



Examiners' Report

June 2024

Int GCSE Global Citizenship 4GL1 01

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Introduction

The exam was taken by around 1,300 candidates, representing an increase of around one-third since 2023.

Candidates continued to provide evidence of well-focused community action projects and often a strong commitment to social and environmental justice.

There was little to no evidence of candidates running out of time. A large proportion of the cohort produced substantial answers to questions 11, 21 and 22(b) without apparent difficulty.

Many candidates made sustained and detailed use of contemporary events such as the war in Ukraine, social movements such as Black Lives Matter, and the climate emergency. This reflects well on high quality teaching and learning that is focused appropriately on key 21st century challenges and opportunities for global citizenship.

Question 1

Many candidates provided a clear account of their community action project spread throughout the four question sub-items. None of the sub-items created difficulties for candidates in terms of question interpretation. There was evidence however of the varying extent to which candidates had been properly prepared for some of the written tasks. Some candidates had a far more secure understanding of the difference between primary and secondary data, for example. They were more likely to focus their answer in part (c) on creating impact, rather than simply carrying out the activity. In summary, the strengths and weaknesses of candidates across the four sub-items were as follows.

- 1a At the upper end, candidates provided detailed reasons clearly linked to pressing social or environmental justice concerns, usually substantiated with selectively chosen evidence. At the lower end, candidates were more likely to assert that a particular issue such as climate change is a problem that needs fixing.
- 1b At the upper end, candidates provided details of valid primary research methods. Typically, these consisted of surveys carried out with the public or fellow students, and depth interviews with professionals or teachers at their college. Some candidates included details of the sample size and the number of people they asked questions to. At the upper end, candidates provided good details of where the research was carried out and why. Full credit was allowed for candidates whose research was carried out on the school grounds, provided they could explain whereabouts on the school premises they carried out their questionnaires, or which year groups and classrooms they visited. At the lower end, candidates either did not know what primary research is or provided short and generalised answers.
- 1c At the upper end, candidates focused on the impact of their action, and the steps they had taken to maximise emotional or visual impact on their audience. At the lower end, candidates listed the two actions they undertook, for example the production of a poster, with no explanation of how they tried to increase its impact.
- 1d Most candidates were able to securely attain a middle-band mark by explaining in general terms the importance of planning and knowing what other people are thinking. Answers reaching the top band tended to provide more specific details that applied directly to their own experience, as opposed to generic reasons about why planning and listening to other people are always important.

Question 8 (a)

The majority of candidates were able to analyse and interpret the source in order to provide two reasons for the recent fall in the number of fully democratic countries. Most answers were focused on a rise in military takeovers, alongside widespread popular support from citizens. Candidates scoring full marks were more likely to make additional use of contemporary case studies or citizenship concepts in support of their answers. Some of the best answers seen noted that several countries holding democratic elections are no longer in practise democracies because of the way elected leaders have held on to power and stifled opposition. They are therefore no longer 'fully' democratic. Such detailed attention to the wording of the question was laudable.

Read Source A and answer question 8.

8 (a) Using Source A and your own knowledge, explain **two** reasons for the recent fall in the number of fully democratic countries.

(4)

1 The army is taking over the governments because they think the democracy is not achieving the goals they say they were going to reach. Many citizens support that argument therefore there's more democracies falling.

2 Some presidents of countries finish having too much power that they end ~~becoming~~ ^{being} dictatorship. So there's less opposition because they have a lot of power and any who opposed them could be killed. Therefore some democracies are falling and turning dictators.



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Examiner Comments

This answer provides a good blend of source analysis and the candidate's own understanding of political systems and contemporary issues.

Read Source A and answer question 8.

8 (a) Using Source A and your own knowledge, explain **two** reasons for the recent fall in the number of fully democratic countries.

(4)

1 Several military takeovers have happened in Sub-Saharan African countries recently. Examples include Sudan, Chad, Mali and Guinea.

