

Examiners' Report
June 2016

GCSE Citizenship 5CS03 3A

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Introduction

As in previous years, 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, and this was most obvious in Questions 13 and 15, where a significant number of candidates were able to use precise evidence and good reasoning to access the higher levels.

Overall, the strongest responses demonstrated sound knowledge and understanding and complemented the source material in the data response and short, extended writing questions with relevant and topical 'own knowledge'. The majority of candidates made good use of the time available and left sufficient time to respond to the final 15 mark question, mostly at some length.

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

Question 8

This question clearly asked candidates to identify two types of **government** action that could encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint. A significant number of candidates, however, chose to focus their answers on **individual** action instead, such as 'switching off the lights' or 'walk instead of driving'. Such responses would not be credited as they failed to answer the question as set. There were also a number of unrealistic suggestions on fines and rewards for people who had a big carbon footprint or were able to reduce it - because this is not measurable in a practical way, such responses were not credited.

The strongest responses usually referred to investment in public transport and the raising of motoring taxes or taxes on petrol.

8 Source A describes government action to reduce the country's carbon footprint.

Using your own knowledge, identify **two** types of government action that can encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint.

1. To not use plastic bottles ~~and~~
2. Give your old clothes to charity.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of a response where the candidate has not noticed the word 'government' in the question, and so has given two general actions that can be taken by individuals. Because the response is not focused on government action, no credit can be given and no marks were awarded.



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Examiner Tip

Try underlining or highlighting key words in the question to make sure your answer is fully focused on the demands of that particular question e.g. in this case the words 'government' and 'encourage people' and 'reduce carbon footprint'.

Question 9

Most candidates were able to gain credit on this question, although there was a significant minority who only gained 1 mark. Such candidates frequently gave very basic single word responses such as leaflet or poster. Less able candidates also provided a lot of vague 'contact the government' catch-all responses which clearly were not specific enough to gain the mark and would have needed to add **how** the government could be contacted. Candidates need to be provided with guidance to develop their skills in being specific when answering questions on influencing those in power, to ensure that they are choosing a valid method.

Candidates who gained full marks most often gave responses related to the use of social media, creating or joining a pressure group and writing to the government.

9 State **three** methods an individual could use to persuade a government to adopt environmentally friendly policies.

- 1 They can send a letter to the government in order to persuade them to adopt environmentally friendly policies.
- 2 They could put up leaflets or posters to show environmentally friendly policies. This would help raise awareness.
- 3 They can make a petition and get it signed by many people and then the government.



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This is an example of a response where the candidate clearly understands different methods of campaigning, but is let down by giving too general an answer in point 2. Points 1 and 3 gain credit for 'letter to the government' and 'make a petition', but 'put up leaflets or posters' is not an appropriate individual action to persuade a government, so is not creditable. 2 marks were awarded overall.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure your chosen method of campaigning is appropriate for the person or organisation you are trying to influence. Make this clear in your revision notes before the exam to help you remember that not all methods work for all people or organisations.

Question 10 (a)

This question saw a surprising number of quite vague answers, such as 'to help them' or 'to look good' with little development. Candidates should be reminded of the need to give more precise answers to short-answer questions that are focused on the topic in hand, to ensure they gain credit.

Many candidates made good references to improving relationships with countries given aid or to help countries in times of crisis. Candidates do, however, need to be careful to avoid giving duplicate answers - a number of candidates mentioned two crises in their response - such as 'to help in times of war' and also 'to help after a natural disaster' - such responses would only have gained 1 mark.

This response was awarded 1 mark.

10 (a) Providing international aid helps countries to develop (Source C).

Using your own knowledge, give **two** other reasons why governments give international aid to some countries.

- 1 As the other countries could be victims⁽²⁾ of war and seek the international aid to survive.
- 2 They could be experiencing absolute poverty so they seek the aid to survive as the government may feel that we are responsible for each other.



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The first reason in this response fits bullet point 1 in the mark scheme. The second reason, however, also refers to a type of crisis (absolute poverty) which has already been given credit in point 1 - or could also be implying a need for aid to develop (seek the aid to survive), so therefore gained no mark.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Try to make sure you give two contrasting points when asked to give two reasons to avoid duplicating your answer.

