

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 5

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 the 2024 US Presidential election results, and the background is explained in detail. They clearly explain alternative points of view on the issue and make a comment on the significance/importance of the issue. The candidate is awarded **5 marks** for this section.

Knowledge and understanding which supports the analysis of the issue

Throughout the assignment the candidate makes use of knowledge and understanding to support analysis in the assignment. This includes a high degree of well exemplified knowledge and understanding on both candidates' candidacy and leadership, campaign and policies. These knowledge and understanding points use appropriate social science terminology and are linked to the analysis given throughout the assignment. There are also links to relevant political concepts throughout. The candidate was awarded **5 marks** for this aspect of knowledge and understanding.

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

B. Analysing information in a structured manner

The candidate makes a number of analytical comments relating to the 2024 US Presidential election. They make analytical comments such as identifying the relative importance of components and identifying consequences, implications and offers differing interpretations of factors. The candidate repeatedly demonstrates developed analysis with supported justification. This exceeds the mark allocation for this section.

The candidate was awarded marks for the following:

- An analytical comment is made on the implication of Harris' connection to the Biden administration, which is further developed with a link to the related political concept of voting behaviour. **(2 marks)**
- An analytical comment is made on the possible implication of Harris' identity to the outcome of the election with further justification focusing on the inconsistency of this when compared to previous Democratic party results. **(2 marks)**
- An analytical comment is made on the consequences of Harris leading the Democratic ticket late in the electoral process. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made on the link between components and related concepts focusing on Harris' lack of legitimacy having not taken part in the 2024 Democrat Party primaries. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made interpreting different viewpoints on how Harris should have focused on other voter demographics. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made on the implication of Harris' vision, leading to many voters struggling to understand what was in their best interests. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made on the consequences of alienating progressive voters, linked to previous elections. **(2 marks)**
- An analytical comment is made on the underlying order or structure, suggesting that voters gravitated towards Trump in a time of crisis due to his previous leadership experience. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made on the consequence of Elon Musk's voting lottery, creating a sense of urgency among voters. **(1 mark)**
- An analytical comment is made on the link between the component and the whole, suggesting that Trump was able to portray himself as a political outsider due to media coverage favouring Harris. **(1 mark)**

- An analytical comment is made on the consequence of Trump's anti-government rhetoric on those voters who feel Washington DC was in a bubble. **(1 mark)**

Further marks could have been awarded for the following, had the candidate not already reached the maximum marks available for this section:

- An analytical comment is made on the consequence of Trump's view on 'Roe vs Wade' on conservative Christian voters and the alienation of others. (1 mark)
- An analytical comment is made on the consequence of Trump's appearance as a strong man on those who favoured anti-immigration policies. (1 mark)

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

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

The candidate refers to several political sources including CNN, BBC and the Wall Street Journal.

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 provided a sophisticated and insightful conclusion over the last paragraph that addressed and evaluated the main factors of the assignment. The candidate makes a successful attempt at evaluating points of view by offering a viewpoint and the counter argument to this. They make detailed reference to evidence throughout.

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

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