Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE In Politics

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: UK Politics (8PL0/01)

General Marking Guidance

• All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the last candidate inexactly the same way as they mark the first.

• Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than be penalised for omissions.

• Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme – not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.

• 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/indicative content will not be exhaustive. However, different examples of responses will be provided at standardisation.

• When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, a senior examiner must be consulted before a mark is given.

• Crossed-out work should be marked **unless** the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Marking guidance for levels-based mark schemes

How to award marks

The indicative content provides examples of how students will meet each skill assessed in the question. The levels descriptors and indicative content reflect the relative weighting of each skill within each mark band. Confirmation of the marks assigned to Assessment Objectives is provided at the top of each mark scheme. This has been provided to further reflect the balance between the assessment objectives as described in the relevant level descriptors.

Capping statements

Where applicable and to ensure that candidates are awarded marks for fully meeting the requirements of the question, additional capping statements have been indicated in the mark schemes. Such statements indicate where and how candidates will be limited in their achievement if they fail to fully address the requirements of the question. For instance, where questions require candidates to refer to 'thinkers' or 'engaging with sources'.

Finding the right level

The first stage is to decide which level the answer should be placed in. To do this, use a 'best-fit' approach, deciding which level most closely describes the quality of the answer. Answers can display characteristics from more than one level, and where this happens markers must use the guidance below and their professional judgement to decide which level is most appropriate.

Placing a mark within a level

After a level has been decided on, the next stage is to decide on the mark within the level. The instructions below tell you how to reward responses within a level. However, where a level has specific guidance about how to place an answer within a level, always follow that guidance. Statements relating to the treatment of students who do not fully meet the requirements of the question are also shown in the indicative content section of each levels based mark scheme. These statements should be considered alongside the levels descriptors. 3 Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Politics – Sample Assessment Materials – Issue 2 August 2022 © Pearson Education Limited 2022 Markers should be prepared to use the full range of marks available in a level and not restrict marks to the middle. Markers should start at the middle of the level (or the upper-middle mark if there is an even number of marks) and then move the mark up or down to find the best mark. To do this, they should take into account how far the answer meets the requirements of the level:

● if it meets the requirements fully, markers should be prepared to award full marks within the level. The top mark in the level is used for answers that are as good as can realistically be expected within that level
● if it only barely meets the requirements of the level, markers should consider awarding marks at the bottom of the level. The bottom mark in the level is used for answers that are the weakest that can be expected within that level

● the middle marks of the level are used for answers that have a reasonable match to the descriptor. This might represent a balance between some characteristics of the level that are fully met and others that are only barely met.

When a candidate has produced an answer that displays characteristics from more than one level, examiners must use their professional judgement to decide what level should be awarded.

Paper 1: UK Politics mark scheme

Section A

Guidelines for marking Questions 1a and 1b
Marks are awarded for AO1 only.   Marks are awarded for showing depth of knowledge and understanding.

Level	Mark	AO1 Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	• Demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes superficial links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a narrow range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.
Level 2	4–7	• Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes some effective links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a broad range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.
Level 3	8–10	• Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes fully-effective links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a comprehensive range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.

Question number	Indicative content Describe what is meant by the term partisan dealignment
1(a)	**AO1 (10 marks)** **Candidates may refer to the following aspects of the term partisan dealignment:** • Partisan dealignment is where voters no longer consider themselves to be closely connected or 'aligned' with a particular party • The two major parties of Labour and Conservative had swathes of voters who did not change their allegiance over their lives but the process of partisan dealignment changed this • This prior alignment made forecasting stable in predicting how people would vote consistently. However, partisan dealignment ended this pattern • After partisan dealignment other factors came to be more or equally as important in shaping and influencing how voters would cast their vote. These other factors include issue-based voting, governing competence and the popularity of party

	leaders which are the kinds of factors that sway the floating voter.
	• Partisan dealignment arose with changing living and work patterns and the decline of traditional industry
	Accept any other valid responses.

