

Modern Studies Standard Grade

Essential KU
Revision

Advice for answering KU questions.

1. **Read the question carefully.** Does it ask you to **describe** something or does it ask you to **explain** the reasons for something?

E.g. **Describe** the housing problems faced by some elderly people in the UK. **(4 marks KU)** *(You need to describe some of the following - Old houses, too big, difficult to heat, cant manage stairs, cant get into bath, kitchen is unsuitable, doors need widened etc etc)*

OR

Explain in detail why some elderly people live in poor housing conditions. **(4 marks KU)** *(You need to explain how some of the following things lead to poor housing conditions - Low pension, no private or works pension, no family to help with costs, few savings from life of low paid work, attached to houses for sentimental reasons etc etc.)*

Both these questions are about elderly peoples' housing **needs** but they are asking for different things.

Remember - Read the question Carefully!

2. Check how many marks the question is worth. You will **not** get full marks in an eight-mark question if you only give two points, no matter how well you explain them.

E.g. Describe the ways that the government tries to meet the needs of Unemployed people. **(8 Marks KU)**

This question is worth 8 marks and will require at least four well-explained points with examples to gain full marks. Look at the following point.

- *“The government helps unemployed people by opening job centres”* **(Worth 1 mark)**

(This is true but you have not explained what a job centre is or how it helps)

- *“The government helps unemployed people by opening job centres. Job centres advertise vacancies in the local area and help people who are unemployed to get in touch with companies”* **(Worth 2 marks)**

(Explanation has now been added and you have gained another mark)

- *“The government helps unemployed people by opening job centres. Job centres advertise vacancies in the local area and help people who are unemployed to get in touch with companies. Unemployed people have a meeting with an employment service advisor who will advise them about schemes like the New Deal and benefits they can claim like Job Seekers Allowance”*

(Specific examples have been added and this part of an answer is now worth 3 marks)

Remember this example is only one point. To gain full marks in an 8-mark answer you should try to give 4 points.

**Remember – Make a Point
Explain It
Give an Example**

3. Use the words of the question to begin your answer. This helps you to get started and lets the marker know that you understand the question.

Question

E.g. **Describe** the reasons why countries want to join the European Union.
(4 marks KU)

Answer

“Reasons why countries want to join the European Union include.....”

This won't get you any marks as such, but will create a good impression of you in the marker's mind.

4. Always try to give real examples in you answers. This is especially true in KU questions on the **USA**. Any answer that fails to give a **specific** American example cannot get full marks. In an eight mark Credit question this simple error could cost you **Four** marks.

E.g. Explain the reasons why many American citizens try to start their own business. **(8 marks KU)**

The following point is only one of four that you would have to give to get full marks but it includes a good example.

“Many American citizens want to start their own business as the USA is a capitalist country. This means that anyone who starts a business may be able to succeed and become very wealthy as a result. If you are willing to risk your money on a business and you compete well you are rewarded by making a profit. Bill Gates did this many years ago when he started Microsoft. The capitalist system has rewarded him greatly as his company has been a huge success.”

Without the Bill Gates example this point would only be worth two marks. With it, it is worth 3 marks.

Syllabus area 1; Living in a democracy

1. Who represents us in our democratic government?

- **MPs** (Scotland elects 59 MPs to represent our interests in the UK parliament at **Westminster**) You live in the constituency of **GLASGOW NORTH EAST** and your MP is **Michael Martin**.
- Westminster makes laws on what are known as the “**Reserved Areas**” like defence, foreign affairs and social security.
- We elect our MPs at a **General Election** (05/05/05) The party that wins most **constituencies** becomes the government. The leader of that party becomes **Prime Minister** e.g. David Cameron is leader of the Conservative Party.
- **MSPs** (Scotland elects 129 MSPs to represent our interests in the **Scottish Parliament at Holyrood** in Edinburgh) Your Constituency MSP is Patricia Ferguson for Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn.
- Holyrood makes laws on what are known as the “**Devolved Areas**” like Scottish Education, the NHS in Scotland and Law & Order.
- We elect our MSPs at a Scottish Election (every four years). The party that wins most seats in the Scottish Parliament forms the **Scottish Government (First Minister, Cabinet and Civil Service)**. The leader of that party becomes **First Minister** e.g. Alex Salmond is leader of the Scottish National Party.
- **Councillors** (Scotland has 32 local councils that run our public services like education, social work and cleansing)
- **Glasgow City Council** is one of the biggest in Scotland and employs all of your teachers!
- **MEPs (Members of the European Parliament)** Scotland elects Seven MEPs to represent our interests in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

