

GCE AS

**Government
and Politics**

January 2009

Mark Scheme

Issued: April 2009

MARK SCHEMES (2009)

Foreword

Introduction

Mark Schemes are published to assist teachers and students in their preparation for examinations. Through the mark schemes teachers and students will be able to see what examiners are looking for in response to questions and exactly where the marks have been awarded. The publishing of the mark schemes may help to show that examiners are not concerned about finding out what a student does not know but rather with rewarding students for what they do know.

The Purpose of Mark Schemes

Examination papers are set and revised by teams of examiners and revisers appointed by the Council. The teams of examiners and revisers include experienced teachers who are familiar with the level and standards expected of 16- and 18-year-old students in schools and colleges. The job of the examiners is to set the questions and the mark schemes; and the job of the revisers is to review the questions and mark schemes commenting on a large range of issues about which they must be satisfied before the question papers and mark schemes are finalised.

The questions and the mark schemes are developed in association with each other so that the issues of differentiation and positive achievement can be addressed right from the start. Mark schemes therefore are regarded as a part of an integral process which begins with the setting of questions and ends with the marking of the examination.

The main purpose of the mark scheme is to provide a uniform basis for the marking process so that all the markers are following exactly the same instructions and making the same judgements in so far as this is possible. Before marking begins a standardising meeting is held where all the markers are briefed using the mark scheme and samples of the students' work in the form of scripts. Consideration is also given at this stage to any comments on the operational papers received from teachers and their organisations. During this meeting, and up to and including the end of the marking, there is provision for amendments to be made to the mark scheme. What is published represents this final form of the mark scheme.

It is important to recognise that in some cases there may well be other correct responses which are equally acceptable to those published: the mark scheme can only cover those responses which emerged in the examination. There may also be instances where certain judgements may have to be left to the experience of the examiner, for example, where there is no absolute correct response – all teachers will be familiar with making such judgements.

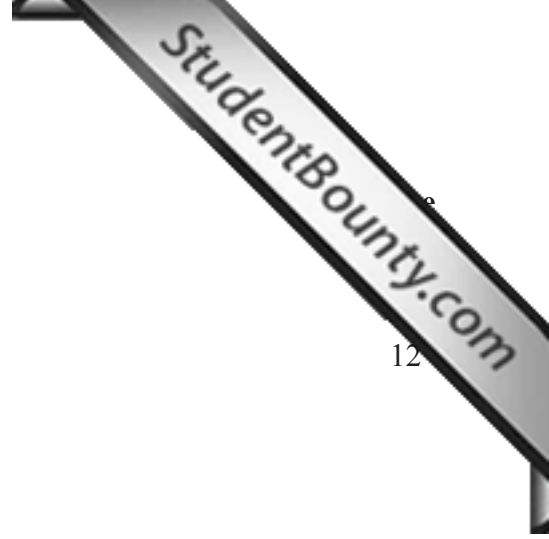
The Council hopes that the mark schemes will be viewed and used in a constructive way as a further support to the teaching and learning processes.

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Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY (AS)

General Certificate of Education

January 2009

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1

assessing

**Module 4: The Government and Politics
of the USA**

**Module 5: The Government and Politics
of the Republic of Ireland**

[A2Q11]

MONDAY 19 JANUARY, MORNING

MARK SCHEME

Section A

Module 4: The Government and Politics of the USA

1 (a) Background

One mark will be given for each correct identification and up to 4 marks for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. There are a number of ways by which the Constitution can be informally amended, these include; the role of the Supreme Court using judicial review, congressional legislation, executive agreements and customs and traditions. Candidates may select any two of these or may choose another sensible suggestion of their own. Weaker candidates will either fail to identify two methods or will select examples of formal amendments which are inadmissible for this question. An answer that has no examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution can be informally amended but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution can be informally amended. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution can be informally amended. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed. (AO1) Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution can be informally amended. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([9]–[10])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution can be informally amended. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