Question number	Indicative content
	Describe the key features of a multi-party system.
1(b)	**AO1 (10 marks)** **Candidates may refer to the following features of a multi-party system** • A party system is how political parties are structured and operate in a political system • A multi-party system implies that there are a range of parties who realistically compete and possibly share power • Voting outcomes produces a wider range of parties who after the election can gain leverage and importance because of the seats which they gain • In the UK political system, the Northern Ireland political party structure can be described as multi-party for it produces a multi-party coalition • In many areas of devolved and local government across the UK multiple parties realistically compete, are elected, and share power and posts in a coalition Accept any other valid responses.

Section B

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Guidelines for marking Question 2</td></tr>
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Marks are awarded for AO1 and AO2 only.

Marks are awarded for showing depth of knowledge and understanding (AO1) but this has to be based on the material presented in the source.

Marks are awarded for illustrating clarity of analysis (AO2) but this has to arise from the context presented by the source.

No marks are available for making a judgement or reaching any form of conclusion (AO3).

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In AO2 political information means source.		
Level	**Mark**	**Descriptor**
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	• Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited analysis of political information with partial logical chains of reasoning, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 2	4–7	• Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused analysis of political information with clear, logical chains of reasoning, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 3	8–10	• Demonstrates comprehensive and precise knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent and sustained analysis of political information, with coherent logical chains of reasoning, which make convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content
	Using the source, explain why election turnouts are important.
2	**AO1 (5 marks), AO2 (5 marks)**
	Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) when considering the impact of turnout on results
	• Turnout varies according to the type of election taking place • Lower income households – likely to be working class show lower turnout • Turnout does change in seats where a close result is expected • Parties focus their policies on those who are most likely to turn out
	Candidates may refer to the following analytical points (AO2) when considering turnout
	• The source implies that lower tier elections have lower turnout, people view the importance of elections as to whether to turnout with lower tier elections taking a lower priority and producing a lower turnout • This shows that turnout has a link with wealth and class and the region makes a difference to turnout • Turnout changes where a vote is seen as important and able to change the outcome – so marginal seats may have increased turnouts and safe seats lower turnouts – thus have a major impact on results and this impacts where parties focus their campaigns • The policies of parties may be slanted to the characteristics of those who turnout to vote – so policies for older as opposed to younger generations and wealthier as opposed to poorer, so we can see voter turnout influencing the policies put forward by political parties.
	Accept any other valid responses.

Guidelines for marking Question 3
Marks are awarded for AO2 and AO3 only. Marks are awarded for illustrating clarity of analysis (AO2) but this has to arise from the context presented by the source. No AO1 marks are available for repeating knowledge or understanding from the source or for introducing own knowledge and understanding if it is not linked to providing clarity to the AO2 & AO3 points arising from the source. AO2 and AO3 require candidates to analyse and evaluate the sources and develop their answers, showing comparative analytical and evaluative skills to address the question. Candidates should focus their comparison on analysing the similarities and differences of the viewpoints given in the sources. Candidates who do not provide a reference to a similarity and a differences from the source cannot achieve beyond Level 2. Candidates who *do not* undertake any comparative analysis of the source cannot achieve beyond Level 1. There are no AO1 marks available. *Do not* give credit to responses where candidates demonstrate knowledge alone. Any knowledge used must support their analysis and evaluation.

In AO2 and AO3 political information means source.		
Level	**Mark**	**Descriptor**
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	• Limited comparative analysis of political information with partial logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within political information, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of political information, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many which are descriptive and lead to limited unsubstantiated and unjustified conclusions (AO3).
Level 2	4–7	• Mostly focused comparative analysis of political information with clear, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences within political information, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of political information, constructing mostly focused arguments and judgements, many which are substantiated and lead to some specific conclusions, that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 3	8–10	• Consistent and sustained comparative analysis of political information, with coherent logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences within political information, which make convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs coherent and sustained evaluation of political information, constructing effectively substantiated arguments

		and judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to precise conclusions that are fully justified (AO3).

