**Extended questions: exam practice**

Students will find these extended questions useful in preparation for paper 1, section D.

Please refer to **https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/citizenship-studies-2016.html** for the exam board’s guidance on specification and assessment.

***These questions are both worth a lot of marks. Read both questions carefully and make sure that you know how many marks each one is worth.***

**SOURCE D, FOR USE WITH QUESTION 1**

**Should MPs have a right to privacy?**

Samiya Sethi (doctor) says NO

I fully accept that MPs have stressful jobs. I also believe that the vast majority of MPs have great intentions; they are MPs because they wish to improve Britain for people like me, not through a desire to be famous. There are exceptions to the rule however, which is why every MP should waive their right to privacy. After all, they represent us in the Houses of Parliament. Do we not thus have a right to expect them to have excellent morals and obey the law at all times – in their capacity as role models to wider society? We’ve all heard stories of MPs who cheat on their partners, lie about expenses claims, or break the speed limit. Recently, an MP’s work computer was found to contain sexual images and other MPs were found to have made sexist comments to parliamentary assistants. Thank goodness the public were made aware; these issues raise serious questions about certain politicians’ attitude to respect and diversity, not to mention their general work ethic. If you become an MP, you should be totally transparent about your personal life. I’m not suggesting journalists should secretly film MPs playing with their children in their own back gardens! What I mean is that information about MPs’ friends, MPs’ exam results, whether they’re faithful to their partners, which comments they made on social media years ago, etc., is all relevant. Without this information, the public can’t know whether MPs are worthy of representing constituents. If you’re not doing anything wrong, what have you got to hide?

Jim Fern (teacher) says YES

In my view, MPs need to be hardworking, assertive and extremely intelligent. Expertise in politics is also vital, as is being fully committed to a democratic Britain. Campaigning tirelessly on behalf of the ‘person on the street’/charities is critically important too. As these personality traits and behaviours have absolutely nothing to do with what someone does when they’re not at work, why do journalists insist on telling us about MPs’ private lives? Why are someone’s sexual preferences in any way relevant to their ability to introduce new tax laws? How is an MP’s religion/atheism linked to how efficiently they answer constituents’ emails? What relationship does the brand of an MP’s shoes have with their ability to handle Brexit negotiations? We all have the right to privacy when we’re not at work, no matter what job we do. Privacy is one of our human rights, and human rights apply to everyone in the world. Let’s therefore focus our attention on what MPs achieve for their country. It’s a total waste of time to report on MPs’ private lives because it only distracts the public from assessing what MPs are paid to do: politics! After all, people have such different views (about eating meat, abortion, gay marriage, wearing religious clothing in public, sending children to private school, etc.) that MPs can’t possibly do ‘what is right’ in everyone’s eyes. Those in favour of scrutinising MPs’ personal lives are, quite simply, nosey. Society is voyeuristic enough as it is. Let’s give MPs more privacy … otherwise nobody will want to do the job five years down the line!

## PAPER 1. Section D. Theme A: Living Together in the UK

*Study Source D about MPs’ right to privacy, then answer the question below:*

1. Which writer do you agree with more?

Explain your answer. Refer to the arguments made by both writers. (12)

## PAPER 1. Section D. Theme C: Law and Justice.

2. ‘Many British laws are out of date because they do not respond to scientific and technological developments and changing values’.

To what extent do you agree with this view? (15)

Give reasons for your opinion. Show you have considered other points of view.

In your answer, you could consider:

* medical advances (e.g. life-saving drugs)
* surveillance of the public (CCTV, etc.)
* social media accounts and the internet
* differing views about atheism/religion

**EXAM PRACTICE ANSWERS FOR TEACHERS**

1. Which writer do you agree with more? Explain your answer. Refer to the arguments made by both writers. (12)

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| --- | --- |
| **Question number** | **Indicative content** |
| 1 | Marking instructions  Mark according to the exam board’s general marking guidance, paying particular attention to AO3.  Indicative content guidance  The answers below are suggestions. Students to not have to include them all. Other relevant answers must be awarded marks.  Relevant points may include:   * Students might interpret Samiya’s view that MPs represent the public in the Houses of Parliament – and thus should be of excellent moral character – as justification for MPs forfeiting the right to privacy that a layperson can expect. * An alternative viewpoint is that Samiya is raising useful questions about whether certain MPs are too distracted by personal issues (e.g. extra-marital affairs) to fulfil their parliamentary commitments. The implication being that the voter has a right to know if this is the case. * Students who favour Jim’s opinion might expand upon his stance that as long as politicians perform well at work (through representing constituents’ viewpoints in the House of Commons, campaigning on behalf of charities, etc.), what they do in their own time is irrelevant. * Students might also agree with Jim’s argument about all members of society being entitled to privacy, due to the right to privacy being explicitly mentioned within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Jim highlights the idea that human rights are universal; they should not be afforded only to those working in certain sectors. * Students might also highlight Jim’s point that British society is increasingly voyeuristic and that this needs to be rectified; reporting on an MP’s sexual preferences serves to titillate, rather than being of relevance to public interest. * Students who prefer Samiya’s viewpoint might argue that an MP who is law-abiding has nothing to fear in terms of scrutiny of their friendships, holiday destinations and spending habits: are MPs’ decisions about their personal lives (e.g. socialising with racist friends) not relevant to the laws they might wish to introduce/the way in which they perceive constituents? * Students might also agree with Samiya’s emphasis on recent news stories concerning politicians’ actions towards colleagues in parliament. Is a sexist MP the person whom we wish to represent us in debates about the gender pay gap, for example? However, students might also argue that Samiya is somewhat simplistic in her viewpoint because, as Jim asserts, members of the public have radically different views about what constitutes moral behaviour, e.g. some voters might think it immoral to be gay. |