2 Democracy and elections have failed to deliver promised economic improvements.



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Examiner Comments

This answer correctly identifies two reasons appearing in Source A but does not develop the answers further using learned knowledge and understanding.

Question 8 (b)

The wording of the question allowed credit to be given to the simple statement that citizens may 'lose their rights' as a result of some instances of autocratic rule. To score both marks, candidates were required to further develop this answer for example by explaining that citizens may lose the right to vote in elections. Further marks were not awarded for naming an example, such as North Korea. Thus, the statement 'people have fewer rights because of autocratic rule, for example in North Korea' is only worth one mark because it does not *explain* the impact on citizens.

(b) Using your own knowledge, explain **one** impact of autocratic rule on the rights or freedoms of the citizens of a country.

(2)

The autocratic rule abolishes the rights of the population as it's a regime in which a person has to obey a per the people to the leader, without asking for anyone's opinion. This shows how it restricts the rights of humans as they don't have freedom of speech.

(Total for Question 8 = 6 marks)



This response gained full marks using a specific example of human rights and explaining the implications of autocratic rule.

Question 9

At the upper end, candidates provided 2 detailed reasons for the spread of Western culture. Popular choices included the power and influence of transnational corporations especially those in the media sector such as Disney, Microsoft and Netflix. Many candidates provided a clear explanation of the historical dominance of Western culture as a direct result of colonialism and enforced cultural change on the global South. At the lower end of the mark range, candidates were more likely to provide simple statements with little or no emphasis on the spread of Western ideas as opposed to culture in general.

Read Source B and answer question 9.

9 Using your own knowledge, explain **two** reasons for the global spread of Western culture.

(4)

- 1 There have been more Western companies which have set up restaurants and shops all around the world. For example, McDonalds is an American fast food chain which can be found all over the world in places like China or Saudi Arabia. This has changed their diets by replacing them with a less healthy alternative that comes from the West.
- 2 Due to the growth of technology, English has become a more common language which has been increasingly used online. For example, on TikTok, most comments are in English as it is easier to communicate using it. This is part of the Western culture and has been due to social media users and creators using English as the mainstream language.



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Examiner Comments

Scoring full marks, this answer provides 2 detailed reasons for the spread of Western culture. There is evidence of strong learning and teaching of this topic.

Question 10 (a)

The mark scheme shows the answers that were accepted, such as rising costs of health care.

Question 10 (b)

This question required candidates to use their own knowledge. Therefore, no credit for extended source analysis was given.

(b) Using your own knowledge, explain **one** reason for increased longevity.

(2)

more medical and technological advances are made, which can help cure diseases that originally killed patients, such as vaccines for the chicken-pox.



In this example, the candidate uses their own detailed knowledge of medical and health improvements that contribute to increased longevity.

(b) Using your own knowledge, explain **one** reason for increased longevity.

(2)

Anti-ageing science, funded by Jeff Bezos
allows new medical technologies such as
gene-therapy, increasing life expectancy



In this example, the candidate is awarded 1 mark for the general understanding that improved health care is a reason for increased longevity. However, the point has been developed using material taken directly from the source, whereas the question directed candidates to use their own knowledge instead

Question 10 (c)

This was a relatively challenging question that asked candidates to apply their own knowledge to the source material dealing with extreme longevity. The question provided an opportunity for candidates to apply ideas surrounding cultural change and conflict to a scenario where a population is ageing and older people are holding onto power and influence. The best answers suggested a clear developed impact as shown in the example below.

(c) Using Source C and your own knowledge, suggest **one** possible impact of 'extreme longevity' on a country's **culture**.

(2)

Culture might stay the same, and will probably have less change. As people live longer, the new customs of young people might be suppressed by an older longer-living generation that refuses to change the country's culture and customs.



This response was awarded two marks. The candidate clearly understands what the source is showing, namely that older people may be holding on to power and influence for longer than in the past. The candidate has developed this point, using their own understanding of cultural change, to create a credible answer suggesting that traditional cultural values may be less likely to change as a result.