Question number	Indicative content
	Using the sources, assess whether think tanks strengthen or weaken democratic decision making.
3	**AO2 (5 marks), AO3 (5 marks)**
	Candidates may refer to the following comparative analytical points (AO2) when assessing the similarities and differences between the sources:
	- A similarity is that both commentators feel better decisions can be made with research - Another similarity is that both believe politicians are relieved of major work by think tank policy formulation - Monbiot's analysis is that political parties are damaged by what he sees as secretive/rich and powerful think tanks. By contrast McGann reasons that think tanks improve political party policy - Monbiot's analysis is that democracy is damaged by the activities of think tanks who effectively purchase the outcomes they favour whereas McGann insists that democracy is improved by their activities and money makes no difference
	Candidates may refer to the following comparative evaluative points (AO3) when assessing the similarities and differences between the sources:
	- We can conclude that experts in their fields are better than elected politicians who may not have the expertise in certain policy areas - Politicians and officials can be said to have enough responsibility with their role once elected but rarely have time available for research - The conclusion we arrive at is if political parties are heavily influenced by the actions of think tanks, this damages democratic decision making: **or by contrast** if their policies are improved, democratic decision making is enhanced - If we feel that the process of think tank activity is undemocratic and fuelled by the wealthy, we arrive at the conclusion offered by Monbiot **or by contrast** if we feel it is transparent and fair, we will side with McGann
	Accept any other valid responses.

Section C

Guidelines for marking Questions 4a and 4b
AO1 (10 marks) Marks here relate to knowledge and understanding. It should be used to underpin analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3)
AO2 (10 marks) Candidates should form analytical views which support and reject the view presented by the question.
AO3 (10 marks) Candidates are expected to evaluate the information and arguments presented. They may rank the importance of the prior analysis. They should be able to make and form judgments and they should reach reasoned conclusion.
Candidates must consider both views in their answers in a balanced way. The judgement a candidate reaches about these views should be reflected in their conclusions. Candidates who have *not* considered both views in a balanced way cannot achieve marks beyond Level 2. In Question 4a candidates must refer to at least two referendum or they cannot achieve marks beyond Level 3 In Question 4b candidates must refer to at least two established parties or they cannot achieve marks beyond Level 3

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–6	• Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited analysis of aspects of politics with partial logical chains of reasoning, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many of which are descriptive (AO3).
Level 2	7–12	• Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some emerging analysis of aspects of politics with some focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some appropriate evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing occasionally effective arguments and judgements, some are partially unsubstantiated and lead to generic conclusions, without much justification (AO3).
Level 3	13–18	• Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused analysis of aspects of politics with logical chains of reasoning, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing mostly focused arguments and judgements, many are substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions, that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	19–24	• Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Focused analysis of aspects of politics with logical chains of reasoning, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing focused arguments and judgements, which are substantiated and lead to focused conclusions that are mostly justified (AO3).
Level 5	25–30	• Demonstrates comprehensive and precise knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent and sustained analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, which make convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs coherent and sustained evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing effectively substantiated arguments and

| | | judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to precise conclusions that are fully justified (AO3). |

Question number	Indicative content
	'Referendums since 1997 have benefited UK politics.'
4(a)	**AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks)**

Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the view that referendums benefit UK politics argue the following:

Agreement

- Major constitutional change such as devolution is now only undertaken after a referendum thus adding an extra layer of democracy.
- Involving the public delivers change which may not have arisen in Parliament.
- Referendums offer a clear choice and avoid a messy compromise thus benefiting UK politics.
- As well as offering an alternative route to political change through parliament, referendums are essential when there is stalemate or reluctance to commit to change within political parties, thus helping political compromise.

