

Examiners' Report

June 2012

GCSE Citizenship 5CS03 3B

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Publications Code UG031915

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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

This question is very clear about asking for an identification and description of an ethical reason why the gap between the richest and poorest is socially unacceptable. The majority of candidates could identify an ethical reason, but found the description difficult.

8 Identify and describe **one** ethical reason why the growing gap between Britain's richest and poorest (Source A) is socially unacceptable. (2)

Identify

It's against equality

Describe

Because it is unfair that some people have more money than needed when others have barely enough to survive. ~~the~~ people should be at equal.

(Total for Question 8 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a clear response. The answer to 'identify' comes from Bullet Point 3 in the mark scheme while the 'describe' is from Bullet Point 5 in the mark scheme. The response clearly supports the identification.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

You could only get a mark for the 'describe' if the 'identify' is correct.

Question 9

The majority of candidates were able to extract information from the Source and turn it around, with the most common responses being 'pay men and women equally' and 'stop discrimination against certain groups'. Candidates giving extended answers could name the groups ie disabled, age.

Those candidates who gave strong answers made effective use of their own knowledge to make suggestions such as 'tax the rich more', or 'tax the poor less', or 'increase the minimum wage'.

9 Using Source A and your own knowledge, state **three** ways in which Britain could become a more equal society.

(3)

- 1 Give poor people an education, so that they are able to get better payed jobs.
- 2 give women equal pay.
- 3 Increase tax on richer people ~~that~~ and give more benefits to poorer people



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Examiner Comments

In this response the three ways given relate to the mark scheme as follows:

Answer 1 - Bullet Point 6 'more equal educational opportunities'

Answer 2 - Bullet Point 1 'if men and women received the same pay'

Answer 3 - Bullet Point 7 'heavier taxes on the wealthy'

Question 10 (a)

The majority of candidates were able to secure a mark on this question with the most popular responses being 'he turned his life around' and 'he inspired youths out of a cycle of crime and unemployment'. Most candidates were successful in extracting the information from the Source material.

Question 10 (b)

The majority of candidates were able to quote answers from the Source material of those who regarded Nathan as a role model.

(b) By whom may Nathan James be regarded as a role model, as suggested in Source B? (1)

He has inspired youths out of the cycle of unemployment and crime.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of an answer that has been obtained from the Source material.

Question 11

Some candidates, rather than focusing on the information given in Source B, often used their own knowledge, which was not required for this question, and presented non-relevant suggestions. Those candidates who identified key ideas in the Source such as developing careers, celebrating success, getting out of crime and unemployment and recognising personal qualities, were able to secure 2 or 3 marks for their answers to this question.

11 State **three** ways in which the Prince's Trust and Pride of Britain Awards, mentioned in Source B, contribute to Citizenship.

(3)

1 It helps young people to develop careers for the future so less youths are left unemployed

2 It also rewards young people and celebrates their success when they show loyalty, talent skill or bravery.

3 It helps to stop youth committing crime too and keeps them off the streets causing trouble.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate makes clear reference to the Source material.



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Examiner Tip

In the exam, read the Source material carefully; it is there to help you with your answers.

Question 12

Weaker answers to this question confused China with Burma or simply extracted information from the Source without connecting it to 'similarities and differences' between elections in Burma and the UK.

There were however a significant number of strong responses that used the specific limitations and constraints of the Burma electoral process, such as the restrictions placed on parties and party leaders in Burma and contrasted them with the democratic process in the UK. Those answers that also gave examples of the similarities between Burma and the UK, such as the opportunity to vote for a party in an election and produced some evaluative comments on the health of the democratic systems in each country, secured a high mark.

12 Using Source C and your own knowledge, outline the similarities and differences between elections in the United Kingdom and Burma.

