



Pearson

Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel GCE
Government & Politics (6GP03)
Paper 3B: Political ideologies



Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

Summer 2018

Publications Code 6GP03_3B_1806_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2018

Principal Examiner Report 2018 Series 6GPO3 3B

The overall standard of responses in Unit 3B was broadly in line with that of previous years. There were very few examples of candidates misunderstanding or misinterpreting questions, although in some cases candidates would have benefitted by making their understanding of the key concepts within a question explicit, by providing a concise definition at the start of their answer. A small minority of candidates opted to answer only two questions from section A, rather than attempting all three, and this should be strongly discouraged. An important discriminator again this year was the extent to which candidates focused on the *specific* question set. It remains good advice to candidates preparing for exams to spend time in the exam thinking about the questions they intend to answer, identifying the key words or terms and, for essays, planning their answer *before* starting to answer the question.

Q1

This was a fairly popular question. The majority of candidates were able to explain 'why' some anarchists have supported collectivism, but some did not go on to explain 'how'. Stronger responses were able to address both parts of the question.

Q2

This was a popular question. The majority of candidates referred to the socialist view that humans are naturally co-operative and gregarious, and many also pointed out that socialists believe human nature is malleable or 'plastic'. A few responses also pointed out that socialists believe humans are reason-guided.

Q3

This was a popular question. The vast majority of candidates explained 'why' liberals are committed to constitutionalism, although not all went on to explain 'how' in any detail. Stronger responses were able to address both parts of the question. A small minority of candidate's conflated constitutionalism with 'constitution' and this limited their responses.

Q4

This was a popular question. The majority of candidates distinguished between the traditional conservative view of an organic society and the mechanical and atomistic view of neo-liberals. Stronger responses also distinguished between other features. A small minority of candidates considered distinctions between traditional and neo-liberal conservatives, without focusing on 'society' as such.

Q5

This was a less popular but generally well answered question. The majority of candidates explained that anarcho-capitalists believe in a stateless society in which the free market can satisfy all human wants, with many referring to areas of life such as private courts and policing.

Q6

This was a fairly popular question and generally answered well. Candidates mostly focused on the question, with virtually all comparing classical liberalism with modern liberalism. Stronger responses kept a clear focus on the question, with regard to 'individualism', and sustained a clear argument throughout, leading to a substantiated conclusion.

Q7

This was a less popular essay question but generally answered well. Some of the stronger responses had a concise definition of 'pragmatic' and 'ideological' at the start of the essay and this helped retain a focus on the question. In a small minority of responses there was a lack of clarity over these terms, which impacted on the quality of the answer.

Q8

This was a popular essay question and generally answered well. Most candidates made reference to fundamentalist and revisionist socialism and to the 'third way'. Stronger responses developed and explained the nature of the divisions with regard to capitalism, as well as pointing out that all socialists oppose the negative effects of unregulated capitalism.

Paper Summary

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

- Time themselves carefully on each question so as to avoid having to rush any answers and to ensure that they attempt all of the questions required.
- Ensure that answers remain focused on the *specific* question that has been asked. Read the question carefully before you start your answer.
- Avoid lengthy introductions when answering section A questions.
- Provide balance where required, but only where required.
- Ensure that they address *both* parts of 'how' and 'why' questions.
- Provide short definitions of key concepts used in questions, in order to demonstrate their accurate understanding, and to help keep them focused on the question.