

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component.

## Candidate 3

### A. Identifying and demonstrating factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of the issue, showing an awareness of different points of view

#### Background and framing of issues and alternatives

The candidate clearly identifies the issue of Ronald Reagan's effectiveness as US President. This is explained, although not in detail. The candidate does not provide alternative points of view on the issue, nor do they discuss significance or link to political concepts. The candidate is awarded **2 marks** for this section.

#### Knowledge and understanding which supports the analysis of the issue

The candidate uses a range of information to support different aspects of their analysis. They focus on four aspects of the issue: domestic policy, world relations, controversy and public opinion. While there are prompts on the resource sheet to support their write up, the candidate has generally used these to further exemplify or analyse within their writing. These prompts have however limited the candidate's ability to access the full range of marks. The knowledge and understanding points use appropriate social science terminology and are linked to the analysis given throughout the assignment. The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for this aspect of knowledge and understanding.

In total, the candidate was awarded **6 out of 10 marks** for knowledge and understanding.

## B. Analysing information in a structured manner

The candidate makes several analytical comments and was awarded marks for the following:

- An analytical comment is made interpreting Reagan's legacy on domestic policy and the extent of his effectiveness in this area. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made on the possible consequence of Reagan being willing to sacrifice temporary comfort for future comfort. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made interpreting Reagan's handling of world relations and the extent of his effectiveness in this area. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made showing an understanding of the relative importance of Reagan's stance on the USSR in his evil empire speech. **(1 mark)**
- A developed analytical comment is made on the consequences of Reagan's success on public opinion and how it reshaped the modern Presidency. The candidate has directly quoted from their resource sheet and has gone on to interpret this quote in order to justify their analysis. **(2 marks)**
- An analytical comment is made on the consequence of controversy over the invasion of Grenada on Reagan's effectiveness. **(1 mark)**

Although comments such as those on job losses, the Washington Summit and Pew Research surveys could be interpreted as analytical comments, much of what the candidate referred to was on the resource sheet and therefore, was not credited as such.

In total, the candidate was awarded **7 out of 14 marks** for analysis.

## C. Communicating information from, and referring to, political sources

The candidate refers to several political sources that they have named on their resource sheet. These are identified as Ronald Reagan's 1981 inaugural address, Reagan's evil empire speech and The Reagan Diaries. These are all valid political sources.

In total, the candidate was awarded **2 out of 2 marks** for political sources.

## **D. Drawing a detailed and reasoned conclusion(s) about the issue**

The candidate makes a conclusion on the extent to which Ronald Reagan was an effective president. This conclusion is sophisticated and insightful, weighing up the four factors that they have discussed in the assignment and concluding on the extent to which each factor made Reagan effective.

As a result, the candidate was awarded **3 out of 4 marks** for conclusions.

In total, the candidate was awarded **18 out of 30 marks** for the assignment.