2. What do our representatives actually do to represent us?

MPs – In the House of Commons (*MSP's in the Scottish Parliament*)

- **Speak in debates** – Debates happen every day in the House of Commons. Any MP can speak in order to put forward the view of their constituents. (*Exactly the same in the Scottish Parliament*) **YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF ISSUES MPS/MSPS MIGHT ACTUALLY DEBATE ABOUT.**
- **Vote** – MPs vote on changes to existing laws and on new laws, which are being proposed (**Bills**). Usually they vote the way their party wants them to. They would also argue that they vote the way that is best for their constituents. (*In the Scottish Parliament votes are taken at “Decision Time” – 5p.m. each day.*) **YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF BILLS MPS/MSPS MIGHT INTRODUCE.**
- **Ask questions** to Ministers at Question Time or to the Prime Minister at Prime Minister's Question Time. (**Prime Minister's Questions takes place every Wednesday for thirty minutes.**) MP's submit written questions in advance and then hope that there is enough time to ask their question. This gives them the chance to put the PM “on the spot” about a delicate issue. If their question is specifically about, for example DEFENCE, then they may ask it to the **DEFENCE Minister** when they are doing **DEFENCE Questions**. (*In the Scottish Parliament it is of course First Minister's Question Time*)
- **Private Member's Bills** – If an MP is very interested in a topic but knows that the government won't pass a law on it then they may be able to produce a Private Member's Bill. Only thirty per year are allowed so they have to be drawn from “the hat”. Very few of these Bills ever become a law (**Act of Parliament**) but it does allow an MP to get publicity and pressure the Government on a topic that may be of great importance to their constituency. (*In the Scottish Parliament these are called Member's Bills*)
- **Speak privately, or write to government ministers** – This happens all the time in the House of Commons but isn't obvious to the public. An MP from the governing party probably has more chance of success than one from the opposition, but Ministers must listen to all MP's when they are trying to represent the views of their constituents. (*Exactly the same in the Scottish Parliament*)
- **Raise a matter of concern during Adjournment Debates** – Official Parliamentary business ends at 10p.m. An MP can then raise a topic, which may be important to their constituency between 10 and 10.30 p.m. This is called an Adjournment Debate. (*This doesn't happen in the Scottish Parliament where business finishes at 5.30p.m.*)
- **Discussion in Parliamentary Select Committees** – An MP can sit on a Select Committee, which closely examines the work of a government department. If an MP has a large farming population they may sit on the Agriculture Select Committee or if they have a large naval base in their constituency they want to sit on the Defence Select

Committee. In this way they can defend the interests of their constituents. (*MSPs also sit on committees. There are 16 in the Scottish Parliament*)

MPs – Outside the Commons and in the Constituency

- Hold a Surgery – An MP will meet constituents with specific problems in a local community centre or school hall etc. (Recently some MPs and MSPs
- Write letters/ make phone calls- perhaps to the local council or to a charity or pressure group that may be able to help you.
- Attend public meetings – to hear the views of constituents on an important issue and pass this information to public enquiries e.g. on the building of a new road.
- Take part in media campaigns/ Support local Pressure Groups – the involvement of an MP can help a campaign to gain publicity.

Campaigning in Elections

Candidates who try to get elected to the Local Council, the Scottish Parliament or the House of Commons do a lot of the campaigning themselves but it is usually too big a job for one person. They rely on the help of many (hundreds sometimes) of unpaid party workers and supporters. What do they actually do to help?

Canvassing – going around the doors of the constituency asking people if they can count on their support at the election (this can sometimes be done by phone.) This gives the party an idea of the areas they have a lot of support in and the areas where they are weak. They can concentrate on certain areas just before the election.

