

Government and Politics

Advanced GCE

Unit **F855**: US Government and Politics

Mark Scheme for January 2012

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this mark scheme.

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Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Acknowledged, credit-worthy. Page seen
	Good contemporary example/analysis
	Incorrect
	Example
	Vague
	Repetition
	Very good
	Not relevant
	Analysis
	Focus
	Spelling
	Unclear (in combination with other annotations)
	Positive (in combination with other annotations)
	Negative (in combination with other annotations)

NB Examiners should use the above annotations to assist them in deciding their marks. They do not, however, have to use them to annotate every instance seen.

Subject-specific Marking Instructions

When marking, examiners must use both this mark scheme, the table showing the breakdown of marks by levels and assessment objectives (see below), and the Assessment Matrix (see Appendix 1).

Table of Marks by Levels and Assessment Objectives

Level	AO1	AO2	AO3
4	16-20	19-24	6
3	11-15	13-18	4-5
2	6-10	7-12	2-3
1	0-5	0-6	0-1

The Assessment Matrix

Broadly speaking and depending on the question, examiners should look for:

- a balanced and well-focused answer;
- which correctly identifies a number and range of relevant and important factors;
- in detail;
- and communicates these clearly and in a logical, fluent and coherent style;
- containing few, if any, errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

And credit answers which display knowledge and understanding of:

- current examples;
- political concepts, theories and language;
- other political systems including the EU;
- parallels, connections, similarities and difference.

The Mark Scheme

The mark scheme is indicative of the kinds of points likely to be raised by candidates in answering the questions. However, because of the nature of the subject, it cannot be regarded as definitive and the professional judgement and training of individual examiners will apply.

All substantive issues surrounding the paper will be settled at the standardisation meeting and through the arrangements made by OCR to ensure a consistent approach by all examiners. Examiners should contact the Principal Examiner if they have any concerns about the way an individual script should be marked.

Question		Answer	Marks	Guidance	
				Content	Levels of response
1		<p>AO1: Candidates display knowledge of the role of money in modern elections.</p> <p>This may include reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cost of campaigns • fundraising by candidates and parties • the role of individual donors, pressure groups and business • campaign finance and electoral laws • state funding • theories surrounding the impact of the media • other theories relating to voting behaviour and the extent of partisan alignment • recent elections (Obama v McCain 2008, the role of Ashcroft's money in the 2010 UK election). 	50	<p>AO1: To reach Level 4, candidates will have a detailed knowledge and understanding of recent elections and voting behaviour theories.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display good knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display limited knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p>	<p>AO1 [20]:</p> <p>Level 4 16-20 marks</p> <p>Level 3 11-15 marks</p> <p>Level 2 6-10 marks</p> <p>Level 1 0-5 marks</p>

Question		Answer	Marks	Guidance	
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		<p>AO2: Expect candidates to discuss the role of money in recent elections. Candidates should address both sides of the question.</p> <p>With regard to the view that money plays too great a role, the following will be of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impact of dealignment and the consequent rise in the number of independents and floating voters the need for money to run modern campaigns in terms of advertising and organisation the targeting of marginal seats and swing states the use of the internet as a means of raising funds and promoting a party or candidate the meaning of 'important' which may be linked to free speech and arguments surrounding state funding the length of campaigns and size of country may be a point of contrast between the UK and the USA the importance of other factors in influencing the outcome of elections will provide grounds for discussion opposing the assertion in the question. 		<p>AO2: To reach Level 4, candidates should provide a balanced answer and maintain a sharp focus on the question.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display a good level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display a limited level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues. Limited attempt to explain a few of the more obvious points central to the question and to recognise and describe some differing viewpoints.</p> <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect most candidates to reach Level 3 and use 4 as a default mark A further mark will be awarded if a candidate is able to write with flair and maintains a sharp focus on the question throughout the essay At Level 4, candidates will have made good use of paragraphs to separate their arguments and have used the introduction and conclusion to good effect At Level 2 and below, candidates will make frequent and intrusive spelling and grammatical mistakes. The essay will lack focus and be disorganised. 	<p>AO2 [24]:</p> <p>Level 4 19-24 marks Level 3 13-18 marks Level 2 7-12 mark Level 1 0-6 marks</p> <p>AO3 [6]:</p> <p>Level 4 6 marks Level 3 4-5 marks Level 2 2-3 marks Level 1 0-1 mark</p>

