

# KU Questions - How to Answer

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## What are knowledge and understanding questions?

In the National 5 Modern Studies exam, 50 of the 80 marks will come from knowledge and understanding questions. This will require you to use your own knowledge to answer two types of questions -

- Describe (4 or 6 marks)
- Explain (6 or 8 marks)

Both of these question types will appear in all three units of the exam. Each mark should take around 1 minute and 45 seconds to gain. 4 marks = 7 minutes, 6 marks = 10.5 minutes, 8 marks = 14 minutes.

Both questions will ask you to write **in detail**. Put as much information as you can in your answers to gain full marks.

Pay close attention to the question. It may only ask for 2 or 3 ways/reasons/consequences etc. In this case, if you write more than what has been asked, the marker will only accept your best two or three paragraphs.

### Describe Questions

To answer describe questions you need to use the PDE structure -

**P** - Point  
**D** - Describe  
**E** - Example

For both a four mark and a six mark describe question you should write two PDE paragraphs.

#### Example Question -

Describe, in detail, two political rights that people have in Scotland (4 marks).

P - One political right people in Scotland have is the right to vote.

D - This means that people can choose to vote in a number of different elections such as Scottish Parliament election to choose the people who represent them and run the country on their behalf.

E - For example, over 2.7 million people voted in 2021 when the SNP won 64 seats.

P - Another political right people in Scotland have is to stand as a candidate.

D - This means that people can choose to stand as a candidate in their local area or on a regional list in Scottish Parliament elections for a political party.

E - For example, Christine Graham stood as the SNP candidate for Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale in the 2021 election.

### Explain Questions

To answer an explain question, you use the PEE structure (be careful - this is different for explain questions).

**P** - Point  
**E** - Explain  
**E** - Example/Evidence

For a six mark question you should write two PEE paragraphs, and for an eight mark question you should write three PEE paragraphs.

#### Example Question -

Explain, in detail, why prisons are an effective punishment. You should give a maximum of three reasons in your answer. (8 marks)

P - One reason why prisons are an effective punishment is that they act as a deterrent.

E - This makes them effective because some people will choose not to commit a crime as they do not want to spend time in prison away from their friends and family.

E - For example, the most serious prison sentence people can receive is a life sentence, meaning they are unlikely to get out of prison again. The longest prison sentence someone in Scotland has served is 37 years.

P - Another reason why prisons are an effective punishment is that they can rehabilitate criminals.

E - This makes them effective because when in prison, various courses may be offered to criminals such as learning how to cook or reading lessons. When they get out of prison, they can use these skills to get a job.

E - For example, Scotland has Violence Reduction Units which work with violent criminals to help reduce reoffending rates.

P - A final reason why prisons are an effective punishment is that they keep the public safe.

E - This makes them effective because prisons lock up dangerous members of society and stop them from hurting more people through murder or assault.

E - For example, in 2019, there were over 8,000 criminals locked up in Scotland, stopping them from hurting others.

This answer is now worth 9 marks. As the question is only worth 8 marks, it gains full marks.