(6)

A similarity between elections in the UK and Burma are that in both countries, The parties have to win seats in their parliament in ~~order~~^{order} to win the election. However, there are also many differences between UK elections and Burma elections. Firstly, in the UK, there are no restrictions placed on opposition parties - it is a democracy where people are entitled to a fair election. Secondly, all parties are allowed to contest in the election - unlike Aung San Suu Kyi's party in Burma. Additionally, a major difference between elections in these two parties would be that, if a party was to win the election, ^(in the UK) then they are allowed to take power and put their ideas into practice - ~~unlike~~ whereas in Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi was not ever allowed to take power, despite fairly winning. Overall, I would say that there are many more differences between elections in the UK and Burma than there are similarities.

(2 = 6 marks)

ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an answer that has well developed points, showing clear similarities and differences, supported by simple but acceptable examples with clear explanations.

The answer covers many of the points in the mark scheme, the candidate clearly understands the UK election process and one in a country that has restrictions on it. 6 marks were awarded for this answer.

ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure you read the question carefully. Many candidates referred to China and not Burma as the question asked.

Question 13 (a)

There were many good responses to this question with a clear recognition by most candidates that Prince William is not allowed to fight in Afghanistan for fear of endangering his fellow fighting colleagues, and himself, as a targeted member of the Royal family.

13 (a) Using evidence from Source D and your own knowledge, identify **two** reasons why Prince William is not allowed to fight in Afghanistan.

(2)

1 He will put other soldiers at risk as he is a major liability and could be targeted by enemies.

2 He makes it easier for the enemy to capture a high profile member of the royal family and if captured could be held for ransom and puts his security at risk.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example where the candidate has been able to identify two clear reasons from the mark scheme (Bullet Points 3 and 1).

Question 13 (b)

Many candidates were able to gain 2 marks for their answers to this question. Popular responses mentioned the wearing of and/or buying poppies, holding minute silences and participating in remembrance services.

(b) Using your own knowledge, state **two** ways in which British people show respect towards the bravery of men and women in the armed forces. (2)

1 donate money to war charities such as 'help the heroes' which helps those in the armed forces themselves as well as their families.

2 wear poppies or lay wreaths as a sign of respect during key events such as remembrance day.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response was able to state two ways from the mark scheme, Bullet Point 2 'support charities such as 'Help for Heroes' and Bullet Point 5 'wearing poppies'.

Question 14

Most candidates recognised the need to refer to both points of view in relation to the assertion of the Big Society community action in the Source. Many responses cited multiculturalism which was not the intention of the question.

Strong answers used the examples given in the Source to present arguments in support of Big Society actions citing social cohesion, local participation, and local control as distinctive advantages. Such answers often then went on to raise questions about the potential lack of numbers and skills of Big Society volunteers as distinctive disadvantages. A number of very perceptive answers used strong 'own knowledge' to put the Big Society idea into a political context recognising it as a David Cameron idea.

14 The 'Big Society' involves volunteering and organising local services by local people.

Using evidence from Source E and your own knowledge, do you agree that the 'Big Society' is a good idea?

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

(8)

By allowing communities to do things for themselves, certain groups of people within the community will benefit more than others e.g. "a group of mothers who had built a playground", only families will benefit from this action, as only people who use public transport will benefit from "volunteers who run the Fellrunner bus service". By the government and local governments deciding on any actions or changes done to the community, it can be ensured that the money that needs to be put in to make these actions/changes is spread across all different sections of the community so that everyone can benefit. On the other hand, projects like the 'Big Society' encourage members of a community to work together and get more involved within local politics if other local MPs like Rory Stewart get involved.

In conclusion, I think that as long as these projects are overlooked and distributed across the community so that everyone can benefit, then the 'Big Society' is a good idea but, if it isn't controlled and some members of a community do not benefit, then it will have a negative impact on the community.



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Examiner Comments

This answer addresses both sides of the argument and uses examples and evidence from the Source to demonstrate a sound level of understanding and knowledge of the issue. It is well expressed and effectively balanced with a perceptive conclusion and was awarded Level 4, 8 marks.