Posters/Leaflets – handing out leaflets to voters in the town centre or posting them through letterboxes. Hanging posters (to remind voters who their candidate is) on lampposts etc. they will also explain the candidate's policies to people in the street and try to persuade them to vote for them. On polling day many party volunteers stand outside the polling station and try to persuade anyone who may not decide how to vote until the very last second.

Meetings/Events- a candidate may want to hold a public meeting or to visit local areas to meet as many local voters as possible. Party helpers can help to organize these events .e.g. book a hall or organise transport etc.

Lifts/Cars – on polling day many ill or elderly people will be unable to get to the polling station. Party workers often spend the day taking people to vote and then taking them home again. (There is no guarantee they will actually vote for their candidate.)

How do we elect our representatives?

We use a different system for the four levels of government we elect. As you might imagine this is very confusing for people.

European Parliament – Scotland elects 7 MEPs through a list system. This is only one type of Proportional Representation - PR (Scotland counts as one region in the UK) All the votes are counted across the whole of Scotland. If a party won approximately 1/7 of the vote then they would get one MEP. The first name on their list would be elected. If a party got 2/7 of the vote they would get two MEPs and the first two names on their list would be elected. And so on. This seems like a good system, as it is quite proportional for the bigger parties. For small parties it isn't very good. The Greens for example could get 10% of all the votes but that probably wouldn't be enough to get one MEP from Scotland.

Westminster Parliament - Scotland elects 59 MPs to Westminster. There are a total of 646. They each represent one constituency and the system is called **First Past the Post (FPTP)**. This is a simple majority system not a PR system. The candidate with most votes wins the seat in Parliament and represents that constituency.

Advantages of first past the post.

1. It is simple and straightforward to understand. All a voter has to do is place a single cross next to the name of the candidate they want to win. A successful candidate only needs one vote more than the second placed candidate.
2. It is very quick to count. The first constituency result is usually known by about 11.30 pm (only 90 minutes after the polls have closed.) The overall result of a general election is known by around 3am. The country does not have to run without a government, as the result is usually clear-cut. Some systems of PR take a week or so to reach a final result, especially if a coalition is necessary.
3. It is a good system in that you know exactly who your MP is and who to contact if you have a problem. There is a strong link between an MP and their constituents. They can be easily phoned or e- mailed.
4. The support of bigger parties is exaggerated; this means that coalitions are usually not required. E.g. Labour won 57% of the seats in Parliament from only 38% of the popular vote. They can outvote the rest in the House of Commons and can put their promises into law from day one. It does not matter if they win by only one vote or if they get less than half of all the votes. Some MPs have won seats in parliament with as little as 25% of the vote. But, parties like Labour tend to a lot more seats in Parliament than their vote would suggest e.g. 2005 Labour 38% of the vote, 57% of the seats in Parliament.

Disadvantages of first past the post.

1. It does not matter if they win by only one vote or if they get less than half of all the votes. Some MPs have won seats in parliament with as little as 25% of the vote. But, parties like Labour tend to win a lot more seats in Parliament than their vote would suggest e.g. 2005 Labour 38% of the vote, 57% of the seats in Parliament. Some feel that this is not fair as most voters don't get the government they want. Only once since World War Two has a government got more than 50% of the vote.

2. Local parties have a lot of power in safe seats. E.g. Glasgow North East is a very safe Labour seat. It really does not matter who the local Labour Party pick as their candidate as they are almost certain to win. Some argue that this isn't really democratic.
3. A lot of voters feel their vote is wasted. E.g. a person in Glasgow North East who likes the Green Party is free to vote for them. Even if they do well and get 5,000 votes this will be unlikely to win them the seat as Labour are likely to get around 20,000. Even if the Greens were to repeat this in every constituency they would not win any as 5,000 will not be one vote more than the second placed candidate. Small parties find it very hard to win seats under first past the post.
4. Tactical voting is possible which is undemocratic. In North East Fife, the Liberal Democrats have won the seat for the last six elections. The Conservatives have been second each time. The Labour Party usually gets a few thousand votes but have little chance of winning. Many Labour supporters don't want their vote to be wasted so they vote Liberal Democrat, as they really don't want the Conservatives to win. They vote for the "lesser of two evils." Can it be a good system when people vote for a party they don't actually want?