Disagreement

- Referendums are not a beneficial part of political life in the UK they are simply an optional add on and create an unwelcome diversion to political life. Quite often complex political problems cannot be reduced to a binary option
- Politicians are in the main reluctant to involve the public in referendums as it damages their power and that of parliament.
- They have become a declining feature in recent years apart from the early years of Labour 1997-2001 so there is no constant benefit to political life as such
- To become beneficial, they have to be within the gift of the public – that is a mechanisms must exist to trigger them

Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view:

- This can be seen in the roll out of devolution after 1997. Accepted in the new assemblies but rejected by English voters in the North-East (AO2), We can conclude that devolution would not have taken place if the public had decided against it. It also provided democratic legitimacy to the decision to the UK (AO3)
- In Parliament in 2016 and up to 2019 there were a majority of MPs who opposed withdrawal from the EU. (AO2), If we are to remain a democracy power has to go to the people and not left to elected politicians alone, the EU referendum in 2016 provided that choice (AO3)
- A binary choice it may be – but at least it is a choice the public can engage with. All referendums since 1997 have provided a clear choice (AO2), This choice engages and instils political energy into the people in the UK who are aware of their decisions (AO3)

- At times political party division means that parties themselves have severe internal rifts and taking one path may split the party. A referendum takes pressure off political parties (AO2). All the main parties in the UK have had to accept the will of the people in the 2016 EU referendum – despite the fact the withdrawal was never an official policy of any established party before 2016 (AO3)

Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:

- Referendums are only used when other options have failed or are not practical. Such as the EU referendum in 2016 when the EU posed a problem for the Conservative Party. They may not be considered suitable for intricate and technical issues and also for many moral purposes. (AO2), Major decisions have always been (and always will be) taken by governments in office – referendums do not function in time of emergency or when a swift decision is required (AO3)
- Some parties and politicians hold the view that they 'know best' and it is failure if they have to consult again in a referendum – a political mandate arises from the last election. (AO2), If we analyse democracy over the last 120 years in the UK – and their use in the last 25 years we cannot form a basis that their use brings continual benefits to political life, and the principle of Parliamentary sovereignty remains (AO3)
- We could say that the benefits have now 'worn off' they are not a regular feature of political life (AO2), We could conclude that the divisions caused by the 2016 EU referendum have indeed limited their use in the future (AO3)
- Referendums are only granted by parliament and with the endorsement of the government unless they are concerning local matters. They are invariably asked when a government has a fair amount of control over their outcome (AO2), We can conclude that referendums have major 'gate keepers' as to their use and thus they can never become regular and essential under the contemporary political framework unless the rules of our democracy change (AO3)

Accept any other valid responses.

Question number	Indicative content
	'There are no significant policy differences between the established political parties in the UK.'
4(b)	• **AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks)** • **Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the view that there are no significant policy differences:** Agreement • In terms of recent political changes, the parties have found more common economic ground. The changes in the Conservative party brought about by Thatcher have been replicated both by Labour and the Liberal Democrats. • The advent of New Labour in power from 1997 to 2010 also saw a re-shaping of political ideas by the established parties. This drew new lines of consensus around key constitutional and social issues. • The arrival of the coalition government in 2010 where the Conservative and Liberal Democrats shared power is another demonstration of growing consensus between the established parties. • In terms of law and order all the three parties wish to increase Police numbers and reverse the cuts in staff which has arisen since 2010. • In terms of the NHS all the three parties promised to increase funding. All parties wished to deliver change in long term social care. In terms of education and in particular schools all three parties pledged in 2019 to spend more Disagreement • Taxation has proven to be a controversial topic between the established parties. The recent Conservative budgets have increased taxes and cut spending. The Labour Party favours more taxes on companies such as greater windfall taxes on energy companies. • The outward face of the Conservative approach to law and order still has the drive to punish criminals and has no other view than to continue to provide more prison places • All the established parties claim to wish to spend more money on Health (NHS) but the Conservatives did not increase nurses wages in 2021 after the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The other two parties insist that they would bring a long-term solution to social care in the face of stagnation by the Conservatives. • The Conservatives have become much more Eurosceptic this contrasts with the Liberal Democrats however Labour policy being much more ambiguous to the EU. The Conservative review of wider foreign policy put the focus on the Far East and China

- Corbyn's period as Labour leader saw vastly different policy on economic matters in particular, with the 2019 election seeing very little common ground.

