



Pearson

Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel GCE
Government & Politics (6GP04)
Paper 4B: Ideological Traditions



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The overall standard of responses in Unit 4B was broadly in line with that of previous years. There were only a 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. 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 provide criticisms of multiculturalism based on their understanding of conservative support for an organic society, shared values and a common culture. A minority of responses treated this as a question on immigration rather than multiculturalism. Stronger responses were able to develop and illustrate their points using examples such as the conservative criticism of 'special rights' or the criticism that multiculturalism demeans the host culture.

Q2

This was a fairly popular question. The majority of candidates referred to patriarchy and male domination of both women and nature, pointing out that eco-feminists view women as being naturally closer to nature. Stronger responses developed these points in more detail and went on to explain eco-feminist support for a matriarchal society.

Q3

This was a popular question. The vast majority of candidates provided an accurate definition of 'nation', but many were unable to provide an accurate definition of 'race'. Therefore many responses found it difficult to explain why 'nation' and 'race' have often been confused. Stronger responses wrote effectively about the racial nationalism of Nazism and clearly explained the source of confusion.

Q4

This was a less popular question. The majority of candidates referred to a 'pick and mix' culture and hybridity, giving appropriate examples. Fewer responses referred to the aspect of moral community or global

institutions. However stronger responses successfully developed these points in more detail.

Q5

This was a very popular question. The vast majority of responses accurately distinguished between 'sex' and 'gender'. Stronger responses went on to clearly explain the significance for feminists, showing that 'biology is not destiny' and that women's oppression can be challenged and overcome. A few responses pointed out that difference feminists largely reject the distinction, but this was not asked for in this question.

Q6

This was one of the less popular essay questions. Candidates generally focused on the question, specifically with regard to capitalism, and discussed a wide range of ecological approaches. Most candidates pointed out that 'green capitalists' argue that capitalism and the market can be regulated in order to produce sustainable growth.

Q7

This was the most popular essay question and generally well answered. The majority of candidates were able to address both parts of the question and made reference to a wide range of feminist traditions, with most referring to at least liberal, radical and socialist feminism. Stronger responses were able to bring out the key differences between each strand, while also pointing out that feminists do have some things in common.

Q8

This was a reasonably popular essay question. Most candidates made reference to a wide range of nationalisms and attempted to address both sides of the question. A few responses were more descriptive and less focused on this specific question.

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.
- Provide short definitions of key concepts used in questions, in order to demonstrate their accurate understanding, and also to keep them focused on the question.