

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Thursday 15 May 2025 – Afternoon

GCSE (9–1) Citizenship Studies

J270/02 Citizenship in action

**Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes
plus your additional time allowance**

YOU MUST HAVE:

Loose Sheet for Fig. 5a and 5b

Please write clearly in black ink.

Centre number

--	--	--	--	--

Candidate number

--	--	--	--

First name(s) _____

Last name _____

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



INSTRUCTIONS

Use black ink.

Write your answer to each question in the space provided. You can use extra paper if you need to, but you must clearly show your candidate number, the centre number and the question numbers.

Answer ALL the questions.

INFORMATION

The total mark for this paper is 100.

The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].

Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).

ADVICE

Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

You should spend about 20 MINUTES plus your additional time allowance on this section.

1 Study SOURCE 1 and answer questions 1(a)–(d).

SOURCE 1

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(a) State TWO risks to democracy mentioned in SOURCE 1.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

(b) State TWO ways in which PARLIAMENT can help governments make better decisions.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

(c) State TWO ways in which CITIZENS can take part in democracy.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

[4]

5

2 Study SOURCE 2 and answer questions 2(a)–(e).

SOURCE 2



Who is the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and what do they do?

Mrs Katy Bourne OBE was elected as Sussex PCC by the public to make the police answerable to the communities they serve.

The PCC writes a Police and Crime Plan. This sets out the priorities for Sussex Police. It also decides how much residents pay for policing in their council tax.

Mrs Bourne also has a legal duty to commission support services for victims of crime and to deliver community safety initiatives, including restorative justice and crime reduction grants.

(In LONDON the Metropolitan Police is governed jointly by the Mayor and the government's Home Office.)

Election Results for the Office of PCC (Sussex) 2021

Candidate	First preference votes	Second preference votes	Total votes
Jamie Bennett (Liberal Democrats)	63 271	–	63 271
Kahina Bouhassane (Green Party)	60 781	–	60 781
Katy Bourne (Conservative)	214 523	30 287	244 810
Paul Richards (Labour and Co-operative Party)	84 736	43 523	128 259
Roy Williams (Independent)	30 408	–	30 408
Rejected ballots	–	–	11 331

The voter turnout was 35.77%.

Adapted from the Sussex PCC website

(a) According to SOURCE 2, state who is REPRESENTED by the PCC or the Mayor (in London).

_____ [1]

(b) State the type of VOTING SYSTEM used in the 2021 PCC election (SOURCE 2).

_____ [1]

(c) State ONE reason why serving police officers CANNOT be candidates in PCC elections.

_____ [1]

(d) Explain why PCCs or the Mayor (in London) having power over the police is important for DEMOCRACY. [4]

(e) State ONE piece of evidence from SOURCE 2 that might UNDERMINE trust in Sussex’s PCC.

[1]

3 Study SOURCE 3 and answer questions 3(a)–(c).

SOURCE 3

NEWS HEADLINE – ‘Abu Dhabi’s takeover of The Telegraph puts press freedom at risk’

The Telegraph is a media business. Thousands of British people read its print newspapers and access its online content every day. The Telegraph is politically biased. It strongly supports the Conservative Party.

Abu Dhabi is an authoritarian Islamic monarchy.

In December 2023 representatives of Abu Dhabi’s monarchy were planning to buy The Telegraph. This was being reviewed by the UK Government. Most Telegraph journalists and many politicians hoped that the takeover would be blocked.

The headline above was used by the The Sunday Telegraph to introduce an article by journalist, Zoe Strimpel.

Strimpel explained that, because she was a woman and a Jew, the Telegraph’s potential new owners may discriminate against her. Strimpel warned that the Abu Dhabi owners may prevent her from criticising some people’s interpretation of the Muslim faith. They may also censor any attempt to reveal difficulties experienced by women in Arab countries.

Adapted from The Telegraph 9 December 2023

(a) State TWO reasons why the takeover of The Telegraph by a FOREIGN GOVERNMENT might damage UK democracy.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

(b) State ONE UK media outlet that must NOT be politically biased.

[1]

(c) State TWO reasons for media regulation in the UK.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

4 Study SOURCE 4 and answer questions 4(a) and 4(b).

SOURCE 4

Similarities and differences between representative democracies

SIMILARITIES

Citizens in representative democracies choose between rival candidates in regular elections.

Representative democracies uphold free speech and the rule of law. Citizens' human rights are protected. Elected governments do not have total power. They rely on support from the legislature and are accountable to the judiciary.

DIFFERENCES

However, there are important differences between representative democracies. For example, France's head of state is elected but, in the UK, the head of state inherits their position.

There are many other differences. These include:

**voting systems
devolution of power
organisation of the legislature
use of referendums.**

(a) State ONE way in which a CLASSICAL democracy is different from a REPRESENTATIVE democracy.

[1]

(b) Describe similarities OR differences between democracy in the UK and other DEMOCRATIC countries.

**Name a country for each similarity OR difference. You may name a country more than once.
Complete the table below by writing in the answer spaces.**

The first row of the table has been done for you. [4]

Points for comparison	Democracy in the UK	Other democratic country	Compare with the UK by describing a similarity or difference
Choosing a Head of State	The head of state inherits their position	France	The head of state is elected
Voting systems	A first-past-the-post system is used for elections to the UK Parliament		
Devolution of power	Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have elected parliaments or assemblies. Local matters are devolved to elected local authorities.		