Scottish Parliament – at present we use a system of proportional representation (PR) called Additional Member System (AMS). This is a cross between the First Past the Post system (FPTP) and the Regional List system. We elect 73 constituency MSPs using FPTP. We also have a second vote for 56 regional list MSPs. Big parties like Labour do well in the first ballot (FPTP) and are over represented. The lists are then used to give small parties who do badly in FPTP a fair share of MSPs. E.g. the Green party can't get enough votes in one constituency to win one of the FPTP seats but they can get enough across a big region. All of their 7 MSPs come from the regional lists.

Local Councils – from 2007 we use a system of proportional representation called Single Transferable Vote (STV). This is quite complicated and means constituencies with several different representatives. This may be a disadvantage as it won't always be clear who a person should contact. It will be much more representative than the old system and should be much fairer to smaller parties like the Greens and Scottish Socialists.

What is a trade union?

A trade union is an organisation that is set up by workers, run by workers and paid for by workers. It tries to secure the best possible wages, longest possible holidays, best possible pension, safest possible working conditions for its members (i.e. the workers who pay to join.) The fees are called union dues or a subscription. This is often around £100 per year.

How does it represent its members?

In each workplace a trade union will have what is known as a “Shop Steward” or a “Union Representative” (Rep.) This person will be a link between the management of the company and the workers. If the members have a problem then they tell their Rep. About it and they will inform the management e.g. The Rep. For the biggest teaching union in Scotland (the EIS) in this school meets with the head teacher for one period each week when they discuss problems etc. The Rep. Also holds regular meetings with the membership to report back. The Rep. is elected by the membership each year.

As well as issues like pay and holidays, a Trade Union also provides services like,

1. Legal advice and a free lawyer if a member has been unfairly sacked or has been discriminated against etc.
2. A health and safety officer may inspect the factory/workplace to make sure it is safe.
3. A shop steward may ask for training to be provided on new machinery etc.
4. A shop steward may negotiate over a problem that effects many in the workforce e.g. a crèche, or food in the canteen.
5. A shop steward may speak to the management if a personal problem is affecting one of their members e.g. bullying or sexual harassment.

If a trade union cannot agree with management about something important e.g. a pay rise or a change to pensions then they have entered a dispute. Both sides will try to settle the dispute by “negotiation” i.e. trying to find a compromise that is acceptable to both sides. If this does not work then the union will have secret ballot of its members and may take some form of industrial action e.g. strike, overtime ban, and work to rule.

Pressure Groups

As well as voting and joining trade unions, a citizen can join a Pressure Group. A pressure group tries to change the law on a certain issue in various ways, but usually not by standing at elections. Five years is a long time between General Elections and many feel that they want to put pressure on the government or their local council during that time.

Some well-known pressure groups are,

Green peace – which campaigns on environmental issues

Anti War Coalition – which campaigned against the invasion of Iraq

Fathers For Justice – which campaigned for more rights for fathers.

If a pressure group wants a new law or is protesting against a law that the government is introducing then they have the right to protest in many ways.

1. They can write letters to their representatives in government e.g. MPs or MSPs. Individuals can also do this. E.g. if you are against the smoking ban you could write to your MSP to complain.
2. A petition can be organised. Collect as many signatures as possible to show the strength of feeling and present it to the Scottish Parliament or to the Prime Minister. E.g. the Countryside Alliance did this to oppose the ban on fox hunting.
3. The Anti War Coalition organised huge protest marches across the UK, which attracted over a million supporters. Make Poverty History is another example of how much support can be attracted to protest marches.
4. Lobbying – a protest outside the Parliament or professional lobbyists can be employed by the pressure group. They can speak to MPs etc and try to win support for their cause.
5. Individuals and groups can also visit their MP/ MSPs surgery to complain about laws they don't like or they can phone Radio talk shows, write to the papers etc.

The UK is a democracy and its citizens have the right to protest against the law or the plans of the government in any way that is legal.