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2		<p>AO1: Candidates will provide knowledge and understanding of the ideologies of political parties.</p> <p>This may include reference to some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideologies such as liberalism, socialism, social democracy, nationalism, the third way, compassionate conservatism • terms and concepts such as convergence/divergence and polarisation, big tent politics/catch-all parties, pragmatism • the collapse of communism • the end of history/end of ideology thesis • the ideologies of third/smaller parties • recent manifestos and policy platforms • the policies of coalition partners. 	50	<p>AO1: To reach Level 4, candidates will provide detail on a range of ideologies and distinguish between this and policy differences between the parties.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display good knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display limited knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p>	<p>AO1 [20]:</p> <p>Level 4 16-20 marks</p> <p>Level 3 11-15 marks</p> <p>Level 2 6-10 marks</p> <p>Level 1 0-5 marks</p>

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		<p>AO2: Candidates will discuss the ideological differences between the parties.</p> <p>This may include reference to some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Compassionate Conservatism' as defined by Cameron and Bush • New Labour and Miliband's attempts to redefine Labour • party politics in recent elections perhaps including assessment of the impact of Tea Party movement candidates • the significance of the Liberal Democrat/Conservative coalition • Third Way politics in the Clinton, Blair era • the impact of the collapse of communism and the 'triumph' of liberal capitalism • party consensus over the banking crisis and subsequent austerity measures and over time from post war Keynesianism to Thatcherism/Reaganomics/New Right views • the impact of dealignment and 'embourgeoisement' re: winning the vital centre and floating voters. 		<p>AO2: To reach Level 4, candidates will attempt to evaluate the extent of ideological convergence between parties. Similarities and differences will be recognised. The role of smaller parties may be used to good effect to illustrate the range of ideological choice on offer. There should be an attempt to focus on ideology rather than policies.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display a good level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display a limited level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues. Limited attempt to explain a few of the more obvious points central to the question and to recognise and describe some differing viewpoints.</p> <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect most candidates to reach Level 3 and use 4 as a default mark • A further mark will be awarded if a candidate is able to write with flair and maintains a sharp focus on the question throughout the essay 	<p>AO2 [24]:</p> <p>Level 4 19-24 marks Level 3 13-18 marks Level 2 7-12 mark Level 1 0-6 marks</p> <p>AO3 [6]:</p> <p>Level 4 6 marks Level 3 4-5 marks Level 2 2-3 marks Level 1 0-1 mark</p>

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3		<p>AO1: Candidates will display knowledge of the power of pressure groups and the factors which are likely to bring them success.</p> <p>This may include discussion of some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quantity and quality of membership • leadership • finance • organisation • compatibility • links to the executive/legislature/judiciary/political parties • media and public support • methodology. 	50	<p>AO1: To reach Level 4, candidates will provide detailed examples relating to the factors listed. These should be contemporary and drawn from <u>both</u> the UK and USA.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display good knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display limited knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p>	<p>AO1 [20]:</p> <p>Level 4 16-20 marks</p> <p>Level 3 11-15 marks</p> <p>Level 2 6-10 marks</p> <p>Level 1 0-5 marks</p>

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		<p>AO2: Candidates will identify the factors which determine the power and influence of a pressure group.</p> <p>This may include discussion of some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • size of groups such as the AARP, NRA, RSPB • quality of membership (ABA, Law Society) • the importance of insider status in the UK • the importance of money with numerous access points in the USA • the issue: the scale of opposition and attitude of those in power • the level of public and media support linked to the need/desire for re-election of those in power • the legislative process and the role of lobbyists • methodology • the importance of the political system in terms of the locus of policy making power. 		<p>AO2: To reach Level 4, candidates will attempt to evaluate the relative importance of membership against other factors which also influence pressure group power.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display a good level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display a limited level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues. Limited attempt to explain a few of the more obvious points central to the question and to recognise and describe some differing viewpoints.</p> <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect most candidates to reach Level 3 and use 4 as a default mark • A further mark will be awarded if a candidate is able to write with flair and maintains a sharp focus on the question throughout the essay • At Level 4, candidates will have made good use of paragraphs to separate their arguments and have used the introduction and conclusion to good effect • At Level 2 and below, candidates will make frequent and intrusive spelling and grammatical mistakes. The essay will lack focus and be disorganised. 	<p>AO2 [24]:</p> <p>Level 4 19-24 marks Level 3 13-18 marks Level 2 7-12 mark Level 1 0-6 marks</p> <p>AO3 [6]:</p> <p>Level 4 6 marks Level 3 4-5 marks Level 2 2-3 marks Level 1 0-1 mark</p>