Question 11

This question followed logically from the three sources candidates had been shown. The statement was phrased simply enough for lower ability candidates to frame a simple but effective debate. At the lower end, candidates stated that governments have 'all the power' over citizens' lives but the internet 'can cause change too'. Typically, such statements were generalised and contained little development beyond two or three sentences of writing. In contrast, answers at the top end were typically one or even two pages long. Candidates provided detailed, structured analysis of different ways in which political change can impact on the lives of citizens, for example through changes in taxation, human rights laws, or even military conscription in the case of Ukraine. In their counterargument, high-scoring candidates provided a structured explanation of global cultural changes by, for example, debating changes in diet, language and the spread of progressive ideas. Candidates referenced liberal movements such as Black Lives Matter in recent years.

11 'National political changes have a far greater impact on the lives of citizens than the spread of global culture does.'

Provide reasoned arguments to support and oppose this statement.

(9)

National political changes have a ~~far~~ greater impact on the lives of citizens as a change in political parties might affect the economic system. For example, Alberto Fernández, Argentina's ex-president managed to increase inflation by over 1000% in just 4 years, decreasing drastically the HDI of the country as the GNI per capita decreased. Governments also have the power to pass laws which might have big impacts on the life of citizens. Changes in the government might result in law changes which would affect a citizen's life. Furthermore, national political changes can lead to increased investment on healthcare, education and infrastructure which would improve living standards, having a great impact.

Nevertheless, the spread of global culture might have a greater impact on the lives of citizens than national political changes. EU programmes such as Erasmus, which increases multiculturalism and diversity across European Universities might improve the lives of citizens as it might enhance learning, therefore improving education. The rapid growth of diaspora in foreign countries such as Chinatowns in New York also changes the lives of citizens as it might make people shift from eating "western junk food" to eating healthy Chinese one. The spread of global culture might not affect infrastructure directly, but certainly can increase the number of workers which might help promote economic growth in the ~~countries~~ countries with a wide range of cultures. An example would be Saudi Arabia, where over than 60% of the

population is migrant and its economy increased drastically over the last years due to migrant workers.



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Examiner Comments

The following answer scored a high mark in the top band. A balanced and detailed account is given of both sides of the argument.

The mark scheme shows all answers that were credited. High-scoring candidates were typically able to name a valid organisation.

11 'National political changes have a far greater impact on the lives of citizens than the spread of global culture does.'

Provide reasoned arguments to support and oppose this statement.

(9)

Political changes might have a greater impact as they affect people's life in multiple ways while the spread of global cultures have impact in their knowledge.

National

~~As~~ National political changes have an impact as it will affect the way of living for people for example changing the year a president can be in charge of the country can affect how the country work.

But the spreading of global culture also have an impact e for example spreading information about Afghanistan and how woman there had less rights and were forced to drop out of school. ~~to~~ spreading this culture affected lives of citizens as they wanted to show support for the country and the women that lost their right. Although it had a greater impact on people from ~~to~~ whose culture is being spread globally.



The following answer scored a middle-band mark. The content is relatively generalised and ideas are not supported with evidence. That is however a balance between the two arguments and a clear focus is sustained throughout. With the inclusion of more evidence or citizenship concepts and ideas, this candidate would have reached the top band.

Question 18 (b)

Since this question was originally written, ChatGPT has become a feature of many students' lives. As a result, some candidates provided credible answers based upon their own experience of using artificial intelligence as part of their studies. The source also provided information that could be used in the answer.

(b) Using Source D and your own knowledge, explain **two** benefits associated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

★ This reduces child infant or immortality rates. (4)

- 1 A benefit of artificial intelligence is that it helps ~~expand develop small business~~. Artificial intel people to access healthcare remotely. This allows people to prevent any diseases and makes them have great communication between the patient and worker ~~to~~ through language translation. fools. ★
- 2 It provides remote-learning opportunities, allowing ~~the~~ children in poverty or girls, especially in countries like India or Pakistan, to gain access to know ledge, broadening their lifestyle future opportunities, ~~th~~ that can advance the country's economy, and HDI.