Syllabus Area 2: Changing Society – Unemployment/Families.

Families with children

Why are some families better able to meet the needs of their children?

1. **Income** – some families earning a lot of money. They can afford a healthy diet, leisure and sport, holidays, quality clothing etc. They may be able to afford private health care and private education. They may be better able to buy a PC for the home or to hire a tutor for exams etc Both single parents and two parent families can earn high wages. Two parent families have the option of one working and another taking care of the children.
1. **Lone parents**- it is more difficult to do all this in a lone parent family. The parent may have a highly paid job but they often have to look after the children and end up in part time work which is usually less well paid. As a result of the burden of childcare, many lone parents are unable to take a job and so become reliant on benefits. This makes providing education, health, diet and recreation all much more difficult. The high cost of childminders and nursery care also make it very difficult for a lone parent to work, as they don't have a partner to rely on.
2. **Illness** – some families may have special needs e.g. one of the parents is ill or disabled. This may mean that be either parent can work and the family must rely on benefits.
3. **Environment**- the house or he areas that a family lives in may make it difficult for the family to meet the needs of their children. The house may be too small or damp. The area may have a crime or a drug problem.

The elderly

Why are some elderly people healthier than others are?

This could be because of:

Pensions – many elderly people survive only on the basic state pension. Other have private pensions that they paid into when working, and some have works pensions that their employer and themselves contributed to. So some can eat healthier food, heat their homes in winter and take more exercise.

Wages when working – Some elderly people had highly paid jobs in their working years and so they could afford to save, buy a better house, and lead a healthier life. They may also be able to afford private health care through a company like BUPA. Some may have had dangerous or unhealthy jobs like coal mining or working in a shipyard.

Lifestyle Some elderly people may have been heavy smokers or drinkers throughout their lives. This could now be affecting their health.

Housing – Damp housing for example may have caused problems such as asthma.

How does the Government help the elderly?

Healthcare – the government provides the NHS for us all but the people who use it most are the elderly. Elderly people who are most likely to be ill or need to go into hospital use all free treatment, operations, drugs etc more heavily.

Benefits – The old age pension is the most important of all the benefits given to old people by the government. Everyone over the age of retirement is entitled to the basic pension, although some get extra if they were higher earners when they were working. Other benefits include, Income Support, cold weather payments, social fund loans, housing benefit, council tax benefit etc. Not all of these are provided by central government. Some, such as housing benefit are provided by the local council.

Services- Elderly people who are unable to cook may get “Meals on Wheels”. If they have a medical problem at home they may get help from a health visitor. They will get free travel on public transport and many have been given free central heating in their homes through the Scottish executive’s “Warm Homes” programme. Many old people have benefited from Home Carers who help with housework etc. Local councils provide these. Some elderly receive help to stay in their own homes from the Council’s Occupational Health department. They can recommend if a person needs special equipment e.g. a ramp, a bath seat etc.

Syllabus Area 3 – Ideologies -The USA

What rights can a US citizen expect in their democracy?

What responsibilities go with these rights?

Political

1. **Right to Vote** – They can vote for many representatives at County, State and Federal level.
Responsibility – to actually vote and to take the process seriously. To consider the arguments of the candidates and accept the democratic result of the election.
2. **Right to join a party** – Citizens can join any party (big two are the Republicans and the Democrats) and can campaign on their behalf. They can support a candidate by canvassing, giving out leaflets, putting up posters etc. Or try to raise money for the campaign.
Responsibility – To accept that others have the right to disagree. Not to try to bully or intimidate people who support a different party.
3. **Right to join an Interest Group** – Citizens can join and campaign for any interest group they choose e.g. The National Rifle Association (NRA). This may involve demonstrations, lobbying, stunts etc.
Responsibility – To accept that others have the right to disagree. Not to try to bully or intimidate people who have a different opinion. To keep their protests within the law and not interfere with anyone else's right to run a business or go to work etc.
3. **Right to freedom of speech** – US citizens can criticise the government if they disagree. They can do this because they have a **free media**. The **Media** consists of the TV, newspapers, magazines, radio, film and the internet.
 - a. A US citizen can appear on a TV show like Oprah or Jerry Springer and openly say that they don't like the government or the President Etc. If they can they can make TV programmes that criticize the government. The TV channels are free to show programmes that criticize the government and people are free to watch them if they want. (US TV stations – NBC, ABC)
 - b. Newspapers and magazines can print criticism of the government e.g. lots of newspapers have attacked George W. Bush for the war in Iraq. People are free to read any paper or magazine they want. Individuals are free to write to the letter page of a