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4		<p>AO1: Candidates will display knowledge of the ways in which rights and liberties are protected in modern democracies.</p> <p>There may be awareness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range of civil rights and liberties • the mechanisms to defend such rights and liberties • examples of legislation relating to civil rights and more recently anti terrorism legislation • details of bills of rights such as in the US, the ECHR, UN Declaration of Human Rights and EU's charter of fundamental rights and social chapter legislation • examples and details of recent issues relating to rights • there may a focus on developments post 9/11 with examples from both the UK and USA and other case studies • the role played by judiciaries, bills of rights, executives, pressure groups and the media in this regard. 	50	<p>AO1: To reach Level 4, candidates will need to provide a range of rights and liberties that can be expected in a democracy and the role played by legislatures and others in their protection. Examples of their infringement and defence will also be provided.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display good knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display limited knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p>	<p>AO1 [20]:</p> <p>Level 4 16-20 marks</p> <p>Level 3 11-15 marks</p> <p>Level 2 6-10 marks</p> <p>Level 1 0-5 marks</p>

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		<p>AO2: Candidates will discuss the effectiveness of legislatures as a means of protecting rights and liberties.</p> <p>This may include discussion of some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examples of the protection of rights via statute law • the adequacy of the legislature as a check upon the executive in a parliamentary system of government • the debate surrounding the protection of the public interest against minority rights • the notion of “paper rights” and respect for the rule of law • the power of the executive in times of crisis • the role played by the judiciary • the role played by pressure groups and the media • the importance of culture, education and history. <p>Candidates should assess the case for and against and reach a conclusion.</p>		<p>AO2: In order to reach Level 4, candidates should attempt to assess the contribution made by legislatures in the defence of rights and liberties in a well considered manner. Both the case for and against will be considered and reference made to other factors that are needed if they are to be provided with adequate protection.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display a good level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display a limited level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues. Limited attempt to explain a few of the more obvious points central to the question and to recognise and describe some differing viewpoints.</p> <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect most candidates to reach Level 3 and use 4 as a default mark • A further mark will be awarded if a candidate is able to write with flair and maintains a sharp focus on the question throughout the essay 	<p>AO2 [24]:</p> <p>Level 4 19-24 marks Level 3 13-18 marks Level 2 7-12 mark Level 1 0-6 marks</p> <p>AO3 [6]:</p> <p>Level 4 6 marks Level 3 4-5 marks Level 2 2-3 marks Level 1 0-1 mark</p>

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5		<p>AO1: Candidates will show knowledge of constitutions in both the UK and the USA and beyond.</p> <p>This may include reference to some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the uncodified nature of the British constitution • recent constitutional reforms • proposed reforms such as a British Bill of Rights and Brown's changes to the royal prerogative • detail from the US Constitution • the amendment process in the US • problems of the US Constitution such as gun control, 'paralysis in government', redundant amendments such as the third, equal (women's) rights, ambiguities such as federal and state government relations • principles such as the separation of powers, checks and balances, parliamentary sovereignty, constitutional government, unitary and federal government • the problems of the EU Constitution and the ratification of treaties past and present • notions of political culture and constitutionalism. 	50	<p>AO1: To reach Level 4, candidates will need to display a detailed knowledge of the constitutional arrangements in both countries.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display good knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display limited knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p>	<p>AO1 [20]:</p> <p>Level 4 16-20 marks</p> <p>Level 3 11-15 marks</p> <p>Level 2 6-10 marks</p> <p>Level 1 0-5 marks</p>