Question 10 (b)

Surprisingly, this question was less well answered than Question 10(a), despite having a similar focus on international aid. Many candidates only gave one point - usually related to wanting to keep the money to spend in our own country first - and many candidates also gave this point twice.

Stronger responses were able to refer to the issue of aid not always going where it was intended, most often focusing on potentially corrupt governments, or to the fact that there are people in the UK in need of aid such as the homeless or those using food banks.

This response was awarded both marks.

(b) Give **two** reasons why some people criticise international aid.

(2)

1. Because countries should tackle issues in their own countries before worrying about the less developed countries.
2. Also, the governments and people in power in less developed countries should aid their people and tackle their own issues in their country rather than relying on international aid.

(Total for Question 10 = 4 marks)



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Examiner Comments

This is a good example of a common response that would gain high marks for giving two valid reasons - look after own country (bullet point 2 in the mark scheme) and less developed country governments should tackle own problems (bullet point 3 in the mark scheme).

Question 11

The vast majority of candidates achieved full marks on this question by making good use of the source to extract two points - 'air pollution' and 'negative impact on health'. A number of candidates were able to go beyond the source material - as indicated by the question as an acceptable answer - and most often they referred to NIMBYism or that the land used for the plant could be put to better use.

A small minority of candidates chose to simply copy sections of the source, presumably hoping they would gain marks almost by accident, but often chose to copy incorrect passages about processing waste to produce electricity. Such responses would not gain any credit as there were no valid points given.

Question 12

This question was focused on how one particular change in a country - improved nutrition - could help a country develop. Many candidates, however, gave quite general answers to do with development rather than considering the impact of improved nutrition, and so were unable to gain credit. Many candidates also simply copied text from Source E which did not help to answer the question.

As with Question 10(a), there were also a number of duplicate answers given, for example, 'children do better at school' and 'children can concentrate better' or 'people will be ill less' and 'people will be healthier with less diseases'.

There were, however, a significant number of strong responses, which most often gave points linked to improved health, better attendance at school and improved life expectancy.

12 Using Source E and your own knowledge, give **three** ways in which improved nutrition could help a country to develop.

1 ~~#~~ Help more than 2,000 rural schools in Niger by 2016.

2 These countries to set up their own school lunch schemes.

3 Also help in local production by using local beans, peas, millet or sorghum.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate has tried to follow the instructions in the question to answer the question using Source E, but they have not tried to also add own knowledge, which was required to be able to gain higher marks on this question. The selection of knowledge from the source used for points 1 and 2 does not accurately answer the question on how improved nutrition can help a country develop, and so the only creditable point is the third one.



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Examiner Tip

Remember that when a question states 'using the source and your own knowledge', then you will be required to add your own knowledge to gain full marks. The source provided will not always give you enough information to gain all the marks available, so unless the question states 'using the source', you should **always** add some of your own knowledge.

12 Using Source E and your own knowledge, give **three** ways in which improved nutrition could help a country to develop.

1 It could make stronger workers.

2 It will improve the life expectancy.

3 It will decrease infant mortality.



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Examiner Comments

This example demonstrates how a candidate can access full marks without using the source at all. This is a valid approach to the question, and unless the question specifies to use the source only, candidates should be strongly encouraged to use their own knowledge as far as possible.

3 marks were awarded in total.

Question 13

In general Question 13 was answered well, with most candidates able to list and describe other types of energy production and how this could impact on the environment. The most successful candidates were able to develop the points they made, instead of giving the list-like answers that were produced by some of the less able candidates. The strongest responses used specific examples of fracking and nuclear energy and their impacts on the local environment. Many candidates were also very confident with the NIMBY approach to environmental issues and used this to support their answers.

A minority of candidates did not reach Level 2 because they gave answers that were too general regarding global warming, and not focused on local problems. Another common error was seen in responses that did not include environmental effects but instead focused on financial problems, or ones that focused on incorrect issues - there were some candidates who did not understand what was meant by energy production, and wrote about the impact of cars and factories in general instead. Such responses would not gain any credit as these are inaccurate responses to the question.

3 Source D describes how one type of renewable energy might result in local environmental problems.

Explain how other types of energy production may cause local environmental problems.