- paper and criticise the government if they want. (US papers/magazines – New York Times, Washington Post, Time Magazine)
- c. Radio stations can have phone in or discussion programmes where people are free to say what they want about the government (as long as they are not abusive or accuse people of committing crimes when they have no evidence.) US radio stations – WABC New York, KDFC California.
 - d. Film makers often make films which have an anti government message and citizens are free to go and watch these films if they want to. A good example is the film Fahrenheit 9/11 which was very critical of George W Bush and his family over the 9/11 attacks and the war in Iraq.
 - e. The internet is also part of the media. American people can start a website for people who also disagree with the government. They can log on to websites of any organisation they want. They can post messages on message boards or they can use e-mail to send details of their complaint to their Senator, Congressman/woman, State Governor or town mayor.

Economic

1. **Right to own a business** – The USA is a capitalist country, they can start and run a business and can keep the profits. This can lead to a very high standard of living for some if they are successful e.g. Bill gates.
Responsibility – To run their business within the law and treat their workers fairly. To produce a safe product that does not put people in danger
2. **The right to private property** – Citizens can keep most of their income and spend it on items such as house, cars etc.
Responsibility- to pay their taxes to help fund public services such as the police and education.

Social

1. **The right to own a gun** – The constitution of the USA gives citizens the right to own a firearm.
Responsibility – To keep the gun in a safe place in the home. To keep it concealed when in public. To use it responsibly and not threaten or harm others with it unless in self-defence.

Why are Blacks and Hispanics now more likely to vote?

Education – More and more black and Hispanic people are doing well at school and are realising that they can actually improve their lives by voting. In most countries those who do best in education vote most often.

Language – Many Hispanics suffered when they first came to the USA as they could not speak English very well. Over the years this has improved and they can now understand the issues and

the campaigns of the main parties. George W Bush won many Hispanic votes as he can speak fluent Spanish.

Political role models - Their interests are being better represented. This hasn't really happened at Federal level i.e. all the Presidents ever elected have been white up until 2008 when Barack Obama was elected. Colin Powell and later, Condoleeza Rice, who have both got to the post of Secretary of State, are other big black role models in this area. Barack Obama won the Presidency in November 2008 and took up the post in January 2009. This will really boost black participation.

Why are some ethnic minority people in the USA now enjoying a better standard of living?

The American Dream- Americans can start a business and if they do well they can keep the profits and some can become very rich. Many Blacks and Hispanics have done this and have improved their living standards.

Discrimination and Racism- Most people think that there has been a fall in the amount of racism towards Blacks and Hispanics in recent years. This means that they are given a fair chance in jobs, promotions, education etc.

Affirmative Action – The government has introduced a system of “AA” to give Blacks and Hispanics a better chance to go to university or to get a job. For example, if 20% of a city is Black then the city's university has to try to get enough Black students to make up 20% of the total.

Education- linked to all of these things is education. Many ethnic minority groups in the USA have recognised that there is no quick way out of poverty and that doing well in school and going to college is the most effective long-term way of improving their standard of living. Groups from Asian countries (Asian and Pacific Islanders) such as Korea are now out performing whites at high school. Drop out rates for blacks and Hispanics are falling and graduation rates are rising. Whites are still much more likely to go to college and university and as a result they are still more likely to earn a high wage, but the gap is slowly closing.

