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| Marks | Level Descriptors | | |
| Focus | Use of Sources | Own Knowledge |
| 7-9 | The response is focused on the question. | Clear references are made to the sources, and these references are used effectively as evidence to support the analysis. | Accurate and relevant own knowledge is demonstrated. There is effective synthesis of own knowledge and source material. |
| 4-6 | The response is generally focused on the question. | References are made to the sources, and these references are used as evidence to support the analysis. | Where own knowledge is demonstrated, this lacks relevance or accuracy. There is little or no attempt to synthesize own knowledge and source material. |
| 1-3 | The response lacks focus on the question. | References to the sources are made, but at this level these references are likely to consist of descriptions of the content of the sources rather than the sources being used as evidence to support the analysis. | No own knowledge is demonstrated or, where it is demonstrated, it is inaccurate or irrelevant. |
| 0 | The response does not reach a standard described by the descriptors above. | The response does not reach a standard described by the descriptors above. | The response does not reach a standard described by the descriptors above. |