

Paper 1: UK Politics mark scheme

Section A

Question number	Indicative content
1(a)	<p>AO1 (10 marks)</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following main features of representative democracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses representatives to act on the behalf of individuals and operates through organised political parties • relies on regular elections held under established rules providing legitimacy • sources its authority from the people through elections and tends to concentrate power in the office holders • office holders are held to account through future elections, opposition in Parliament and an active media • other groups and individuals can take part in political activity. <p>Accept any other valid responses.</p>

Level	Mark	AO1 Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes superficial links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a narrow range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.
Level 2	4–7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes some effective links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a broad range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.
Level 3	8–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes fully-effective links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a comprehensive range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.

Question number	Indicative content
1(b)	<p>AO1 (10 marks)</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following main functions of political parties in the UK today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allow participation in politics through party membership and activism • develop ideas and formulate policies as to how society can be improved • contest elections and in so doing set out a manifesto of their promises to enact if elected • represent various sections of society that hold similar beliefs and values • select candidates to stand for elections, then provide the personnel of government and other office holders. <p>Accept any other valid responses.</p>

Level	Mark	AO1 Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes superficial links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a narrow range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.
Level 2	4–7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes some effective links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a broad range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.
Level 3	8–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues. • Makes fully-effective links of knowledge and understanding to a particular context. • Uses a comprehensive range of knowledge and understanding to support arguments/ideas.

Section B

Question number	Indicative content
2	<p>AO1 (5 marks), AO2 (5 marks)</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis (AO2) of the sources. AO2 requires candidates to develop their answers showing analytical skills to address the question – such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) when explaining the problems which arise when using the first past the post system (FPTP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPTP is essentially appropriate only when there are two parties alone contesting the election; as more enter, the relationship between the number of votes cast for a party and the number of seats won by them falls apart • the system leads to a great number of wasted votes, which disenfranchises the electorate • there is now greater public perception of the unfairness of the system, which may mean that some either do not vote or may vote tactically • MPs (and by default Parliament) do not accurately represent and reflect voter choice and this is not democratic. <p>Candidates may refer to the following analytical points (AO2) when explaining the problems arising from using the first past the post (FPTP) system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multi-party politics is the norm in devolved assemblies and local government – and here alternative voting systems to FPTP are used and produce more representative outcomes • the distribution of safe and marginal seats gives too much weight to a small number of voters • perception of unfairness increases the dissatisfaction and disengagement of voters • constituents are left without a representative reflective of their views. <p><i>Do not credit any AO1 responses that come from beyond the source.</i></p> <p>Accept any other valid responses.</p>

In AO2 political information means source.		
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited analysis of political information with partial logical chains of reasoning, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 2	4–7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused analysis of political information with clear, logical chains of reasoning, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 3	8–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates comprehensive and precise knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent and sustained analysis of political information, with coherent logical chains of reasoning, which make convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).

Question number	Indicative content
3	<p>AO2 (5 marks), AO3 (5 marks)</p> <p>AO2 and AO3 require candidates to analyse and evaluate the sources and develop their answers, showing comparative analytical and evaluative skills to address the question.</p> <p>Candidates should focus their comparison on analysing the similarities and differences of the viewpoints given in the sources.</p> <p>Candidates may refer to the following comparative analytical points (AO2) when assessing the similarities and differences between the sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • both sources link referendums to democracy and the importance and principle of majority support • both sources cover how referendums are central to major constitutional changes • source 2 implies that the use of referendums cannot be contested but source 3 offers evidence for disputing referendums – for example in Wales the result was very close • source 2 states that referendums are popular with the public, however source 3 shows that turnout is often low. <p>Candidates may refer to the following comparative evaluative points (AO3) when assessing the similarities and differences between the sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • source 2 indicates that referendums strengthen popular sovereignty. This makes it hard for future administrations to reject , ignore or reverse the decision • evidence in source 2 can also be questioned; it refers to public education campaigns and their popularity, but does not consider possible bias, the nature of the information or the success of these campaigns • source 3 provides fact-based evidence that strengthens the case that referendums can be contested if turnout falls below 50%, however turnout fluctuates from one referendum to another, so the source shows inconsistency in terms of legitimacy of different referendum decisions • in source 3, the EEC and EU referendums show that views change with time as the electorate differs. This shows that they are only a snapshot of the public’s opinion at a given moment in time and need to be viewed in the context of the time when they are held. <p>Candidates who <i>do not</i> undertake any comparative analysis of the source cannot achieve beyond Level 1.</p> <p>There are no AO1 marks available. <i>Do not</i> give credit to responses where candidates demonstrate knowledge alone. Any knowledge used must support their analysis and evaluation.</p> <p>Accept any other valid responses.</p>

In AO2 and AO3 political information means source.		
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited comparative analysis of political information with partial logical chains of reasoning, referring to similarities and/or differences within political information, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). Makes superficial evaluation of political information, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many which are descriptive and lead to limited unsubstantiated and unjustified conclusions (AO3).
Level 2	4–7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly focused comparative analysis of political information with clear, logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and/or differences within political information, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of political information, constructing mostly focused arguments and judgements, many which are substantiated and lead to some specific conclusions, that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 3	8–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent and sustained comparative analysis of political information, with coherent logical chains of reasoning, drawing on similarities and differences within political information, which make convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). Constructs coherent and sustained evaluation of political information, constructing effectively substantiated arguments and judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to precise conclusions that are fully justified (AO3).

