

Examiners' Report  
June 2012

GCSE Citizenship 5CS03 3A

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## **Introduction**

It is pleasing to report that many candidates approached this sitting of the Unit 3 Papers with confidence. They demonstrated an ability to focus in greater depth on the three themes introduced in Unit 1.

Many candidates responded effectively to the challenge of examining a theme from a number of different perspectives: individual, community, national, global, political, social and ethical. They successfully identified and sought to reconcile the different and often conflicting ideas and opinions associated with these perspectives.

Overall, the strongest responses demonstrated sound knowledge and understanding in the multiple choice section and complemented the source material in the data response and short extended writing questions with relevant and topical 'own knowledge'.

Most candidates made good use of the time available and left sufficient time to respond to the final 15 mark question.

A few candidates misinterpreted some questions and were not able to exploit fully the stimulus Source material or the scaffolding points provided for Question 15. These however were in a minority.

This report does not include examples of the multiple choice questions but covers the short answer, extended answer and essay questions.

## Question 8

The majority of candidates were able to gain 1 mark, with 'less emissions or pollution' being the most popular responses. Some candidates were able to recognise the impact on the city centre's shops. Some candidates only achieved one mark for stating the same point in both answers ie 1. pollution, 2. less carbon-dioxide emissions, which could only be credited once and therefore only achieved 1 mark.

8 Using Source A and your own knowledge, give **two** reasons why improved public transport and a bias against out-of-town shopping centres could make Nottingham city centre more sustainable.

(2)

- 1 People would be using the new and improved public transport as appose to using their cars.
- 2 Many people will be attracted to the new one of town shopping centres and will use those instead of the ones in the city.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This candidate achieves the marks for Bullet Points 3 and 4 in the mark scheme. The answers are implied and both appear in the first response. The second response does not achieve any marks.

## Question 9

The majority of candidates were able to achieve full marks on this question. Cost and being over-crowded were the most popular responses. Candidates who did not achieve the full 2 marks for this, simply re-worded part of the Source and did not think about what the question was asking.

9 Give **two** criticisms people may have of their public transport system. (2)

1 The transport itself is too expensive.

2 It's always so busy therefore public may not get a seat to sit on and will have to stand.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The first point is an example of a response referring to 'cost' and the second is an example of 'over-crowded'.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

The question does not refer to the Source. You have to rely on your own knowledge for this type of question.

## Question 10 (a)

Photosynthesis was a popular answer, with an explanation of breathing in carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen. It was reassuring to see that candidates could transfer knowledge from other subjects to answer this question.

Some candidates gave vague generalised responses about 'more trees improves the air' or 'trees breathe' but not stating why or what.

## Question 10 (b)

The vast majority of candidates were able to respond accurately to this question extracting the answers from the Source.

(b) State **two** ways in which, according to Source B, the National Forest is an example of sustainable development. (2)

1 the project is providing jobs, meaning more people working in the area, which develops the area economically

2 provides habitats for wildlife, meaning species numbers will rise, providing a higher number of animals per species



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate has scored 2 marks in the first answer. The first mark is for providing jobs, the second mark for developing the area economically.

This candidate also has 'provides habitats for wildlife' in the answer, but could only score a maximum of 2 marks.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This question asks for the answers to be obtained from the Source material.

## Question 11

Less well answered responses made reference to the Source only, showing limited knowledge and difficulty in developing the explanations needed for Level 3.

Many candidate responses were based around overfishing, destruction of habitat and hunting as reasons why species become extinct. Candidates often showed concern that it would matter if animals were to become extinct, mainly focussing on the reduction in plants available for medicines and disruption to the food chain. More detailed answers gave examples of how the food chain could be disrupted. Although understanding was demonstrated, answers were generally not well developed and sometimes written in list format.

11 Using Source C and your own knowledge, explain why some species of animals and plants are in danger of extinction and whether it would matter if they were lost.

(6)

Some species of animals and plants are in danger of extinction as they're not cared for in the wild and are unable to adapt to the rising temperature change and global change. The species will be used to living in a certain environment and where other animals and plants may be able to adapt the endangered species will die out/become extinct.