There are other types of energy production, such as wind turbines which help produce energy. However some people may say that it is affecting the beautiful landscapes that people visit. Also, nuclear power stations may also raise concerns for contribute to the local environmental problems, as too many bad chemical gas emissions are being released into the atmosphere. The people living near the nuclear power stations will be affected the most as there will be a lot of noise pollution. Also, it will also, means that power stations will take up lots of land which will mean that habitats will be ruined. Also, deforestation will mean that habitats the habitats for wildlife will get destroyed, this will also mean that the people will not be able to see the beautiful nature in the same places.



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Examiner Comments

This response makes several points related to specific types of energy production and how they may harm the local environment. The range of types of energy production (wind and nuclear power) combined with the clear development of the points made merits a Level 3 award of 6 marks.

13 Source D describes how one type of renewable energy might result in local environmental problems.

Explain how other types of energy production may cause local environmental problems.

There are lots of things that can cause environmental problems such as gas from cars polluting the air and also energy off lights and electricity. These things would not be good for the environment because it would make climate change more quicker and it would cause global warming quicker and that means we are threatening the world by it. It would also cause things like floods and other things.



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Examiner Comments

This is a typical example of some of the very general responses seen about environmental problems rather than one that is directed at energy production. There are no valid points about energy production made, so this gains no credit.



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Examiner Tip

Remember to look at the **cause** of the problems you have been asked to write about - in this case, energy production. This will keep your answer focused on the question and ensure you gain credit.

Question 14

The majority of candidates gave good responses that addressed both sides of the question. Some candidates struggled to give a good explanation as to how individual countries can be effective but found it easier to discuss how international organisations can be effective, most often using the UN as an example.

The strongest responses talked confidently about EU and UN membership and how this can dictate a country's decision to tackle global problems, with some candidates also able to explain how previous conflict or potential conflict in the future may have an impact on this decision.

Candidates who only considered one side of the argument, so only examining international organisations **or** individual countries, were unable to progress beyond Level 2. Candidates should be reminded of the need to give a balanced response considering an alternative point of view to reach the upper levels.

14 Using Source E and your own knowledge, do you agree that an international organisation can be more effective than an individual country in tackling global problems?

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

(8)

I agree as I believe that an international organisation is more effective than an individual country tackling global problems. The reason for this, is because more countries will be getting involved and this would make tackling global problems easier as, not only one country will be having to try and sort out the problems.

Another reason is that, I believe that ~~we are~~ every country should be responsible for the world and that every country should try and help tackle the global problems as, we all live in the world.

On the other hand, someone may think that it is more effective for an individual to tackle global problems as, they may believe that an individual country ~~is~~ tackling global problems would be much easier with less ~~the~~ chaos.

Overall, I believe that anything that will bring peace to the world is acceptable.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response attempts to demonstrate balance, but the reasoning is very limited. The points made about individual countries being more effective do not really make an argument, so making this, in reality, a one-sided and very thin answer that therefore stays in Level 2 with a mark of 3.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

The 8 mark question **always** requires you to give **an alternative point of view**. Try spending a couple of minutes at the start of your answer writing a very brief plan of what you will argue on each side to make sure you give balance and can progress to Level 3 and beyond.

14 Using Source E and your own knowledge, do you agree that an international organisation can be more effective than an individual country in tackling global problems?

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

(8)

I agree with this view because I believe that when more ~~country~~ countries come together to tackle problems in other countries, it is much more likely that it will be more effective because each country can tackle the different problems around the world. Also, by having an international organisation, other countries and governments can donate money to these organisations so that it can help lots of countries and the organisations can aid other countries and get them back together if they have suffered a disaster. For example, when the earthquake in Haiti happened, lots of international organisations provided aid and basic necessities to the country, because Haiti itself could not afford to get the country back on track because it was an LDC country and they didn't have the resources to get their country back to the way it was.

However, some people may disagree with my opinion as they may believe that a country doesn't need to rely upon anybody else to

tackle the problems around the world. Also, countries may believe that they are strong and rich enough to help other countries and aiding them, and to try and tackle global problems. Countries such as China and the USA are very economically developed and they can afford to tackle problems around the world because they have the ability to, and they have the resources to tackle global problems around the world. Lastly, countries may believe that international organisations don't help in tackling global problems and that they are useless at their aim. They may be against international organisations because they may think that they take money from other countries and they spend it on something else other than tackling global problems.