(b) Background

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore, in order to attain a grade in the top two levels, it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. In order to fully answer this question, candidates must address the flexibility of the Constitution and the extent to which this may or may not be a problem for the United States. Candidates will be expected to show an understanding of the ways in which the Constitution can be seen as inflexible, for example, with outdated aspects such as the right to bear arms, few formal amendments, restrictions on the operation of government due to the system of checks and balances. On the other hand they should also recognise the ways in which the Constitution is able to be updated and how such mechanisms as judicial review and customs have allowed development and growth when necessary. In addition candidates must consider if the relative flexibility of the Constitution has proved an obstacle to the development of the country, using examples where appropriate. Recent developments in American politics would suggest that constitutional restraints can be removed when necessary and stronger candidates may make good use of examples from the Bush administration in order to illustrate this point. Many candidates will focus on the traditional argument that the Constitution is flexible in detail while inflexible in principle; this is a solid basis for this response. Weaker candidates will present a one-sided response or one which is narrow in range or lacks evidence. Stronger answers will be balanced and present a range of evidence. An answer that has no evidence/examples can score a maximum of Level 3. A totally one-sided answer can score a maximum of Level 4.

Level 1 ([1]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the flexibility of the Constitution but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([5]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the flexibility of the Constitution. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([9]–[12])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the flexibility of the Constitution. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([13]–[16])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the flexibility of the Constitution. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([17]–[20])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the flexibility of the Constitution. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

[20]

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2 (a) Background

One mark will be given for each correct identification and up to 4 marks for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. Candidates will have a very wide range of decisions to choose from as nearly every Supreme Court judgement has been the subject of controversy. However, some decisions have attracted more controversy than others. Those decisions that relate to civil rights are often very controversial and have led to the Court being attacked for being unelected, unaccountable and too powerful. Weaker answers will tend to be descriptive and fail to explain why a decision was controversial. Stronger answers will explain the causes of controversy. An answer that has no examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of two controversial decisions of the Supreme Court but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of two controversial decisions of the Supreme Court. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of two controversial decisions of the Supreme Court. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of two controversial decisions of the Supreme Court. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([9]–[10])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of two controversial decisions of the Supreme Court. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

(b) Background

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore in order to attain a grade in the top two levels it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. In order to fully answer the question candidates must assess the extent to which the Supreme Court can be said to respond to public opinion. Examples of Supreme Court rulings which are directly relevant to the question will be expected to be deployed. In order to achieve a balanced response candidates will also be expected to give examples of cases where this is arguably not the case. Candidates may utilise the *Brown vs Board of Education, Topeka (1954)* case as an example of both sides of the argument, provided it is well explained. All cases should be correct and should be relevant to the point being made. Weaker candidates may tend to focus on one side of the argument, fail to provide accurate or appropriate evidence or alternatively address the question in a purely abstract and polemic manner thereby failing to demonstrate evidence of study of this topic. Stronger answers will be balanced and offer a range of relevant evidence. An answer that has no evidence/examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

A totally one-sided answer can score a maximum of Level 4.

Level 1 ([1]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of whether the Supreme Court responds to popular opinion but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([5]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of whether the Supreme Court responds to popular opinion. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([9]–[12])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of whether the Supreme Court responds to popular opinion. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([13]–[16])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of whether the Supreme Court responds to popular opinion. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([17]–[20])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of whether the Supreme Court responds to popular opinion. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [20]

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3 (a) Background

One mark will be given for each correct identification and up to 4 marks for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. In marking this question examiners will take into consideration the similarity in organisational methods and models utilised by the two main American political parties. It is expected that candidates will refer to some of the following features: the de-centralised nature of party structure, loose confederal structure, the role of the party national committee, and the use of a professional support staff. Candidates may select from the above or refer to other aspects of organisation. Some may mention the importance of closer cooperation between local and state party organisations, during Presidential elections. The main difference between the two parties is the stronger national committee in the Republican Party and it would be expected that stronger candidates would note this difference. Weaker answers will display little knowledge of the similarities and differences between the parties. Stronger answers will highlight both differences and similarities. An answer that has no examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of how the Republican and Democratic parties are organised but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of how the Republican and Democratic parties are organised. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of how the Republican and Democratic parties are organised. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of how the Republican and Democratic parties are organised. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([9]–[10])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of how the Republican and Democratic parties are organised. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

(b) Background

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore in order to attain a grade in the top two levels it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. Candidates will be expected to have a clear understanding of the policy differences between the Democrat and Republican parties. Basic generalisations will not be as well rewarded as clear, concise policy knowledge.