- **Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view:**

- The economic consensus covers the approach to privatisation and greater scope for a free market: initially as a championing of the West against former Soviet Russia. Similarly, much of the Thatcher legislation restricting trade unions was accepted by all the established parties (AO2) This represents a new post-Thatcherite consensus built on the ideas and polices introduced by the Conservatives from 1979. New Labour did not reverse the political landscape which they inherited; and whilst Corbyn's period as leader created a wider division but the arrival of Kier Starmer has brought the party back to the post-Thatcher centre ground (AO3).
- In reality this ushered in a new constitutional settlement with the UK becoming almost quasi-federal with the devolution settlement. In terms of social mores, the age for consensual same sex relationship was equalised with heterosexual age limits and Civil partnerships were created; with same sex marriage implemented by a Conservative led coalition. (AO2). This remains pollical mainstream amongst the established parties; the divisive 2019 election still saw both Corbyn and Johnson broadly accepting these points (AO3).
- Liberal Democrat ideas became not only ideas but actual government policy – on areas such as environmental targets and the pupil premium. Similarly, the Lib Dems broadly accepted the Conservative policy of overall economic austerity (AO2). The move towards consensus amongst the established parties has continued after the coalition with unity on topics such as green energy, help for Ukraine and a pro-US stance in foreign policy. (AO3)
- This is a huge area of consensus between the three parties who see the need for increased staffing to deal with law and order across the UK (AO2), Although the increase in police numbers and police pay was often seen as a Conservative policy it is now endorsed by all parties (AO3)
- This commitment can be seen in the Conservative plans for a cross party group to advance ideas for reform. (AO2) In terms of pensions all parties see the importance of the 'grey vote'. We can see that all parties cannot be seen to cut back on schools and the drive to improve educational standards (AO3)

- **Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:**

- The recent 'black hole' in public finance left by the Truss administration has made Conservative economic policy in a

difficult place. The Liberal Democrats are keen to see a greener approach to taxation in order to reduce inequality. Labour still wishes to see greater public investment by the government (AO2), Taxation policy and economic approaches have changed with rising inflation and energy prices. The key difference is how the gap in income will be managed and what support is offered to the more vulnerable sections of society. (AO3)

- Conservatives see crime as primarily emerging from 'bad' people, but the Liberal Democrats and Labour parties seek to look to wider society for solutions not just to traditional punishments (AO2), Labour and the Liberal Democrats seek to understand and remedy why people are attracted to crime and to equally address its causes. They see remedies in wider society than in solely personal failure and we can conclude that this is a fundamental difference. (AO3)

- The approach and ideas of the parties do differ in terms of welfare. The Conservatives believe more in self-help than state help, whereas Labour and Liberal Democrats see the need for a benevolent state (AO2), We can conclude that it is easier to promise a huge rise in funding when out of office but when in office finding the funds or raising taxes is much more problematic especially for the Conservatives (AO3)

- Foreign policy is more in flux with the Labour and Liberal Democratic parties in coming to terms with the impact and consequences of Brexit (AO2), We can conclude that attitudes to the EU makes the Conservatives more nationalistic in foreign policy outlook and Labour and the Liberal Democrats being more internationalist (AO3)

- Corbyn's Labour supported more redistributive taxation, higher public spending, and greater government borrowing, compared to the other established parties (AO2). This demonstrates that the consensus is very flimsy, particularly given Corbyn's successes at the 2017 election (AO3).

- Accept any other valid responses.

Please note the MS will be reviewed at the standardisation in the light of policy updates from the established parties.