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		<p>AO2: Candidates will consider the arguments for and against the adoption of a written constitution.</p> <p>Candidates may discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • executive dominance via parliamentary sovereignty • growing concerns about parliamentary failure and the protection of rights • the impact of recent reforms • ambiguity and the weakness of convention • the increase in political apathy and cynicism • the merits of a difficult amendment process • the role of constitutional courts as a means of amendment. <p>Counter arguments may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the problems of drafting and ratifying a constitution from scratch (the EU experience) • the need for flexibility • Norton's 3 Us of unnecessary, undesirable and unachievable. 		<p>AO2: To reach Level 4, candidates will evaluate how to gauge the present efficiency of the British Constitution in a balanced and well considered manner. There may be reference to some of the unresolved issues (electoral reform, House of Lords) and 'patchwork' nature of recent UK reforms such as asymmetric devolution and its consequences.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display a good level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display a limited level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues. Limited attempt to explain a few of the more obvious points central to the question and to recognise and describe some differing viewpoints.</p> <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect most candidates to reach Level 3 and use 4 as a default mark • A further mark will be awarded if a candidate is able to write with flair and maintains a sharp focus on the question throughout the essay 	<p>AO2 [24]:</p> <p>Level 4 19-24 marks Level 3 13-18 marks Level 2 7-12 mark Level 1 0-6 marks</p> <p>AO3 [6]:</p> <p>Level 4 6 marks Level 3 4-5 marks Level 2 2-3 marks Level 1 0-1 mark</p>

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6		<p>AO1: Candidates will provide knowledge and understanding of the representative function of legislatures.</p> <p>This may include reference to some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the models of legislators as delegates or representatives • the composition of legislatures in terms of race, gender, class, age and education • terms and concepts such as 'career politician', the pork barrel, 'earmarking', 'microcosm' of society, whipping, women only short lists and candidate selection procedures, positive discrimination • the composition of chambers in party terms • method of election and selection • differences between first and second chambers • levels of participation • party discipline. 	50	<p>AO1: In order to reach Level 4, candidates will provide a detailed knowledge of a range of the points listed.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display good knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display limited knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p>	<p>AO1 [20]:</p> <p>Level 4 16-20 marks</p> <p>Level 3 11-15 marks</p> <p>Level 2 6-10 marks</p> <p>Level 1 0-5 marks</p>

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		<p>AO2: Candidates will assess the extent to which legislatures fulfil their representative function.</p> <p>This may include discussion of some of the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to represent even if socially unrepresentative • the role of party in influencing voting in legislatures • the impact of electoral systems • the power of executives • attempts to improve social representation • the role played by pressure groups, lobbyists, donors etc • elitist theories and the Marxist critique • the other functions of legislatures. 		<p>AO2: To reach Level 4, candidates will consider both the case for and against. They may contrast the modus operandi of those representatives in the House of Commons with those in the Congress where party and the 'folks back home' play different roles.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display a good level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display a limited level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues. Limited attempt to explain a few of the more obvious points central to the question and to recognise and describe some differing viewpoints.</p> <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect most candidates to reach Level 3 and use 4 as a default mark • A further mark will be awarded if a candidate is able to write with flair and maintains a sharp focus on the question throughout the essay 	<p>AO2 [24]:</p> <p>Level 4 19-24 marks Level 3 13-18 marks Level 2 7-12 mark Level 1 0-6 marks</p> <p>AO3 [6]:</p> <p>Level 4 6 marks Level 3 4-5 marks Level 2 2-3 marks Level 1 0-1 mark</p>

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7		<p>AO1: Candidates will show knowledge of the factors which influence executive success.</p> <p>This may include reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • executive powers re: policy formulation and the passage of legislation • constitutional arrangements and institutional arrangements • levels of popular support in opinion polls and elections • relationships within and structure of executives • relationships with legislatures • appointments • case studies such as levels of party unity, support for legislative proposals, international relations and relevant issues and crises • concepts such as 'elective dictatorship', gridlock and paralysis in government. 	50	<p>AO1: To reach Level 4, candidates will provide a detailed knowledge of a range of the factors listed, supported by contemporary examples.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display good knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display limited knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p>	<p>AO1 [20]:</p> <p>Level 4 16-20 marks</p> <p>Level 3 11-15 marks</p> <p>Level 2 6-10 marks</p> <p>Level 1 0-5 marks</p>