The Republican Party has long been the party of big business, less regulation of corporations, small government, less social spending, anti-gay rights, pro-war or high military spending, low taxes, with a neo-conservative approach to foreign affairs. The Democrats are more favourable to social spending, bigger government, higher taxes, pro-choice, pro-minimum wage, more pro-worker, more pro-immigrant, and more likely to support gay rights. These are significant differences. The other side of the argument will address the fact that the parties are so broadly based that a Northern Democrat will have more in common with a Northern Republican than with a Southern Democrat. The weakness of party cohesion in and out of Congress may also be noted as might the fact that there are overlaps between the two and both strive to appeal to the centre. Use of contemporary evidence will be rewarded although historical evidence is admissible.

Weaker answers will only have a superficial understanding of policy differences while stronger answers will have greater depth. An answer that has no evidence/examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

A totally one-sided answer can score a maximum of Level 4.

Level 1 ([1]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the policy differences between the Republican and Democratic parties but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([5]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the policy differences between the Republican and Democratic parties. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([9]–[12])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the policy differences between the Republican and Democratic parties. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([13]–[16])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the policy differences between the Republican and Democratic parties. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([17]–[20])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the policy differences between the Republican and Democratic parties. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

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Section A

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Module 5: The Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland**1 (a) Background**

One mark will be given for each correct identification and up to 4 marks for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. The formal amendment of Bunreacht na hEireann involves the passage of a Bill through both Houses of the Oireachtas, and the consent of the people through a referendum. In theory the President can also initiate a referendum, though this power has never been exercised. While some amendments have been largely administrative in nature and attracted little attention, such as those dealing with adoption and university representation, others have been very significant and controversial. Amendments on issues such as abortion, divorce and the European Union have often dominated political debate in Ireland. Weaker answers will tend to identify two amendments but not explain their significance. Stronger answers will not only identify and explain in detail two formal amendments, but also clearly explain the significance of each. An answer that has no examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the significance of two formal amendments to the constitution but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the significance of two formal amendments to the constitution. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the significance of two formal amendments to the constitution. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the significance of two formal amendments to the constitution. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([9]–[10])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the significance of two formal amendments to the constitution. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

(b) Background

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore, in order to attain a grade in the top two levels, it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. For almost three decades after its enactment, Judicial Review played little part in constitutional development in the Republic of Ireland. This position was transformed by the use of the concept of ‘Undiscovered Rights’ in the Ryan case of 1965. Many commentators have argued that Judicial Review has been much more significant than the formal amendment process in bringing about constitutional change in the last forty years. Critics argue that Judicial Review is fundamentally undemocratic, placing enormous power in the hands of a small, unelected and unrepresentative elite. On the other hand Supreme Court judgements can be overturned through the formal amendment process. Weaker answers will tend to consider only one side of the argument and/or provide a superficial account of a number of cases of Judicial Review. Stronger answers will present a balanced answer that is supported by detailed discussion of a number of relevant judgements. An answer that has no evidence/examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

A totally one-sided answer can score a maximum of Level 4.

Level 1 ([1]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the capacity of the judiciary to shape the constitution but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([5]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the capacity of the judiciary to shape the constitution. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([9]–[12])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the capacity of the judiciary to shape the constitution. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([13]–[16])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the capacity of the judiciary to shape the constitution. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([17]–[20])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the capacity of the judiciary to shape the constitution. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [20]

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2 (a) Background

One mark will be given for each correct identification and up to 4 marks for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. Irish local government operates within many limitations including a heavy dependence on central government for finance, few powers and very restricted range of functions.