| **Level** | **Mark** | **Descriptor** |
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| – | 0 | No rewardable content. |
| 1 | 1–3 | * Limited analysis of views from source (the views are only considered at a very basic level, or misunderstood). * Undeveloped evaluation (lacks coherent arguments). Significant parts of the answer are irrelevant. * Very limited/no overall judgement about the opinions in the source. |
| 2 | 4–6 | * Analysis of views from source is evident, but is too one-sided. * Some appropriate evaluation (reasoned and coherent), but it is too one-sided. * Some appropriate judgements given, but these have minimal substantiation. |
| 3 | 7–9 | * Analysis of views from both sides of the debate is presented, however this is unsustained. * Evaluation is reasoned and coherent. Whilst the argument is relevant, it requires more insight. * Judgements given are appropriate, though not always supported with justification. |
| 4 | 10–12 | * Analysis of both viewpoints is well-considered and of a consistently high quality. * Evaluation is not only reasoned and well-balanced, but shows good insight. * Judgements given are justified clearly. |

## PAPER 1. Section D. Theme C: Law and Justice

2. ‘Many British laws are out of date because they do not respond to scientific and technological developments and changing values’. To what extent do you agree with this view? (15)

| **Question number** | **Indicative content** |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | Marking instructions  Mark according to the exam board’s general marking guidance, paying particular attention to AO3.  Indicative content guidance  The answers below are suggestions. Students to not have to include them all. Other relevant answers must be awarded marks.  Arguments supporting the statement might include:   * The point of laws is to protect the public – yet politicians allow legal loopholes through which technology companies act against us. For example, the tracking of our movements and opinions/actions via social media makes us vulnerable to identity theft. * The #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo campaigns highlight that not enough is done to protect certain groups in society; the Equality Act is not achieving what politicians hoped it would and thus requires an update. * The government does not do enough to address the public’s increasing concern about the widespread use of plastic; in Germany there is already ‘fun’ technology on the street which recycles used bottles (issuing citizens with a cash refund when they ‘feed’ the recyclables into a slot). * Certain scientific advances (which could revolutionise the job market and the NHS), such as the use of artificial human wombs, are not allowed by law due to old-fashioned views about the human body. * The sale of alcohol on Sundays is still restricted, due to a ‘Britain of the past’ in which Sunday was perceived as an important day of the week in the Christian calendar. This is an outdated restriction, given a recent British Social Attitudes survey showing atheists to comprise over half of the population. * The increasingly large ‘gig’ economy, in which zero hour contracts preside, reflects society’s changing values in terms of working full-time and/or having a ‘career for life’. However, many laws (e.g. regarding pension rights) still favour those in permanent employment. * Both prostitution and the use of many drugs are still illegal in Britain. This is despite much research demonstrating that many thousands of citizens would be less vulnerable to mental and physical health concerns if legalisation were to take place. * Lobby groups such as ‘Cycling UK’ argue that whilst many citizens are trying use cars less (due to the 21st century emphasis on sustainable transport systems), the law does not do enough to take into account the safety of cyclists – hence many avoidable fatalities happening each year. |

| **Level** | **Mark** | **Descriptor** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| – | 0 | No rewardable content. |
| 1 | 1–3 | * Simple or over-general answer (little analysis of relevant opinions). * Undeveloped evaluation (lacks well-balanced, coherent arguments). Some parts of answer are irrelevant. * Overarching judgement is missing/poorly presented. |
| 2 | 4–7 | * Analysis of relevant opinions is one-sided. * Evaluation has some well-balanced and coherent arguments. Answer generally relevant, but has limited insight. * Overarching judgement is given, but is not justified clearly. |
| 3 | 8–11 | * Analysis of relevant opinions on both sides of debate relevant – but with limited analysis. * Well-balanced and clear, relevant evaluation. However, insight is somewhat limited. * Overarching judgement provided. Substantiation is present, though there might be a lack of evidence. |
| 4 | 12–15 | * Analysis is well-presented and persuasive. Both sides of debate are incorporated in a balanced fashion. * Clear, well-balanced evaluation, with good insight into both points of view. * Overarching judgement is well supported by evidence and the opinions of both writers. |