6.6 Regionalism and the European Union: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all 12 questions. Use full sentences for explanations. Use dated examples. Allow about 30 minutes.

1 Evaluate the view that regional organisations resolve global problems more effectively than individual states. Consider the EU and other regional organisations, using dated examples and a supported judgement.

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(Total for Question 1 is 30 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.6 Regionalism and the European Union: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 0 No relevant response.	**0**
Level 1 Isolated relevant knowledge with assertions about effectiveness. Explanation and supporting evidence are slight; judgement is absent or unsubstantiated.	**1-6**
Level 2 Some accurate knowledge supports a partly developed argument. Analysis or evaluation is general, and counterarguments receive limited attention. Any judgement has only partial support.	**7-12**
Level 3 Mostly accurate knowledge and relevant examples support developed arguments on competing views. Analysis connects regional action to outcomes, and some evaluation weighs its effectiveness against action by states. Judgement is reasoned but unevenly supported.	**13-18**
Level 4 Accurate, selected knowledge and dated examples support coherent analysis and sustained weighing of regional and state capacities. Counterarguments are addressed and the judgement follows from explicit criteria, with only occasional gaps.	**19-24**
Level 5 Precise knowledge and well-chosen dated examples support a sustained, convincing comparison of effectiveness across relevant problems and organisations. Analysis tests causal claims and evaluation weighs counterarguments consistently. A fully supported judgement may agree, disagree or qualify the proposition.	**25-30**

Indicative content:

- AO1, AO2 and AO3 have equal weight, 10 marks each, assessed through best fit. Indicative content is non-exhaustive. Credit supported alternatives and equally well-evidenced conclusions agreeing, disagreeing or qualifying the view; no preferred political judgement is required.
- Effectiveness needs a criterion: preventing conflict, reducing poverty, protecting human rights or limiting environmental harm. Formal agreement and institutional existence are not evidence that a problem has been resolved.
- Regional cooperation can coordinate responses to problems crossing borders and pool resources. Shared rules can limit free riding, but success depends on compliance, funding and implementation by member states.
- EU collective market weight and WTO participation as of 2023 offer a mechanism for trade influence. That influence can improve bargaining capacity without guaranteeing poverty reduction or equal gains among members.
- Binding EU judicial authority as of 2021 can support consistent application of shared rules. It can also provoke sovereignty objections. The European Court of Human Rights belongs to the separate Council of Europe: its work cannot be counted as an EU institutional achievement.
- The AU and ASEAN show that regionalism can coexist with strong sovereignty concerns. The Arab League adds a political regional organisation for comparison. Assess actual capacity and cooperation rather than assuming all three reproduce EU institutions.
- For conflict, regional knowledge and coordinated pressure may assist cooperation, but national interests and limited shared military resources can constrain regional responses. A state with resources and a clear policy may sometimes respond more decisively.
- For poverty and the environment, coordination can tackle cross-border incentives. However, regional plans require domestic enforcement and can shift costs between members. Trade cooperation alone does not prove improvements in either area.
- Realist reasoning can emphasise power asymmetry, relative gains and selective state consent. Liberal reasoning can emphasise interdependence, rules and durable cooperation. Either interpretation earns credit when supported and applied rather than merely named.
- European integration includes widening and deepening. The Maastricht development of 1993 illustrates deepening; the UK departure in 2020 shows that membership is not irreversible. Neither development alone proves that regional organisations are effective or ineffective globally.
- NAFTA/USMCA is the updated North American example in May 2026 Issue 4. A syllabus listing does not independently establish the dates or legal status of its agreements. Credit accurate, dated agreement evidence if supplied by a candidate; do not require an unsupported chronology.
- A qualified conclusion could find regional organisations more effective for shared rules or bargaining but dependent on states for delivery. Full credit is also available for a substantiated case that state action is generally stronger, or that regional organisation is generally more effective.

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