The total area of protected land is also only 12.5% and protected oceans only 1%. This means that any of the animals and species that are unprotected cannot be helped and may become extinct. Luckily at the UN Biodiversity summit in 2010 they ~~are~~ increasing the areas of protect land to 17% and protected ocean to 10% by 2020.

It would matter if these plants and animals were lost as many plants provide compounds needed for healthcare and animals are needed to mate to reproduce and create more and are needed for the food chain. If some of them die out and become extinct then it is likely that the other animals below them in the food chain will too as they will need to find other food sources.

(Total For Question 11 = 6 marks)



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate gives two well developed points with examples, showing evidence of their own knowledge and clear explanations so achieves Level 3, 6 marks.

## Question 12 (a)

The majority of candidates responded well with 'Nimby' like reasons.

12 Using Source D and your own knowledge:

(a) give **two** reasons why some individuals or groups oppose the creation of wind farms.

(2)

1 They don't like how they look and don't want them near their homes as the price of their houses will go down.

2 They could harm wildlife where they are being built or birds flying overhead.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response is an example of 'devalue the price of property' and 'harm birds'.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

This question did not require reference to the Source if two relevant reasons were provided from own knowledge.

## Question 12 (b)

This question was generally well answered with the majority of candidates showing clear understanding of the need to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and increase sustainable/renewable energy. Candidates who did not achieve the full 2 marks on this question tended to re-write sections of the Source without showing understanding of what the question asked, or they gave answers from the same bullet point of the mark scheme ie '1. sustainable 2. renewable', which could not both be credited.

(b) give **two** reasons why some individuals or groups support the creation of wind farms. (2)

1 Because it uses renewable energy resources like wind  
so less fossil fuels have to be used.

2 helps to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> as you don't have to burn coal or  
oil to produce energy.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response is an example of 'reduce dependency on fossil fuels' and 'reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions'.

### Question 13

The majority of candidates were able to extract 3 points from the Source to answer this question - with 'short of drinking water, growing population, climate change and occasional drought conditions' being the most popular.

Some candidates gave responses that showed 'how' the desalination plant would work, rather than 'why' it is needed.

13 Using Source E, give **three** reasons why it was decided to establish a desalination plant in London in 2010. (3)

1 London is often short of drinking water

2 to meet demands of a growing population

3 means London is less affected by drought conditions



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a typical response for this question. Some candidates had all 3 points on one answer, but they could still be credited with full marks.

### Question 14

In their responses to this question the majority of candidates could give an alternative point of view. Most candidates discussed the effect on the environment by stating that less cars would mean less carbon emissions. However they also discussed how problems with public transport would be an argument against congestion charges. Some candidates showed knowledge of 'Local Agenda 21' and linked this to their answers. Candidates who reached the higher levels also discussed how congestion charges could be put towards improving and supporting public transport. Some candidates focussed too much on discussion of London congestion and the Olympics, and others on Nottingham by just rewriting Source material. Only a few candidates used clear evidence in their answers.

14 Do you agree that people should be required to pay a congestion charge if they travel into city centres by car instead of using public transport?

Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered an **alternative point of view**.

(8)

I do agree as it will act as an economic deterrent to stop people using their car for travel. The less cars on the road will make travel faster, whilst also being more beneficial to the environment, as less cars will mean less greenhouse gases being polluted into the environment, hence it <sup>helps</sup> preventing global warming. It will also encourage more use of public transport, so the government will gain more money through it, thus being allowed to improve the public transport or spend it on public services like health care or education that is beneficial to us.

On the other hand this rule will only majorly affect poor people as they cannot pay for it. Rich people can easily afford it and it won't put them off. Also people don't like public transport as it may be slower and in a sometimes hostile environment that is cramped and not pleasant at all. In addition, people travelling from areas of town area may not have a close public transport link, so car is the only way they can travel.

In conclusion I believe people should pay a congestion charge, as it will put off people from driving their cars, thus help stopping global warming. However the rule should be implemented with factors such as income of a person, and how bad the car is to the environment to judge the cost of the congestion charge.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer gives a higher level response and the candidate makes some valid points from the mark scheme including congestion charge being an 'economic deterrent', reducing the use of own cars, reduction of greenhouse gases, leading to greater use of public transport. This candidate is also able to identify the ethical issue of low income earners not being able to afford the congestion charge.