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Examiner Comments

In the following example, the candidate has used source material and added their own knowledge to create a response that is deserving of full marks.

Question 19 (a)

For the award of 2 marks, candidates were expected to develop their response using specific citizenship knowledge or ideas. Only 1 mark was awarded for the simple logical connection that 'lack of education and skills may result in people earning less money therefore a country's income does not grow'. Nothing is done in such an answer to extend the basic idea that skills equate with wealth. Higher-scoring responses were more likely to be specific about the education and skills that may help countries to 'take off' economically, for example larger numbers of university graduates. Some candidates explained how education can help a developing country transition away from agriculture towards higher income occupations in industry and the service sector.

Read Source E and answer question 19.

19 (a) Based on your own knowledge, explain **one** way in which education disparities could affect the economic growth of low-income countries.

(2)

People are less educated, as don't have access to an education, this will affect negatively the economic growth of low-income countries as people don't have enough ^{learned} skills to work and increase level of income, no economic growth.



This answer only scored 1 mark because there is no creditable development beyond the simple link that education and skills may lead to a greater income for people and countries.

Read Source E and answer question 19.

19 (a) Based on your own knowledge, explain **one** way in which education disparities could affect the economic growth of low-income countries.

(2)

Because if there is more education, more young people will be able to ~~be~~ prepare themselves ^{higher-income} for jobs with qualifications. Or if they decide to leave the country to work in a higher paying country, then they would send back remittances which they wouldn't be able to get if it weren't for their education.



This answer scored 2 marks because there is a creditable development beyond the simple link between skills and money.

Question 19 (b)

At the upper end of the mark range, high-scoring candidates explained that the SDGs can be used by governments to set targets, or by third parties including charities and businesses who want to identify issues or countries they can support. At the lower end, candidates showed weaker understanding of governance. They stated that 'the sustainable development goals will provide the money needed to end hunger and improve the position of women in society.' This represents a misunderstanding of what the SDGs are, and their wider relationship to the work of the United Nations and its agencies.

(b) Based on your own knowledge, explain how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can help countries to end hunger and achieve gender equality.

(4)

End hunger

SDG 2 targets hunger. ~~over the countries~~
the SDG's could help end hunger by suggesting opening soup kitchens, or by sending food that has been donated to countries that need it.

Achieve gender equality

SDG 5 targets gender equality. the SDG's could help countries achieve gender equality by offering more female job offers in positions of power, such as in Spain's "congreso de los diputados"

(Total for Question 19 = 6 marks)



The following answer scored full marks. The candidate shows secure understanding of how the SDGs play a role in global development processes, along with other stakeholders and agencies.

Question 20

At the upper end of the mark range, high scoring candidates showed secure understanding of the circular economy concept. Their answers made explicit reference to the circular reuse of components and materials as part of intelligently designed products. The best answers understood key limitations such as the fact that not all components can be reused or recycled due to their chemical or physical composition. There are also cost implications especially for businesses in contexts where there is inadequate support to help them transition from current modes of production to more sustainable ones. At the lower end of the mark range, candidates produced a generic answer that would equally suit a question asking what the strengths and limitations of recycling are. While such answers were creditable, they were unlikely to reach full marks without showing an explicit understanding of what the circular economy represents.

Read Source F and answer question 20.

20 Based on Source F and your own knowledge, explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of the circular economy idea.

(4)

Strength

Materials are used over and over again as they are recycled meaning that less pollution is put into oceans and landfills to affect wildlife and biodiversity.

Limitation

Not all materials can be recycled and used again, like some plastics, defeating the idea of circular economy and they'll just be added to ocean pollution or landfills, harming wildlife and reducing biodiversity.



The following answer scored full marks. It shows secure understanding of the circular economy concept.

Read Source F and answer question 20.

