

Mark Scheme (Results)

June 2008

GCE

GCE Government and Politics (6495) Paper 01

General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Question Number		Indicative content
1		The role of the Council is to be the final decision making stage of EU processes. It is also where key inter-ministerial negotiations take place. Thus it is a key institution, finally ratifying decisions. In its various forms it deals with such key issues as trade, environment, budget, foreign relations, employment rights etc. On the other hand much of the real policy formulation goes on in other institutions - Commission, Parliament, COREPER, and other institutions. The Council is only the final ratification. It is also true that much real negotiation goes on outside the Council, between ministers from the larger member states. There are differences between decisions requiring QMV and those needing unanimous decisions. More negotiation goes on with the former. As the European Parliament's power increases (co-decision) and as the European Council increasingly takes departmental policy decisions, the CoM's role diminishes in importance. It is also true that much important policy remains in the hands of members states' governments.
Level	Mark	Descriptors
Level 1	0-6	Sparse and generalised accounts of the role of the Council. However there will be little or no assessment of its importance. Understanding and explanations will vary from very poor to weak. Little or no understanding of its relationship to other institutions.
Level 2	7-12	A sound understanding of the role of the Council. Some assessment of its importance, ranging from limited to sound. Limitations and strengths will both be included, but there will be more description than evaluation.
Level 3	13-20	Understanding and evaluation, varying from good to excellent, are shown. There will be a full accurate explanation of the Council's role, together with its jurisdiction and relationship with other institutions. A good balance between strengths and limitations of the Council.

Question Number		Indicative content
2		<p>The role of the ECJ became more important after Maastricht due to policy integration and subsequent further enlargements which increased the court workload. Social regulation was added to ECJ jurisdiction due to The Social Chapter, and SEM cases multiplied as the Commission tried to tighten regulations on merger and competition policy, eg. the Microsoft Case and the prevention of the General Electric- Honeywell merger in 2005. The ECJ has become a major institution as its rulings are binding and overrule national courts, as illustrated by the Factor tame Case.</p> <p>Since Maastricht the ECJ can impose fines, e.g. up to 10% of company turnover. It needs the support of national governments to enforce its decisions as the collection of fines imposed on national governments can be difficult. Some states may evade or avoid the effects of decisions, e.g. French compensation to UK over refusal to sell British beef. Importantly the court cannot be judicially active, but only acts in response to appeals.</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptors
Level 1	0-6	A generalised, sparse description of the role of the Court. Evaluation is likely to be absent , or will range from very poor to weak.
Level 2	7-12	An accurate understanding is shown of the role of the Court. There will be some examples of its role. Assessment of its importance will vary from limited to sound, but will be present in answers. Varying amounts of evidence will be deployed.
Level 3	13-20	A full understanding shown of the role and importance of the Court. There will be an assessment ranging from good to excellent. Answers are likely to be sensitive to the significance of 1992 as a change in the importance of the Court.

Question Number		Indicative content
3		The main factor has been enlargement. This has placed great stress on the development of both former communist countries, such as the Baltic states and, more recently, the admission of much poorer countries such as Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria. At the same time there have been problems with slow economic growth in the EU. Regional development is seen as one of the solutions to the problem of growth. There have also been shifts in the emphasis of the Common Agricultural Policy towards the more agricultural states which have recently been admitted. There have been greater strains on the budget of the EU, with countries such as the UK believing it to be inequitable. This has placed further pressure on development funds. However the success of regional policies in Ireland, Greece and Portugal in the past has led to demands for greater regional aid elsewhere. Regional development in potentially less stable countries on the fringes of Europe is also seen as a key factor in creating stability
Level	Mark	Descriptors
Level 1	0-6	Sparse knowledge shown of regional policy, possibly confined to comments about the CAP and the problems of poorer states. There will be weak or absent relationships described between the factors and the measures.
Level 2	7-12	Some knowledge shown of regional policy and the factors underpinning it. Explanations will vary from limited to sound. Responses will demonstrate some understanding of why regional development is needed, but there will be some lack of examples.
Level 3	13-20	Good use of examples of regional policy, with knowledge shown of the factors involved. The links made between factors and policies will be explained fully, with quality ranging from good to excellent. There will be good sensitivity to the changing situation brought about by enlargement.

Question Number		Indicative content
4		<p>E.U. federalists hoped the single currency would lead to further political integration, they are disappointed as their expectations are unfulfilled. Not all of the E.U. member states are presently in the eurozone. The economies of the opt-out states, U.K., Sweden and Denmark, are not noticeably weaker than those in the eurozone. Critics claim that euro membership has led to reduced pressure to reform flexibility of employment and markets.</p> <p>The expected growth in the EU economy has not occurred, indeed it has stagnated. There is great divergence in competitiveness between eurozone states.</p> <p>The stability laws fixed by the ECB are very tight, and, one size does not fit 27. E.g. the property boom in Spain and Eire was the reverse in Germany where costs were squeezed down to pull through. In slow growth countries the result is probably deflationary. Mounting internal pressure within the eurozone is growing. As the squeeze tightens disruption is possible due to rising interest rates.</p> <p>It is relevant to argue that the benefits of the single currency are likely to be long term as globalisation increases and 8 years is not sufficient time to make a valid judgement.</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptors
Level 1	0-6	Generalised comments on the nature of the single currency and accounts of its expected benefits. Evaluations of its success will be absent altogether or very limited, possibly weak or poor. There will be little or no sensitivity to recent developments in the performance of the single currency.
Level 2	7-12	There will be understanding shown of the successes and failures of the single currency, ranging from limited to sound. However, the range of factors will be relatively limited. Responses will show some sensitivity to recent developments. Evaluation will be included, but responses tend towards description rather than evaluation.
Level 3	13-20	A full evaluation ranging from good to excellent. There will be good contemporary knowledge as well as a thorough assessment of positive and negative aspects of the introduction of the single currency.