Section C

Question number	Indicative content
4(a)	<p>AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks)</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3). AO2 and AO3 require candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question – such responses will be underpinned by use of their knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the view that the media reinforces political choices and does not alter them:</p> <p>Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> political choice is also influenced by a range of other factors such as class, gender, age and ethnicity partisan alignment applies when families pass on political values voter choice is more often determined by region various media types can counter one another, therefore the media simply wishes to be on the winning side <p>Disagreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impression of party leaders given by the media is core to voter choice partisan and class dealignment has occurred the media is continually evolving and includes rolling news channels, the internet and social media despite declining newspaper circulation, newspapers are still influential. <p>Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> voting patterns are determined by many differing internal factors and the media reinforces these patterns by confirming a voter's predisposition to vote in a certain way, for example newspaper choices are influenced by class (AO2), therefore the media mirrors prior political affiliation and does little to change it, media outlets rarely swap sides during elections or challenge the demographic of their readership (AO3) evidence tells us that many voters have made up their minds long before an intensive media campaign commences, and the reasons for how people vote is very deep rooted (AO2), therefore the media is just one of many and varied factors that have an impact on political choice, and it helps to reinforce established views rather than challenge them or try to change them (AO3) traditionally, Labour has dominated in the north in urban areas and the Conservatives in the south in rural areas, this was particularly apparent with the Conservative dominance in England in the 2015 election (AO2), thus the media has little impact on this choice and serves to reinforce regional voting patterns, such as those seen in newspaper circulation. For instance, social media has a self-selecting audience where, quite often, people sharing similar views come together on a regional basis (AO3) newspapers have often switched allegiance in order to pick the winning party, with <i>The Sun</i> as an obvious example (AO2), therefore the influence of the media is unreliable as it works only to reflect the opinion of voters rather than shaping it or changing it (AO3).

Question number	Indicative content
4(a) (contd.)	<p>Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown and Miliband both received ample negative publicity before the 2010 and 2015 elections, and this can be seen as a crucial element in them not winning those elections. Newspaper media was influential as it portrayed both leaders as having flaws (AO2), consequently the media is important in shaping these impressions, and hence voter choice, and can have a powerful impact on influencing how people vote, for instance the live TV coverage of Brown in Rochdale served to undermine his credibility and damage his character (AO3) • it is no longer the case that A, B and C1 will vote Conservative and C2, D and E Labour because strict class boundaries are no longer seen as definite, societal structures in the late 20th century have changed (class dealignment) (AO2), thus giving the media a prominent role in swaying voters because they can be heavily influenced by media coverage on governing competence, issue voting, economic voting and party leaders, and these factors all determine voter choice (AO3) • social media, such as Twitter and Facebook in particular, is playing an ever-increasing role, this has become even more important with the advent of televised debates before an election (AO2), therefore this variety of media makes it influential in determining the outcome of the election, particularly for younger generations of voters, and is likely to continue in terms of its impact and influence (AO3) • in 2010 and 2015, only <i>The Mirror</i> firmly backed Labour, <i>The Sun</i> changed its allegiance from Labour to the Conservatives. Also, newspapers being given away free, such as <i>Metro</i> and <i>The Evening Standard</i>, means that they have a wider circulation and impact (AO2), therefore the winner of the election is invariably backed by the largest number of media outlets, and this is unlikely to change as print media still influences and has an impact on voter choice (AO3). <p>Candidates must consider both views in their answers in a balanced way. The judgement a candidate reaches about these views should be reflected in their conclusion.</p> <p>Candidates who <i>have not</i> referred to at least two types of media and/or <i>have not</i> considered both views in a balanced way cannot achieve beyond Level 2.</p> <p>Accept any other valid responses.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited analysis of aspects of politics with partial logical chains of reasoning, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many of which are descriptive (AO3).
Level 2	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some emerging analysis of aspects of politics with some focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some appropriate evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing occasionally effective arguments and judgements, some are partially unsubstantiated and lead to generic conclusions, without much justification (AO3).
Level 3	13–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused analysis of aspects of politics with logical chains of reasoning, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing mostly focused arguments and judgements, many are substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions, that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	19–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Focused analysis of aspects of politics with logical chains of reasoning, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing focused arguments and judgements, which are substantiated and lead to focused conclusions that are mostly justified (AO3).
Level 5	25–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates comprehensive and precise knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent and sustained analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, which make convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs coherent and sustained evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing effectively substantiated arguments and judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to precise conclusions that are fully justified (AO3).