20 Based on Source F and your own knowledge, explain **one** strength and **one** limitation of the circular economy idea.

(4)

Strength

There would be less plastic waste, meaning less of an impact on ecosystems.

Limitation

Less money being spent on plastic, ~~an~~ which means the destruction of a large industry.



The following answer scored two marks. The candidate has identified a basic strength and limitation of recycling schemes in general as opposed to the more specific circular economy idea.

Question 21

Most candidates produced a coherent answer that addressed both sides of the statement. At the lower end, comments were typically short and generalised. Candidates asserted that social media is 'a great way to spread messages now that everyone has a phone'. Whereas at the top end of the marking range, candidates provided specific evidence of campaigning around development challenges and issues that have been successfully carried out using social media, for example raising awareness of LGBTQ+ issues or democratic campaigning – many candidates referenced the events of the Arab Spring from the previous decade for example. The best answers recognised that although sharing via social media is an easy way to spread information, it is not always the most effective way of provoking change (there is still a place for old fashioned campaigning and protesting in the real world).

- 21 'The easiest way to tackle global development challenges is to use social media to raise awareness of the issues.'

Provide reasoned arguments to support and oppose this statement.

(9)

The easiest way to tackle global development challenges is to use social media as celebrities can post information about global development challenges, and many people who follow them, can see it and be aware of it. For example, Angelina Jolie is a celebrity that posts many information about climate change, gender inequalities... Also, as countries become more develop, people can have more access to social media and more people are aware about global development challenges. For example, in China, more than half the population owns a smartphone. Finally, to use social media is the easiest way as there's no need to travel to another country to tell people. You can post the challenges on social media and many people sees it.

On the

From another point of view, in developing countries, like India, not many people can afford a smartphone, so most of the population won't be conscient about the situation, and they're the ones who need to be more informed as their key aim is to develop. Moreover, global development

challenges might be different in one country than in another. For example, for China, a challenge is to produce goods sustainably, but for low-developed countries like Mali, their problem might be to not have infrastructure to develop.



The following answer scored a top-band mark – the answer is well balanced and detailed. The candidate uses citizenship concepts, ideas and evidence throughout.

21 'The easiest way to tackle global development challenges is to use social media to raise awareness of the issues.'

Provide reasoned arguments to support and oppose this statement.

(9)

There are arguments for and against this statement that are both reasonable.

Firstly, I support this statement because I believe that the easiest way to tackle global development challenges is by raising ~~awareness~~ awareness of these issues. Social media is a great way of raising awareness because it can be spread to a large number of users quickly by and they can hire famous celebrities to promote and furthermore raise awareness which will cause more people to be more aware and will ~~use~~ grab the attention of political figures who can then try to implement ~~new~~ new laws which can eliminate these issues.

However, I also oppose this statement because many people on social media will not take these issues seriously and will ignore it. This is because of a lack of information and that can be fixed by ~~going~~ going out in public as groups and convincing others to raise awareness by ~~showing~~ showing us how important this problem is with factual information. ~~with~~

In conclusion, I ~~believe~~ support this statement because through social media can reach a large scale of people and it can be supported using famous figures.



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Examiner Comments

The following answer scored a middle-band mark. The answer is more generalised and would have benefited from evidence-based argument.

Question 22 (a)

A significant number of candidates were unable to answer question 22(a) which focused on the global Commons. Given the relatively high tariff of 5 marks this will have impacted on their overall result. Candidates should be reminded that they do need to be familiar with all key terminology in the specification. Inability to access a particular question may result in four or five marks being lost which may impact on the final grade awarded.

22 (a) Explain what is meant by the Global Commons.

(5)

Global Commons are resources that don't belong to certain people, organisations or countries. Global Commons can be accessed by anyone who has the permission. For example, oceans don't belong to countries (however coasts do), Antarctica doesn't belong to anybody. Because of the fact that they don't belong to anybody it is global responsibility to protect global commons and solve problems related to them.



This response was awarded full marks.