Question 15

The best answers to this question established a strong foundation at the outset by defining the terms in the question. Having accurately defined a multicultural society and referred to diversity and newcomers to the UK, such answers also addressed the claim that the UK is a 'genuine' multicultural society. This was achieved by providing evidence, arguments and discussion relating to support for, and opposition to the claim. While relevant personal views and examples were included in these strong answers, they were often complemented with references to the experience of different locations in the UK such as the contrasting cities of London, Leicester, Oldham and Bradford.

References to the impact of language and culture, the impact of legislation and political parties (such as the BNP) and the impact of the Media on perceptions and attitudes were often discussed.

Strong answers tended to produce a balanced discussion that led to a reasoned conclusion with an attempt to weigh up the evidence and come to a view as to the genuineness of the multicultural society in the UK.

Weaker answers were unable to go beyond a fairly basic expression of opinion and were unable to provide either substantial evidence or examples to support this opinion.

*15 'The UK is a genuinely multicultural society which welcomes diversity and newcomers.'

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:

- What are the main features of a multicultural society?
- Do groups share their culture with others in the UK or keep their lifestyles separate?
- Do factors such as food, religion, music, language and dress bring people together or keep them apart?
- On what grounds might it be said that some people and groups do not welcome diversity and newcomers in the UK?

Some may disagree with this statement. This is because in areas such as Bradford, there is a lot of division between cultures due to people of different ethnicities being housed in different areas. This means that there is a lot of tension and discrimination towards those that have a different identity.

In addition, right wing newspapers such as the 'Daily Mail' promote intolerance of multiculturalism and the arrival of newcomers. As this media outlet is very popular, it has a huge influence over the people of the UK. Consequently, a lot of people are prejudiced against immigrants and do not welcome diversity into the country.

Furthermore, many of the 2.62 million unemployed are wary of newcomers as they see them as added competition when looking for jobs. Plus, some assume that immigrants are only coming to Britain to take advantage of our welfare state. This is due to the fact that 20% of council housing is taken up by immigrants. This may cause resentment over newcomers as it could be viewed

as unfair that they are benefiting from something that everyone else has contributed to throughout their working lives.

The media also causes resentment over newcomers by getting legal immigrants confused with illegal immigrants. For example, one headline of the 'Sun' once said that illegal immigrants are taking up a lot of council housing. Yet this is untrue as illegal immigrants can't get council housing. Consequently, people are getting angry over multiculturalism through misinformation.

Yet some may agree with this statement. The 'Notting Hill Carnival' celebrates diversity on an annual basis. From this, it could be argued that Britain is in favour of multiculturalism.

It could also be said that we are a multicultural society as we have adopted aspects of many different cultures. This is due to the fact that Indian cuisine is a favourite of the British and we have even adopted some of the language of other ethnicities. This has been done by putting many Jamaican phrases into our own slang.

Furthermore, even though there are many areas that aren't tolerant of multiculturalism, there are many areas that are. For example, London is a diverse city with lots of integration because people of different cultures are forced to live and work side by side.

Moreover, the government is encouraging people to welcome diversity by educating young people through subjects such as citizenship and religious studies. This may stop racist families passing on their views to the next generation. The government ^{has} also encouraged people to accept diversity through the 2010 equality act. This means that it is illegal to discriminate anyone on the grounds of ethnicity, belief etc.

In conclusion, I agree with the statement because Britain celebrates multiculturalism through festivals such as the 'Notting Hill Carnival'. Plus, we have adopted the food and language of many other countries. Furthermore, our society has shunned discrimination through the introduction of the equality act.



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Examiner Comments

This is a well balanced, reasoned approach showing points for and against with good knowledge and understanding of the issues and events, supported by strong evidence such as the Notting Hill Carnival. The candidate balances this with the issue of unemployment, strain on public services, the importance of education and the influence of the media. This response was awarded Level 5, 14 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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Order Code UG031915 June 2012

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