

Possible DBQ 2021 Question (g) Options: Making “Recommendations” & Designing Citizenship Projects

With the proposed changes to the paper for 2021, the value of the Data-Based Question is proportionately much higher (**150 of 300**, not 150 of 400). Therefore, proportionally more of your revision time should be dedicated to this topic. The problem here is that the instructions from the S.E.C. about the most recent alterations to the paper don't give us a clear indication of how they will ask the final question in a way that helps students to prepare. As it indicates below, “the last question is restricted to the information presented in the Data-Based Documents.” So, we basically have to prepare ‘blind’ for this question. But bear in mind that the value of the final question has varied between 40 and 50 marks. Therefore, they could assign a lower/higher mark-value to this final question. Be prepared for anything!

Higher Level

In 2021, as usual, candidates will be required to answer all three sections of the examination paper. For 2021, in order to provide further choice, *Section A – Short Answer Questions* will have additional questions to choose from; *Section B – Data-based Questions* will have the focus of the last question restricted to the information presented in the data-based documents and *Section C – Discursive Essay Questions* will have five questions at 100 marks each instead of the usual four questions. Candidates will be required to answer Section A and B as usual, however they will be required to answer only one question from Section C.

Structure for Recommendations to Gov/Minister/NGOs and other groups

Recommendation: Criteria

It's not enough to come up with a random list of things that you'd advise should be done. You should, where at all possible, base what you propose upon **logical criteria**. In other words, in the opening section of your answer, explain WHY you are suggesting these things. For example, are you trying to influence specific demographics? Are you trying to use Rawls' “minimax” * (also the logic behind the SDGs)? Is return on investment the priority?

Grounded in the Data

Given the phrasing of the SEC's advice, what you write has to be based on the data in the document ONLY. If you bring in outside material, there's a chance they might not award it marks! So, for every point you make, you should OVERTLY link what you have said to specific Qualitative or Quantitative data points in the Doc. If you can't point to a specific piece of data, it'll be harder for you to justify to the examiner that you're answering the Question asked!!!

Prioritization & Progress

One of the ways in which you might structure (or conclude) this longer question would be to suggest the order in which the Government should attend to your suggestions. What should they do first? What should they invest most money and time in addressing? How might they measure their progress? Another factor is the HR dictum: “**nothing about us without us**” – are your involving the targets of the policy?

Structure for Citizenship Project Design. (This has been an OL data question, so could be converted!)

Why re-invent the wheel?

One reason this is possible, is that every student has learned about this design process in their own CP! So, if you are deciding how to layout your answer, why not follow the structure you've already used: **Rationale, Aims, Research, Actions, Evaluation, Outcomes (less likely), Reflection**. Obviously, it'll depend on how the question is phrased, but you might need to focus on different aspects of your methodology...

Grounded in the Data

As with the ‘recommendations’, you still need to make sure that you are linking your ideas to specific data in the document. One way of doing this might be to say “*Finding ‘X’ within Document B seems relevant/controversial/raises questions, therefore I'd want to investigate it more.*” Similarly, if you notice a disparity between data given in different sources, you might want to interrogate the difference. Ask how you might **corroborate** the data presented?

Targets

If the CP you are designing is supposed to bring about a specific type of change, then it's important to include targets in your design. “*I will know this project has been a success if...*”. Why is this reasonable to expect? Well, when you study the SDGs (relevant to many parts of the course) you learn about the ‘Goals’ (17) & ‘Targets’ (169) structure of each SDG. What specific ‘metrics’ might you include in your answer?

* **‘Minimax’** implies trying to improve outcomes based on the principle that “**they are to be of the greatest benefit to the least-advantaged members of society**”. In other words, the guiding principle in your policy recommendations is to “**raise the floor, not the ceiling**” and should try to ensure that the worst possible outcome is as good as it can be made...

Caveat: With the uncertainty around this topic, students should recognize that this is **just my best guess** as to what might happen in this section!