Question 22 (b)

Given its focus on climate change, this was a response which provoked strong arguments and critical thinking from middle and higher ability candidates. The best answers were extremely detailed and included a range of evidence for global governance, such as the Paris Agreement, net-zero targets and carbon trading schemes. High scoring answers were usually well balanced, with candidates counterarguing that climate change will also be stopped by actions taken at the national, city-region or citizen scale. Many candidates drew on examples from their own country in support of their answers.

(b) 'Climate change will only be stopped by the introduction of stronger international laws.'

How far do you agree with this view?

- Consider how this statement might apply to your own and other countries.
- Use evidence from different Global Citizenship contexts to help support your argument.
- Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered different points of view.

(15)

Climate change is an extremely important environmental issue that is causing harsh effects on our planet, such as desertification, health problems and rise of sea levels. It is a global debate whether ^{all} countries should be forced by international law to create policies to mitigate the effects or if each country should have the freedom and responsibility to decide their own methods to do so.

One point of view is that international law should have a global ~~of~~ responsibility to reduce climate change. ~~The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)~~ ~~has~~ ~~claimed~~ IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has claimed that they are 95% sure that global warming is caused by humans. Therefore, a global effort must be made to stop climate change, as some countries are not willing to take responsibility on this impact. For example, some ~~emerging~~ emerging economies refer to be more environmentally friendly because they are still undergoing industrialisation,

which creates a large amount of greenhouse gases and therefore enhances the effects of climate change. Adapting to sustainable restrictions would mean a slower industrialisation rate, and therefore a slower development. ~~countries that are now developed and~~ ~~fully industrialised did so with no restrictions.~~ For example, China has not attended to global climate change meetings, as they refuse to accept their policies. This is why a global effort should be made to enforce actions, as the impacts of global warming affect all ^{countries}. The Kyoto protocol of 1997 aimed to reduce emissions in only developed countries. Later on, the Paris agreement of 2016 was the first legally binding event to reduce climate change. These actions are necessary to control and track the effects of countries on the planet.

Another point of view is that international cooperation is not the most effective method to reduce climate change effects. For example, NGOs such as Greenpeace raise ~~awareness~~ a larger awareness than international law-making organisations. Through the use of social media, such as YouTube and TikTok, there is a larger ^{audience} ~~audience~~ which receives the inspirational message to take small steps to reverse climate change. Another example of social media such as Reddit can also raise national and international awareness. For example,

a global conversation on climate change started after former US president Donald Trump claimed that global warming was a hoax. Finally, national policies also have a huge effect on ways to slow global warming. For example, in my country, Italy, ~~however~~ the government has introduced an ^{economic} incentive for people to use solar panels. This ~~in~~ makes people more likely to do so as it makes the installment of them cheaper. This reduces global warming as renewable energy sources do not produce greenhouse gases, while other forms of electricity do. If less people use non-renewable forms of generating electricity (e.g. fossil fuels) then there will be less greenhouse gases produced nationally.

In conclusion, I believe that each country should individually aim to take most responsibility on reducing climate change. However, international law must be used to ~~enforce~~ enforce certain aspects, such as the participation of emerging economies in this global effort. Ultimately, I believe that individual country policies and NDCs have a larger influence and significant effects than international law, as they raise more awareness and have more specific, personalised ideas for each country / audience targeted. Both must be used, but in my opinion national strategies are more important than international laws.



This candidate reached the top band. This is a sustained response that meets all the assessment objectives well. Evidence and argument are used extremely well throughout.

Paper Summary

A significant number of candidates were unable to answer question 22(a) which focused on the Global Commons. Given the relatively high tariff of 5 marks, this will have impacted on their overall result. Candidates should be reminded that they do need to be familiar with all key terminology in the specification. Inability to access a particular question may result in 4 or 5 marks being lost which may impact on the final grade awarded

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of understanding and recognising all of the key terminology used in the specification in section A, which is devoted to the action project. This year, some candidates were unable to differentiate between primary and secondary data for example.

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

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