Syllabus Area 4 – international Relations

New Europe / Alliances

What are the good and bad points for a country like the UK of being in the European Union? (Advantages and Disadvantages)

Good points

1. **Our businesses can sell their goods to a much larger market** – the EU now has 27 member countries with around 470 million consumers. This helps our business and secures our jobs.
2. **No internal trade taxes** - our goods can cross the borders into countries like France without having to pay a tax so they are cheaper to buy and should sell more.
3. **Goods from other countries can come into the UK without having to pay a tax to our government so** - we have a much better selection of, for example food, in our supermarkets and at lower prices.
4. **Freedom to work** – Our citizens can move to anywhere in the EU to work without having to get special permission. Our companies can now choose the best workers from all over the EU.
5. **Regional Aid** – Scotland has done well from this. The Rosyth ferry was helped by EU grants and the Funicular Railway at Aviemore has attracted thousands of tourists.
6. **Enlargement** – The EU has now grown to 27 members after Bulgaria and Romania joined on January 1st 2007. Many thousands of workers have come from the ten countries that joined in 2004. This gives UK firms a supply of labour for low paid jobs and it helps improve the standard of living in their home countries. Many come for a short time, as wages are much higher in the UK. Our companies now have 75 million potential new customers in the two new countries.
7. **The Single Currency** – the member states who have adopted the Euro have an advantage when their companies are trading. They do not need to pay bank charges to change their home currency into that of their trading partner. If a UK firm wishes to buy goods from France they must first transfer their pounds in to Euros at the bank. The bank will charge them for this. This effectively makes the deal more expensive. A German company buying the same goods will not have to pay this charge so they can sell the finished goods more cheaply. German consumers may well be getting cheaper goods as a result.

A second benefit is for holidaymakers who do not have to go through the hassle or expense of changing their currency. If you have ever been abroad you will know that changing travellers cheques or finding a bank to change notes can be time consuming and there is usually a charge.

8. **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** - This is a policy, which tries to ensure, that European people always have enough food. It guarantees farmers a certain price for their produce. This is usually a high price so that farmers keep producing e.g. carrots. It does mean that sometimes farmers produce food that people do not want to buy i.e. Food

Mountains and wine lakes. As long as the CAP guarantees to buy something, the farmers will keep growing it. It is a very expensive system but has been successful in making sure our shops are full of food, we have a very wide choice of what to buy and it is at affordable prices.

C = **continuous** supply of food, even in the middle of winter we can get fresh produce from some part of the EU.

A = **affordable** prices. Food prices have fallen in real terms since we joined the EU.

P = **plentiful** supply. Our supermarkets offer a wide range of food from all over the EU. Shortages are not common, are usually only short term and other things can be used as alternatives.

Bad points

- 1. Other countries can sell in the UK** – the EU now has 27 member countries. Businesses from all the other 26 countries can sell in the UK. This means extra competition for our companies. This may cost our jobs.
- 2. Goods from other countries can come into the UK without having to pay a tax to our government so** – we may end up with lots of cheaply made goods in our shops which again may mean lost jobs in the UK.
- 3. Freedom to work** – We may lose all our best workers to other countries. Many workers from poor EU countries like Latvia may come to the UK to work. They will be willing to work for very low wages and so our workers will be forced to accept lower pay.
- 4. Increased Costs** – The new member states that joined in 2004 and 2007 are mostly very poor. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will begin to cost us much more. We will get less in Regional Aid, as these countries will need more help.

What types of Aid do we give to Africa?

Developing countries need help with many things. We can help by giving different types of aid, such as,

1. Emergency relief – food water, tents, blankets, medicines that will keep people alive in the short term. This type of aid is essential after natural disasters like the Asian tsunami or during conflict like that in Darfur.
2. Agricultural aid – help is given to farmers in order to grow more food and become more self-reliant. Seeds, tools and training on new techniques can all help. Simply sending tractors is not always the best idea. For some developing countries a more “low-tech” approach is necessary e.g. shovels.
3. Medical aid – providing medicines and other equipment such as a sterilising machine. Also buildings, ambulances and staff.
4. Education – this is provided in many ways. Teachers and buildings can be provided or training for locals to become teachers. Also the “tools” for a school such as books, desks, paper or even computers if the school has power.
5. Experts- sometimes developing countries simply need the “know-how” to do certain things, so we send people to train the local population. Agricultural

experts give advice on fertilisers or on new drought resistant crops, Medical experts train local women on safe child birth, teachers train locals people to teach, engineers etc help with rebuilding after a disaster etc.