Question			Answer	Marks	Guidance	
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			<p>AO2: Expect candidates to identify the factors which can influence the success or otherwise of a chief executive.</p> <p>This may include reference to some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> personal skills: the importance of experience, expertise and ability, media skills political skills: the need to unite the party/parties (in coalition) or build coalitions (in the US) the role of support staff in cabinets and the bureaucracy re legislative liaison the need for flexibility circumstances and events such as the banking crisis the impact of constitutional arrangements such as a clear separation of powers and system of checks and balances. 		<p>AO2: To reach Level 4, candidates will need to do more than outline a range of factors. They should attempt to rank the relative importance of these factors. Consideration will be given to success and failure.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display a good level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display a limited level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues. Limited attempt to explain a few of the more obvious points central to the question and to recognise and describe some differing viewpoints.</p> <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect most candidates to reach Level 3 and use 4 as a default mark A further mark will be awarded if a candidate is able to write with flair and maintains a sharp focus on the question throughout the essay At Level 4, candidates will have made good use of paragraphs to separate their arguments and have used the introduction and conclusion to good effect 	<p>AO2 [24]:</p> <p>Level 4 19-24 marks Level 3 13-18 marks Level 2 7-12 mark Level 1 0-6 marks</p> <p>AO3 [6]:</p> <p>Level 4 6 marks Level 3 4-5 marks Level 2 2-3 marks Level 1 0-1 mark</p>

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8		<p>AO1: Candidates will display knowledge and understanding of judicial appointment processes and democratic concepts.</p> <p>This may include reference to some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the appointment process for Supreme Court justices the role of the Judicial Appointments Commission in the UK the pre-reform method of secret soundings and the roles of the PM and Lord Chancellor before the 2005 Constitutional Reform Act recent appointments to Courts court packing attempts such as in Venezuela recent rulings from judiciaries terms and concepts such as the rule of law, judicial independence, politicisation of the judiciary. 	50	<p>AO1: In order to reach Level 4, candidates will provide a range of examples and details surrounding judicial appointments and their relationship with executives and legislatures.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display good knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display limited knowledge and understanding of relevant concepts, ideas and political systems.</p>	<p>AO1 [20]:</p> <p>Level 4 16-20 marks</p> <p>Level 3 11-15 marks</p> <p>Level 2 6-10 marks</p> <p>Level 1 0-5 marks</p>

Question		Answer	Marks	Guidance	
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		<p>AO2: Candidates will explain why the judicial appointments process is of importance in a democracy.</p> <p>This may include discussion of some of the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the functions of judiciaries as checks upon the executives and legislatures • their role in the defence of minority rights • their role as guardians and amenders of the Constitution • the consequential need for judicial independence • the meaning and significance of the rule of law • contrasts between the US and UK systems with the former providing a more politicised process • the significance of recent rulings from Courts. 		<p>AO2: In order to reach Level 4, candidates will identify a range of arguments which explains why judicial independence is an essential component of any democratic system. They may also attempt to evaluate the extent to which this independence is secured by reference to countries such as the UK, US, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.</p> <p>Level 3 for candidates who display a good level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues.</p> <p>Level 2 for candidates who display a limited level of skill in the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the relevant political issues. Limited attempt to explain a few of the more obvious points central to the question and to recognise and describe some differing viewpoints.</p> <p>AO3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect most candidates to reach Level 3 and use 4 as a default mark • A further mark will be awarded if a candidate is able to write with flair and maintains a sharp focus on the question throughout the essay 	<p>AO2 [24]:</p> <p>Level 4 19-24 marks Level 3 13-18 marks Level 2 7-12 mark Level 1 0-6 marks</p> <p>AO3 [6]:</p> <p>Level 4 6 marks Level 3 4-5 marks Level 2 2-3 marks Level 1 0-1 mark</p>

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