6.6 Regionalism and the European Union: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all 12 questions. Use full sentences for explanations. Use dated examples. Allow about 10 minutes.

1 The May 2026 Issue 4 specification labels its North American example NAFTA/USMCA. Identify the agreement added in that update and explain why this syllabus label alone does not show that both agreements operate simultaneously.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain the difference between supranational and intergovernmental decision-making. Illustrate your explanation with any relevant, dated EU example or examples.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Explain widening and deepening in European integration, using the Maastricht development of 1993 to illustrate one of these processes.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Explain two factors encouraging European integration and connect each to a relevant development or institutional feature. Use the historical Maastricht context of 1993 where helpful.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.6 Regionalism and the European Union: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

USMCA, the United States Mexico Canada Agreement. **B1**

The label identifies material for study; it does not establish the legal commencement, replacement or termination dates of either agreement. **B1**

Answer: USMCA was added. A syllabus listing establishes coverage, not simultaneous legal operation or the dates of an agreement.

Question 2

Supranational authority can bind a member state even when that government opposes a particular decision, within powers conferred by treaties. **B1**

Intergovernmental decision-making rests on bargaining among sovereign governments; unanimity is one possible procedure, not the definition of every intergovernmental body. **B1**

Applies the distinction accurately using any relevant, dated EU example or examples. For example, in the EU in 2021, binding judicial decisions or qualified-majority legislation could constrain dissenting governments, whereas intergovernmental cooperation rested on agreement among governments. Accept any accurate application; neither a particular institution nor both examples are required. Do not classify every Council decision as intergovernmental simply because ministers take part. **B1**

Answer: Supranational rules can bind an opposing government within delegated competences. Intergovernmental cooperation centres on bargaining among sovereign governments. In the EU in 2021, qualified-majority decisions could bind dissenting governments, illustrating the supranational constraint on national discretion.

Question 3

Widening means adding member states. **B1**

Deepening means increasing the scope or strength of shared policies or regional authority. **B1**

The Maastricht development in 1993 illustrates deepening through the EU project, rather than merely an increase in membership. Accept a more specific accurate account of political or economic integration. **B1**

Answer: Widening adds members; deepening extends integration. Maastricht in 1993 advanced the EU project, illustrating deepening.

Question 4

Identifies one relevant factor encouraging European integration. Accept economic, political or security factors, such as expected economic gains, peace, political stability or collective international influence. **B1**

Explains how the first factor encourages integration and connects it to a relevant development or institutional feature. Accept any accurate connection; an economic mechanism is not required. **B1**

Identifies a second, distinct relevant factor. Both factors may be political, economic or security-related; they need not come from different categories. **B1**

Explains how the second factor encourages integration and connects it to a relevant development or institutional feature. For example, shared institutions can make political cooperation more durable, while common action can increase collective influence. Accept any accurate connection; Maastricht in 1993 is optional. **B1**

Answer: Economic cooperation can widen markets and encourage exchange, giving governments a reason to integrate. Shared institutions can also make political cooperation more durable and increase collective influence; the Maastricht development of 1993 provides a deepening context.

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