6. Military aid – several wars are being fought in Africa at the moment. Giving weapons and ammunition is not normally seen as a good thing but Britain and other rich countries do give military aid, e.g. the UK sent troops to Sierra Leone in 2000, to help the government defeat rebels and to restore law and order. Critics would say that this type of aid often just adds to the problems of developing countries but in this case the Sierra Leone government would certainly argue that it met the needs of their country. Many in the UK would like us to send troops to help the situation in Darfur. This is however impossible without the invitation of Sudan's government.

How does the United Nations help to meet the needs of some poor countries?

Much of the aid given by the UK and other developed countries is actually spent by the United Nations.

The UN spends billions of pounds each year trying to help poor countries in Africa and other parts of the world. Most of this is spent by the **“Specialised Agencies”**

Three of the **“Specialised Agencies”** are:

WHO (World Health Organisation)

- Provide medicines and other medical equipment to poor countries like Somalia.
- Send doctors and nurses to poor countries who may have a famine or an outbreak of a serious disease
- Help to train African people in basic first aid, midwifery etc. A basic first aid kit and a training course that would only cost a few pounds would help save many people from preventable diseases.
- Help is given to build clinics and small local hospitals.
- Campaigns are run to try to rid the world of certain diseases. WHO tried to immunise everyone in Africa against smallpox in order to get rid of a terrible killer disease. They also ran a campaign to get rich people in the UK to donate their old glasses to Africa. People there are too poor to pay for glasses. Over a million pairs were collected from the UK and as a result many Africans now have much better eyesight allowing them to lead a better life.
- WHO tries to educate poor people in Africa about the importance of keeping wounds clean and other simple techniques i.e. they are trying to raise “health awareness.”

FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation)

- The FAO tries to help farmers in poor countries by providing them with basic tools that will help them to clear bits of land that could be used to grow food.
- It provides training for farmers in how to use fertilizers and on which types of crop are best in different places.
- They have provided seeds to many millions of African farmers who can then plant them and try to become more independent. The FAO's scientists have tried to develop seeds which are resistant to drought so they can survive in very hot parts of the world.

- The FAO has spent money on irrigation schemes to help get water from rivers to dry areas miles away. They have also helped to build terraces on hillsides to increase the amount of farmable land. A lot of African land cannot be farmed due to drought, war, landmines and the spread of the desert. Global warming is also thought to be drying out the land and making farming more difficult.

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)

- UNICEF is involved wherever children are at risk. They help with education, health, orphans refugees etc.
- They have helped to rebuild schools after natural disasters like the Tsunami. They have also provide things like "School in a Suitcase"
- They have worked alongside WHO to try to vaccinate children against many of the world's biggest killers e.g. diphtheria
- After the recent tsunami many thousands of children were left orphaned. Unicef tried to feed and look after many of these children They tried to find their families or find them a new family.
- Many wars have been fought in Africa in recent years. In the Darfur region of Sudan last year hundreds of thousands of people had to leave their homes to escape the fighting. UNICEF helped with emergency food supplies, medicine and first aid, tents, blankets and perhaps most importantly, clean drinking water to stop the spread of disease.

Aid – many countries have stopped giving “Tied Aid” – Why?

Tied aid is when the donor country only gives aid if they will get a benefit from it. E.g. if the UK government gave £10 million to the government of Kenya, on the condition that they agree to buy £10 million pounds worth of tractors from a company in Glasgow.

Many countries have decided that this is unfair because-

- The recipient country (Kenya) may not actually need tractors. If they do need tractors they may be able to get better ones from another country but they are not given that choice. They may actually have really needed medicines or school books.
- The donor country actually benefits more than the recipient. The tractor company gets a lot of business and its jobs are secured. The rich government may also look good to the voters who don't know the whole story.
- If the aid is given as a loan then we get it back for the tractors but the poor country still owes the money, so tied aid puts poor countries further into debt.
- Tied aid often gives what the rich country wants to give and not what the poor country needs.