Points for comparison	Democracy in the UK	Other democratic country	Compare with the UK by describing a similarity or difference
How the legislature is organised	Parliament has two chambers. Members of the House of Commons are elected. Most members of the House of Lords are chosen by the UK Prime Minister.		
Use of referendums	National referendums only for major constitutional matters. Local referendums are held more often.		

SECTION B

You should spend about 30 MINUTES plus your additional time allowance on this section.

5 Study FIG. 5a and FIG. 5b on the Loose Sheet and answer questions 5(a)–(e) .

(a) State ONE piece of evidence from FIG. 5a to show that working people pay a large share of the money needed for public services.

[1]

(b) State ONE piece of evidence from FIG. 5a to suggest the UK government should encourage more people back to work.

[1]

(c) Use FIG. 5a and FIG. 5b to:

State TWO areas of government spending that are likely to increase.

Explain WHY an increase is likely in each case.

Area of government spending likely to increase _____

Reason for the increase

Area of government spending likely to increase _____

Reason for the increase

[4]

(d)* Using evidence from FIG. 5a, FIG. 5b and INFORMATION FROM YOUR STUDIES, explain why politicians from the Labour and Conservative parties DISAGREE about taxation and about spending on public services.

In your answer you should:

describe differences in Labour and Conservative POLICIES on TAXATION

describe differences in Labour and Conservative SPENDING on PUBLIC SERVICES

give examples. [4]

(e)* Use information from FIG. 5a, FIG. 5b and INFORMATION FROM YOUR STUDIES to evaluate the following viewpoint:

‘Public spending is out of control.

Businesses are paying more than their fair share of tax and too many people of working age are claiming benefits.

If we want economic growth and the greater wealth that goes with it, we must cut benefits and cut business taxes.’

You should consider:

**whether ‘public spending is out of control’
the relationship between tax and public spending
different ways to improve the UK’s economy. [8]**

[illegible]

6 Study FIG. 6 and answer questions 6(a) and 6(b).

FIG. 6

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- (a) Study the information in FIG. 6.
Describe what it tells us about how DIFFERENT
GROUPS of YOUNG PEOPLE feel about their futures.**

You MUST use evidence from FIG. 6 to support your description.

[4]

(b) State TWO actions a GOVERNMENT might take in response to the information in FIG. 6.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

SECTION C

You should spend about 15 MINUTES plus your additional time allowance on this section.

7* Use your knowledge and understanding from across the whole citizenship course to evaluate the following viewpoint:

‘The police and judiciary must give priority to enforcing the law and punishing offenders.

These are their most important responsibilities in a democracy.’

Your response must include:

**a description of other responsibilities for the police and judiciary in a democracy
an evaluation explaining which responsibilities are the most important. [12]**

[illegible]

[illegible]

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SECTION D

You should spend about 40 MINUTES plus your additional time allowance on this section.

- 8 Use the information in SOURCE 8, your knowledge of the whole citizenship course and your experience of citizenship action to help you answer questions 8(a)–(c).**

SOURCE 8

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(a) State TWO reasons why research is important to Greenpeace.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

(b) State THREE forms of PEACEFUL action Greenpeace might take to promote their viewpoints.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

[3]

[illegible]

- 9 Use information from SOURCE 9, your knowledge of the whole citizenship course and your experience of citizenship action to answer questions 9(a)–(f).**

SOURCE 9

Gifts for children at festival times

Many families in the UK and across the world find it difficult to afford gifts for their children. This may be because of poverty, war or a natural disaster such as flooding or drought. So, at festival times, these children might feel left out and forgotten.



Flood-affected children in a camp set up for refugees in Charsadda, Pakistan show their gifts.

YOUR ACTION

The time of a faith festival is approaching. You and some of your friends decide to take action in your school and community. You agree on two possible options.

OPTION 1

Make special gift packs yourselves from items donated by friends, neighbours and local businesses.

OPTION 2

Raise money for a national charity that already provides gift packs for children in need.

Charities in the UK such as The Children's Society ask people to donate £40 towards a child's personal gift set.

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- Option chosen:** _____

[4]

(b) State THREE actions your team should take to involve ALL LEARNERS in your school or college.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

[3]

(c) State TWO ways in which SCHOOL STAFF could help with this citizenship action.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

(d) State TWO ways in which local FAITH GROUPS and BUSINESSES could help.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

(e) State TWO ways to promote equality AND show respect for diversity when planning your action.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

(f) State TWO ways your team could keep track of items or money donated AND keep them safe.

1 _____

2 _____

[2]

10* Using your own experience of citizenship action, give advice to someone campaigning for a new children's playground.

Your response should:

describe the research that might be needed before the campaign starts

explain the importance of building and supporting a team to help with the campaign

explain why the campaign's success will depend on support from the following:

**local people
print and social media
elected representatives.**

describe how to gain this support.

You must use EXAMPLES from your own experience AND from citizenship action that you have studied or know about. [12]

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[illegible]

[illegible]

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