## Question 15

Nearly all candidates could respond at length to this question, but many responses were vague, opinionated and lacking in reasoning and relevant knowledge. Candidates did show understanding of the concept of 'Recycling' but tended to explain all about recycling in their opinion and the consequences in general of not recycling rather than responding to the question. Most responses achieved level 3 or 4 with only a few attaining level 5 and including a reasoned conclusion.

\*15 'The amount of recycling in the UK has been limited because people, councils and businesses are not sufficiently committed.'

Do you agree with this view?

Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered **another point of view**.

(15)

You could consider the following points in your answer and other information of your own:

- Why do some people and councils not support recycling?
- Why do some businesses think that recycling is not worth the effort?
- What are the benefits of recycling waste?
- How do some people, councils and businesses support recycling?

It could definitely be argued that ~~the~~ the above statement is true. For example, many people find that recycling schemes can often be time consuming ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> respect of having to sort their waste, and so lose commitment through a lack of time available to them. Also, apathy can often be a problem, particularly in areas where there is not much information available to local people. This shows a lack of commitment from councils. This apathy is also prevalent with businesses, ~~who~~ who often consider recycling to be too costly to be taken seriously (to be fair, they are trying to <sup>maximise</sup> ~~increase~~ their profit). However, I do not think it is fair to point the finger at every ~~council~~ council, business, or individual. Many local councils ~~are obligated~~ <sup>do have to</sup> try <sup>to</sup> ~~implement~~ <sup>implement</sup> 'Local Agenda 21', a world-wide action plan implemented by the UN at the 1998 ~~summit~~, Rio de

Javiero 'Earth Summit' ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> was designed to encourage local councils to work with local people in order to develop their communities more sustainably; recycling is <sup>a major</sup> part of sustainability. I know that in Kingston Upon Thames, the local authority have set up the 'Eco-stars', made up of young people, to encourage young people to recycle at home, and to act in a sustainable way.

Furthermore, many businesses also try to implement successful recycling plans, and are committed to ensuring they recycle as much of their waste as possible. They understand that recycling waste can often be cheaper - it can even provide a source of income if ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> waste is ~~re-~~ re-used and sold on.

Many individuals ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> support recycling, and valiantly work with their local councils to follow rubbish-separation schemes. Of course, many individuals do not see the point in recycling, possibly due to a lack of available information, and so don't feel committed to following ~~recycling~~ recycling schemes; but local councils who are committed have fines <sup>awaiting</sup> ~~awaiting~~ these ~~people~~ people, to 'encourage' them to get involved.

Of course, problems do arise when local councils feel that the cost of recycling is too much, which can be understood. But it is often a lack

or understanding about the Sustainability and long-term benefits ~~of~~ of recycling which leads to a lack of Council Support or Commitment.

In conclusion, I would say that a lack of Commitment can lead to some limitations in respect of recycling in the UK - ~~some~~ schemes are often costly or difficult for councils or businesses to implement, and time-consuming for people to follow. However, I feel as though many businesses, councils and individuals are committed to recycling, and it is a lack of information, understanding and resources that ~~prevents~~ limits the amount of recycling in the UK.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer includes points for and against in a balanced, reasoned and coherent discussion which shows good knowledge and understanding of issues and/or events, supported by strong evidence and arguments leading to a reasoned conclusion. This response achieved Level 5, 15 marks.

## Paper Summary

Based on the performance on this paper, candidates should:

- consider each question carefully and spend time to ensure a relevant interpretation is made
- where appropriate be more concise eg where the question says give a reason, a relevant sentence will be rewarded equally with a longer and more time consuming paragraph
- in questions that require a longer answer attempt to summarise the discussion and give a simple conclusion
- recognise that source material for some questions will be contextual rather than information providing
- make full use of scaffolding points where appropriate. It is not essential that you use these but they can be very useful in supplying a structure for organising material and can often be a stimulus for developing ideas and arguments

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