation levels • Governments decide on the distribution of expenditure across policy areas • Regulatory agencies and the Bank of England are ultimately answerable to governments • The UK government is a leading player in international bodies that shape and respond to the global economy • The UK has retained control on monetary affairs, by not joining the Euro, and has consistently resisted proposals for increased co-ordination of fiscal policy across Europe 	
A01	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Full and developed knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Satisfactory knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Poor knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates

A02	Intellectual skills
<p>The skills that are relevant to this question are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to analyse and explain arguments that the government has limited control over the economy • Ability to analyse and explain arguments that the government has substantial control over the economy • Ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments 	
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good or better ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
A02	Synoptic skills
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good or better ability to identify competing viewpoints or perspectives, and clear insight into how they affect the interpretation of political events or issues and shape conclusions
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations.
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations.
A03	Communication and coherence
Level 3 (7-9 marks)	Sophisticated ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making good use of appropriate vocabulary
Level 2 (4-6 marks)	Adequate ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making some use of appropriate vocabulary

Level 1 (0-3 marks)	Weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

No. 8

'None of the major parties have policies that effectively address the challenge of climate change.' Discuss.

Indicative content (*this is not an exhaustive account of relevant points*)

Environmental groups argue that governments need to completely re-think their approach to environmental policy and focus on how to integrate economic and environmental policy to ensure a holistic approach is taken on tackling climate change.

The main parties share a commitment to tackling climate change, and have considerable sections of their manifestoes focusing on environmental issues. Cross-party support in the last parliament also led to the first national legislation to set legally binding targets for cutting emissions (the [Climate Change Act](#)).

Labour claims that it has displayed leadership on tackling climate change with initiatives such as the Climate Change Levy, meeting the Kyoto emission targets and promoting investment in green technologies and renewable energy. They have also set challenging targets for the UK to meet on reducing carbon emissions, and have been influential in the formation of EU environmental policy. However, Labour has been criticised for not introducing enough legislation to force businesses to introduce measures to tackle climate change. They have also been perceived to be reluctant to introduce more measures to reduce the use of fossil fuels (such as making aviation and car travel more expensive) for fear of alienating business interests and the electorate. They have also been criticised for continuing their policy of road-building and expanding existing airports.

The Conservative Party has arguably been more assertive in placing climate change at the centre of its manifesto, and has stated that it believes "climate change is one of the greatest threats that we face". The 2010 manifesto included a wide range of measures ranging from cancelling the third runway at Heathrow to increasing the target for energy from renewable sources. Many of their policies, however, have been criticised by environmental groups for not going far enough to tackle the issue of integrating economic demands against the need for sustainable development and ensuring climate change is tackled head on. For example, rather than focusing on renewable energy, their policies focused on establishing an emissions performances standard for coal-fired power stations. They have also been criticised for lacking detail, such as how much money will the proposed Green Investment Bank have, and what the emissions standards for new power stations will be.

Like Labour, however, the Conservatives claim that they plan to play a leading role in the European and international arena to enable a global approach to tackling climate change. Neither party, however, has a commitment to reducing greenhouses gases by 42% by 2020 as recommended by the committee on climate change.

The Liberal Democrats appear to have the most 'green' credentials of the main three parties, including environmental policies in each section of their manifesto. Their approach appears to be the closest to the environmental lobby's ideal, as they interweave their environmental policies into every area they consider.

The coalition government are in broad agreement that environmental issues are important and that climate change is an pressing concern. They have agreed several measures as such, including replacing aviation passenger duty replaced with a plane tax, scrapping expansion at [runways at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted](#) and increasing the target for energy from renewable sources.

However, they still disagree on key areas such as the building of new nuclear plants (the Liberal Democrats will be able to abstain on this issue), suggesting that while the coalition claims to be making climate change a priority, the ruling parties are still divided on how to achieve this.

A01	Knowledge and understanding
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Full and developed knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Satisfactory knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Poor knowledge and understanding of relevant institutions, processes, political concepts, theories or debates
A02	Intellectual skills
<p>The skills that are relevant to this question are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to compare and contrast the environmental policy of the main parties in the UK • Ability to evaluate how effective such policies have been or could be 	
Level 3 (9-12 marks)	Good or better ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 2 (5-8 marks)	Sound ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
Level 1 (0-4 marks)	Limited ability to analyse and evaluate political information, arguments and explanations, and identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences
A02	Synoptic skills
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Level 1 (0-3 marks)	Weak ability to construct and communicate coherent arguments, making little or no use of appropriate vocabulary

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