Question number	Indicative content
4(b)	<p>AO1 (10 marks), AO2 (10 marks), AO3 (10 marks)</p> <p>AO1 will be used by candidates to underpin their analysis (AO2) and evaluation (AO3). AO2 and AO3 require candidates to develop their answers showing analytical and evaluative skills to address the question – such responses will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Candidates may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) in relation to the view that party leaders are crucial to the success of a political party:</p> <p>Agreement with view</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaders are very much the brand image of the party • the media focuses on the leader • strong leaders ensure party unity and hold the various groups or factions in the party together • strong leaders act to source funds for the party <p>Disagreement with view</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • popular leaders have lost elections • success for a political party is a team effort, not simply the role of an individual • events often shape outcomes and events • the media is crucial as this is how the electorate obtain information. <p>Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when agreeing with the view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaders with charisma attract wavering voters to vote for the party, for example Blair appealing beyond the traditional Labour base and leaders of minor parties, such as Farage and Sturgeon, have made a significant difference to their parties' electoral appeal (AO2), therefore these types of leaders work effectively in offering an attractive brand to voters and they can have a great impact, this type of brand appeal is likely to continue (AO3) • the media finds it easier to connect with personality rather than ideas. Indeed, the personality assimilates the ideas, becoming the 'brand image' and figurehead of the political party, with attention focused on their behaviour (AO2), therefore the media supports the view that party leaders are crucial; leaders with a strong brand play better in the media and gain more positive press and therefore appear more favourable to the electorate, whereas weaker leaders are often mocked by the press and this damages their credibility with the public (AO3) • how well leaders perform under the spotlight (for example at Prime Minister's questions) matters in securing electoral success. Leaders need to perform effectively to carry the authority and give the impression that they can manage their own party and the country (AO2), thus these types of party leaders can have a crucial impact and weak leaders struggle with division, for example Major, Corbyn; divided parties rarely win elections and are less appealing to voters (AO3) • charismatic and popular leaders support the party in its widest sense, acting to petition for funds and donations in order to contest elections and achieve success (AO2), therefore this type of leader is far more effective in ensuring that their party is successful, people respond to them and this type of personality is likely to continue to make an impact as political leadership is about personality (AO3).

Question number	Indicative content
4(b) (contd.)	<p>Candidates may refer to the following analytical (AO2) and evaluative (AO3) points when disagreeing with the view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in 1970 for Wilson and in 1979 for Callaghan, the focus in these elections was more on policy than personality, if the policies the party produce are popular, effective leadership is less important (AO2), consequently this shows that party leaders do not have to be overly popular, strong or charismatic and that policies can be influential in making a party successful, however these examples are from the last century (AO3) • a leader is only as good as the talent and support around them in their political party, for example the role of Mandelson, Brown and Campbell for Blair and Osborne for Cameron (AO2), therefore depth and breadth in key appointments and support staff ensures that a clear message is given in the media and ensures party success, it shows that success is a more complicated issue than simply having a popular, strong leader (AO3) • a range of other issues is more important than the leader, such as economic prosperity and worldwide events beyond the borders of the UK, for example the impact of the Iraq War and the financial crash on Labour's success, the outcome of the Scottish referendum (AO2), consequently these events are beyond the control of party leaders and often come down to factors beyond their control, so it is clear that other factors can influence success and that leadership alone is not the key factor (AO3) • the role of the media is far more important than the party leaders. How the media targets the party and its ideas is vital and leaders often change their views to please the media (AO2), therefore it is not just the sheer personality of a leader that dictates success, it is that coupled with the backing of media corporations that helps parties to be successful and this outlet will continue to be influential (AO3). <p>Candidates must consider both views in their answers in a balanced way. The judgement a candidate reaches about these views should be reflected in their conclusion.</p> <p>Candidates who <i>have not</i> referred to at least two political parties and/or <i>have not</i> considered both views in a balanced way cannot achieve beyond Level 2.</p> <p>Accept any other valid responses.</p>

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, with limited underpinning of analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited analysis of aspects of politics with partial logical chains of reasoning, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing simple arguments and judgements, many of which are descriptive (AO3).
Level 2	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, some of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some emerging analysis of aspects of politics with some focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some appropriate evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing occasionally effective arguments and judgements, some are partially unsubstantiated and lead to generic conclusions, without much justification (AO3).
Level 3	13–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, many of which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused analysis of aspects of politics with logical chains of reasoning, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing mostly focused arguments and judgements, many are substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions, that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	19–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are selected appropriately in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Focused analysis of aspects of politics with logical chains of reasoning, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs relevant evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing focused arguments and judgements, which are substantiated and lead to focused conclusions that are mostly justified (AO3).
Level 5	25–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates comprehensive and precise knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues, which are carefully selected in order to underpin analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent and sustained analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, which make convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs coherent and sustained evaluation of aspects of politics, constructing effectively substantiated arguments and judgements, which are consistently substantiated and lead to precise conclusions that are fully justified (AO3).