Modified Essay Questions: MEQ

- You will be asked to mark one or two sub-questions of a modified essay problem.
- MEQ answers are usually worth 1 or 2 marks, reflecting the expected amount of detail. For a 2 mark answer, markers should decide whether a candidate's answer for that domain is worth 2, 1 or 0 marks.

- In some instances each sub-question within a modified essay may be marked by different markers. This means that you will not see the answers candidates gave to the other sub-questions of the same essay, and that you can only mark what you have in front of you. If a candidate does not cover the content, but writes that he or she has answered it in another part/section of the paper, the candidate cannot be given credit in the part/section of the MEQ that you are marking. We have been careful to tell the candidates this very clearly at the beginning of each modified essay question. We have written:

  Each question within this modified essay will be marked by a different examiner. The examiner marking one question will not have access to your answers to the other two questions. Therefore, please ensure that you address each question separately and specifically. Thus, for example, answer question 3 fully, even if you believe that you have partly covered its content in your answers to questions 1 and 2.

- To assist you in marking answers, questions may read "Outline your…", "Discuss how…" etc. This is a guide as to the type of answer to look for in a candidates response.

  - **List** means you want a list without anything extra, the list doesn't have to be explained or justified.

  - **Outline** means a list with something extra that indicates a reason for its inclusion.

    Marking guide for 'Outline' is as follows:
    0 = The candidate:
    a. writes nothing, or little, or merely lists category heading or is overgeneralised or is wrong; and
    b. the candidate provides no description, explanation or rationale.

  - **Discuss** means a substantial answer, covering a number of points with some analysis about its inclusion in the answer.

    Marking guide for 'Discuss' is as follows:
    0 = The candidate:
    a. writes nothing, **or** little, **or** merely lists category heading **or** is overgeneralised **or** is wrong; **and**
    b. the candidate provides no description, explanation or rationale.

    1 = The candidate shows an average grasp of the issues either:
    a. by dealing with only one dimension of the answer but does provide in depth reasoning or description for this dimension; **or**
    b. by identifying several elements of the answer with some reasoning and description but not in any depth.

    2 = The candidate shows a very good grasp of the issues
    a. by dealing with several dimensions of the answer providing in-depth reasoning or description; **or**
    b. by covering an extensive range of issues, each being discussed, but not necessarily to the depth of 2a.

- Scoring keys reflect only one way of organizing the answer. Candidates may organize information in a different manner. However, we anticipate that the scoring keys will cover the required content. Markers may need to be flexible in accepting a variety of answer structures. In this case it is a matter of using the scoring key provided to ensure that candidates adequately cover the required content.

- If you consider that there is an additional correct answer please discuss this with your marking group leader. If the group leader agrees that there is one or more additional correct answers then there will be a change in the scoring key. Please immediately email the Co-Chairs of the Written Subcommittee or the Secretariat of any change to the scoring key. A change in the scoring key **will not** increase the total number of marks awarded for that part of the MEQ. Note that on the scoring keys we have left a stippled box (**Spare**) available to be used if the decision is made that there is another acceptable answer. Otherwise don't dabble with the stipple.

- To indicate your score, you simply shade in the appropriate bubble on the right hand side of the page with a 2B pencil.

- W bubble; (this will be included in Feedback to candidates) - mark this bubble if you find that a candidate's hand writing is difficult to read, but you are able to give a score. Remember that if a candidate has an illegible script you are not obliged to mark it. **You must discuss such a case with your marking group leader, who will discuss it with the Co-Chairs of the Writtens Subcommittee.**

- Please write your initials in box and indicate your allocated ID number by shading in the relevant bubble at the bottom of the page (this is the small price you pay for not doing all those arithmetical additions).