Weaker answers will tend to identify relevant limitations but not discuss them in any detail. Stronger answers will correctly identify and discuss, with examples, two limitations. An answer that has no examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the limitations upon Irish local government but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the limitations upon Irish local government. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the limitations upon Irish local government. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the limitations upon Irish local government. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([9]–[10])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the limitations upon Irish local government. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

(b) Background

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore, in order to attain a grade in the top two levels, it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. Irish local government enjoys relatively few powers, and has little control of its own finance, and has been dismissed by some critics as irrelevant to modern Irish political life. Despite this the strength of parochialism ensures that local government remains vitally important. The recent decision to give constitutional recognition to local government has helped ensure that local government has an identity separate from that of central government. There has also been an increase in the political importance of local issues, most notably waste charges.

Weaker answers will tend to consider only one side of the argument and/or provide a list of the problems facing local government. Stronger answers will present a balanced answer that is supported by relevant evidence. An answer that has no evidence/examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

A totally one-sided answer can score a maximum of Level 4.

Level 1 ([1]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of Irish local government but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([5]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of Irish local government. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([9]–[12])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of Irish local government. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([13]–[16])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of Irish local government. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question and makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([17]–[20])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Irish local government. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question and makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [20]

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3 (a) Background

One mark will be given for each correct identification and up to 4 marks for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. The Progressive Democrats emerged on to the Irish political scene in 1985 and won fourteen seats in their first general election two years later. However, the party never managed to repeat this performance. Currently the PDs have only two TDs and the party's long-term survival is far from certain. While the PDs did play an influential part in several Fianna Fail-led governments they never seriously challenged the electoral dominance of their coalition partners, or of Fine Gael and Labour. The party tended to win around four per cent of the vote and this always made them vulnerable to even slight changes in voting patterns. Some commentators also claim that Fianna Fail have often been given the credit for legislation that was heavily influenced by the PDs. Weaker answers will tend to identify but not adequately explain two reasons for the decline of the PDs or concentrate on the electoral fortunes of the party without offering an explanation. Stronger answers will identify and explain two relevant reasons. An answer that has no examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the reasons for the decline of the PDs but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the reasons for the decline of the PDs. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the reasons for the decline of the PDs. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the reasons for the decline of the PDs. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([9]–[10])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the reasons for the decline of the PDs. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

(b) Background

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore, in order to attain a grade in the top two levels, it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. The result of the Irish General Election of 2007 provides considerable evidence of the continued dominance of Fianna Fail. Fianna Fail won its fourth election victory in a row and Bertie Ahern was elected Taoiseach for the third time, despite growing concerns about revelations from the Mahon Tribunal. In addition the expected strong challenge from a number of small parties did not materialise, Labour made little headway and Fine Gael appeared no closer to effectively challenging Fianna Fail as the largest party in the state. However, Fianna Fail's position was quite some distance from being considered dominant. The party was no nearer the goal of returning to the days when Fianna Fail could form single party governments. Indeed Fianna Fail was forced to rely on a three party coalition and independents to stay in power. The Mahon Tribunal continued to raise questions about Bertie Ahern, eventually leading to his resignation in May 2008. Weaker answers will tend to focus on the results of the 2007 election without addressing the issue of Fianna Fail dominance and/or focus on the Mahon Tribunal. Stronger answers will tend to show an awareness

of how all the parties performed in 2007, the long-term trends in Irish politics and the major challenges facing Fianna Fail since their electoral success. An answer that has no evidence/examples can score a maximum of Level 3.

A totally one-sided answer can score a maximum of Level 4.

Level 1 ([1]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the extent of Fianna Fail dominance but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 2 ([5]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the extent of Fianna Fail dominance. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 3 ([9]–[12])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the extent of Fianna Fail dominance. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 4 ([13]–[16])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the extent of Fianna Fail dominance. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

Level 5 ([17]–[20])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the extent of Fianna Fail dominance. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

[20]	30
Section B	30
Total	30