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Examiner Comments

This response makes a range of points covering both sides of the argument, with several pieces of supporting evidence added - thus meriting a Level 4 award of 7 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Remember, giving evidence (examples) is the key to reaching Level 4 marks.

Question 15

It was particularly pleasing to see the majority of candidates demonstrating a good understanding of the problems associated with global warming - most candidates also gave more than one viewpoint, so were able to progress beyond Level 2. Most candidates used the scaffolding to develop their answers, but many were still able to reach Level 4 by ensuring they kept referring back to the question focus on cost.

A number of candidates, however, were unable to develop their answers with relevant evidence related to the issues faced by governments when dealing with the concept of global warming, and so were unable to move beyond Level 3. Candidates should be reminded of the need to include evidence in the extended answer questions to support their arguments. The strongest responses were able to link their arguments to the costs associated with trying to fulfil international treaties such as Kyoto, or reducing carbon emissions. Some excellent Level 5 responses acknowledged the work that the government has started already with regards to renewable energy, 'Boris bikes' and congestion charges. There were a number of such responses, however, that had to be limited to a top Level 4 mark because of the lack of a conclusion - candidates should be reminded that a conclusion is a requirement for Level 5 marks.

*15 'Governments will not tackle global warming if the costs are too high.'

Do you agree with this view?

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

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

- What problems may global warming cause?
- How can governments stop global warming or protect people from it?
- Why might some people believe the costs of tackling global warming are too high?
- Are there good reasons to act now even if the costs are high?

(15)
Global warming poses a serious threat to the future generations of planet earth. Sea levels are rising, natural disasters are more frequent and resources are running out fast. This suggests to me that there is no visible option but to tackle this issue now, no matter ~~the~~ the cost.

However, governments are fighting a losing battle if they wish to make the environment their priority. The first step they must take is to educate people on the severity of the situation. Should they do this effectively, the costs of tackling global warming will be reduced. This is because the difference people can make through reducing their carbon footprint ~~has~~ is huge. This is a difficult task for governments, because there is currently a great deal of apathy surrounding the issue, due to lack of education.

This is why I believe that whether or not government will tackle global warming well enough comes down largely to the response of the overall population to the issue. If protest and campaigns are frequent, governments are likely to make global warming a priority. However, if people continue to vote for policies that appear to value economic prosperity over environmental sustainability, then it is unlikely that the action to prevent further global warming will be sufficient.

← ~~By~~ There are many things that governments can do at a low cost to tackle global warming. MEDCs must ensure that they ~~put~~ only importing resources that are key to their ~~society~~ society. For example, it is not necessary ~~for~~ for the ~~rest~~ British Government to import a range of exotic fruits from the other side of the world, as the British population already has access to all the ~~parts~~ types of food that they need. Saving money in these sort of situations will counteract the high cost of introducing renewable energy resources worldwide, which is key to fighting global warming.

There are many reasons why people may believe tackling the cost of global warming are too high, even if they are aware of the risks ~~to~~ it poses to future generations. For example, should someone ~~be~~

living in poverty in an LEDC, they will probably feel that development is the most important thing for their government should be focussing on, as that will reduce poverty and give people access to services.

Furthermore, large corporations such as Shell or BP know that an upsurge in renewable energy, which is key to fighting global warming, would damage the value of their companies. Therefore, people working at these sort of companies may be more concerned about their economic prospects than the future of the environment.

Overall, I believe that for the time being, most governments will not invest enough into environmentally friendly schemes, or introduce radical enough policies, to make a ~~substantial~~ substantial change to the planet global warming. A major reason for this is the need for development in many countries, as well as the greed of major business in MEDCs, especially when businesses rely on processes that are not environmentally friendly.



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Examiner Comments

This response gives a very clear and direct response to the question. There is a balance to the response, looking at both points of view, with precise evidence added to support the arguments made, and it comes to a conclusion with a clear, supported judgement.

This is a strong Level 5 response which scored 15 marks.

Paper Summary

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

- Spend time to ensure each question is given sufficient consideration to ensure a relevant interpretation is made
- Be careful to give two distinct answers where the question specifies the need for two or more points
- Pay close attention to **emboldened** words as they will give clues to the direction your response should take
- Where appropriate, be more concise, e.g. where the question says 'give a reason' a relevant sentence will be rewarded equally with a longer and more time consuming paragraph
- In narrative type questions/answers, 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 experience suggests that 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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