Question Number		Indicative content
5		<p>The term democratic deficit implies a number of things. It suggests lack of representation and accountability. It also can imply that there are insufficient opportunity for citizens to influence decision making. The issue of closed versus open government is also a democratic topic. Is too much power vested in too few hands ? Are there sufficient checks and balances ? Some would add the protection of individual rights and freedoms as part of the democratic deficit. Persistent problems have included the undemocratic nature of the operation of the Commission, the weakness of the Parliament and the lack of transparency over decision making in the Councils. Representation through parties and elections remains poor and, it is argued there is too much power in too few unaccountable hands. By contrast progress has been made. Parliament has become more effective and active. Members of the Commission, for example, may be called to account by the increasingly powerful committees of the EP in Brussels. Rights are being gradually extended and there is more transparency in the Commission. It also has to be said that the EU has become very open to pressure group activity, especially the Commission. There is now a greater balance of power between various institutions. The proposed constitutional treaty, to some extent proposes more democratic controls.</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptors
Level 1	0-20	<p>Mostly generalised statements about the nature of the EU. Answers will be unbalanced, tending probably to be critical of democracy in the EU, with little sensitivity to recent developments. Knowledge of the EU political system will vary from very poor to weak.</p>
Level 2	21-38	<p>Knowledge of the political system of the EU and assessment of how democratic or otherwise it is, will vary from limited to sound. Answers which adopt a purely institutional approach, ignoring such ideas as representation and accountability are unlikely to achieve above mid range in this level. There will be some assessment, though not extensive and some knowledge of recent developments. Responses will be substantially accurate, but will lack depth.</p>
Level 3	39-60	<p>A thorough evaluation of democratic developments in the EU ranging from good to excellent.. Responses will show good awareness of recent developments. Evaluation will be well supported by evidence. The range of issues will be comprehensive.</p>

Question Number		Indicative content
6		Recent enlargements have brought in former communist countries, some relatively poor countries and in the future the possible accession of some countries will prove to be problematic, notably Turkey, Serbia and beyond. There are arguments that the EU may be becoming too large and its resources too stretched. The political system is under strain and decision making is becoming more difficult with so many members. Cultural issues are coming to the fore, notably in relation to Turkey and South-East European states. The influx of cheap labour into Western Europe can be seen as both a benefit and a problem. Some of the new entries and proposed members have poor human rights records and are thought to bring the danger of imported organised crime. When new countries are considerably poorer it is feared that there will be large transfers of resources from rich to poor countries. Economic policy making becomes more difficult with so many different types of economy included. There is a very generalised debate about what constitutes Europe - are we stretching the concept too far ? Where are the borders of Europe if such a concept is still meaningful.
Level	Mark	Descriptors
Level 1	0-20	A narrow range of issues described in a very generalised way. Analysis of the controversies will be absent or poor to weak. Answers will tend to be descriptive rather than analytical.
Level 2	21-38	A good range of issues will be deployed. There will be some analysis of these, ranging from limited to sound. The main issues will be described and analysed, but there may be some important omissions.
Level 3	39-60	A full range of issues will be well described and there will be full analysis of each, varying from good to excellent. There will be good balance between past experience of enlargements as well as issues for the future.

Question Number		Indicative content
7		States ultimately preserve their sovereignty by reserving the right to leave the EU. Where unanimous voting is required - e.g. over taxation, new members, defence issues, members retain independence by use of a veto. Certain areas are outside EU jurisdiction, notably most criminal and civil law, most social policy and still a great deal of economic policy. National interests can be preserved even with QMV, where states can pursue their interests in negotiations with other states. Areas of jurisdiction which are intergovernmental preserve some national interest, though clearly this depends on the size of the member concerned. Small states find it difficult to preserve their own interests. There are a number of institutions - notably the economic and social committee, the committee of the regions and the European Court of Justice - through which even smaller states can pursue self interest. The Commission is a forum within which the interests of all states should be taken into account. Interests may also be pursued in the parliament. On the other hand it can be claimed that there has been a gradual erosion of national sovereignty with such areas as trade, agriculture, environment, social and economic rights becoming supranational. How much a member can protect its interests depends on how much leverage it has ; this varies a great deal.
Level	Mark	Descriptors
Level 1	0-20	Answers will be largely descriptive and contain little or no analysis and evaluation. The range of issues will be relatively narrow and the depth of evaluation will vary from poor to weak. Little or no sensitivity will be shown towards different circumstances.
Level 2	21-38	A good range of issues will be raised and there will evaluation ranging from limited to sound. There is likely to be less sensitivity to change than in level 3. It is also likely that level 2 answers will not be sensitive to the circumstances of different member states. However evaluation will be successful to a greater or lesser extent. Answers may not be fully balanced between discussion of sovereignty and national interest.
Level 3	39-60	A thorough range of issues will be examined. Good to excellent evaluation will be used and there will be very good knowledge shown of processes and relationships. Responses will differentiate clearly between sovereignty and national interest, developing both themes extensively.