



National
Qualifications
SPECIMEN ONLY

S849/77/11

Modern Studies

Date — Not applicable

Duration — 3 hours

Total marks — 90

Attempt ONE section only.

SECTION 1 — POLITICAL ISSUES AND RESEARCH METHODS — 90 marks

Part A – Attempt TWO questions.

Part B – Attempt BOTH questions.

SECTION 2 — LAW AND ORDER AND RESEARCH METHODS — 90 marks

Part A – Attempt TWO questions.

Part B – Attempt BOTH questions.

SECTION 3 — SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND RESEARCH METHODS — 90 marks

Part A – Attempt TWO questions.

Part B – Attempt BOTH questions.

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.



* S 8 4 9 7 7 1 1 *

SECTION 1 — POLITICAL ISSUES AND RESEARCH METHODS — 90 marks

Part A — 60 marks

Attempt TWO questions

Question 1 — Power and influence

'The success of interest groups is determined solely by their status as either an insider or outsider group.'

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30

Question 2 — Political ideology

'Socialism is dying.'

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30

Question 3 — Political structures

'Devolution has advantages over other forms of constitutional arrangements.'

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30

Part B — 30 marks
Attempt BOTH questions

Question 4

You are researching the issue of why the ‘Better Together’ campaign won the 2014 Scottish independence referendum.

To what extent are semi-structured interviews a more appropriate research method than focus groups for researching this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples.

15

[Turn over

Question 5

To what extent can **Source A** be considered trustworthy?

15

Source A

UK's Drip law: cynical, misleading and an affront to democracy by Julia Powles, Friday 18 July 2014 09.53 BST

The UK's new Data Retention and Investigatory Powers (Drip) law that went from announcement to enactment in eight days, is a complete abomination. Everything about the process — and here, process is critical — is an affront to democracy, to the rule of law, to the rights of British and global citizens, and even to the erstwhile ends of national security.

What Drip represents is the absence of true political leadership and an utter failure to engage in an open, mature, public debate about the clash between privacy and security online. The debate shouldn't be between blanket, universal data retention and no retention at all, as it was misleadingly cast. It should be about retention that is necessary and proportionate.

Instead of engaging with what it termed an 'emergency' — that, months ago, the European Court of Justice, the European Parliament, the United Nations, communications providers, civil society organisations, and other governments clearly stated that blanket, indiscriminate data retention and mass surveillance infringe human rights and are not necessary and proportionate — parliament pushed that debate, those rights and, in the long-run, that data, underground.

As Martha Lane-Fox said in her speech to the Lords, with uncharacteristic gloom: 'We are being catapulted into legislation that builds on the badly understood and arguably dysfunctional RIPA legislation. This bill sets a precedent from which, even with reviews and a sunset clause, I believe it will be hard to row back.

I sincerely hope that we do not regret it.'

The clash between privacy and security goes to the heart of the kind of society we want to live in. It has been shown that governments and corporations routinely collect, retain, and process the most intimate details of our connected personal lives.

What limits and safeguards should exist?

By outright depriving us of that debate — and by doing so with such obvious propaganda ('emergencies', paedophiles, terrorists, and crooks at every turn), deception ('status quo' and 'clarifications' masking naked extension of interception powers and extraterritorial reach), and hypocrisy (the UK can no longer meaningfully criticise surveillance conducted under more repressive regimes) — Drip may be so bad that it is almost, perversely, good.

What possible good is there here? The problem with the privacy/security debate, like many of our great challenges, is that laziness favours the bad. We all know that lazy needs to stare down its bloated, weak, and depraved reflection before it is stirred into action. And Drip is part of that ugly reflection. It might be just a glimmer; a fleeting mirage, but it is significant.

By making such a comprehensive mockery of the processes of public consultation and proper parliamentary scrutiny, Drip in all its disappointment should seed scepticism, anxiety, and restless distrust. It may be part of the nudge we need to compel the masses from their desk-chairs and to start reclaiming the web we want.

Julia Powles is a researcher in law and technology at the University of Cambridge. Find her on Twitter @juliapowles

(Adapted from: www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/jul/18/uk-drip-ripa-law-sceptical-misleading-democracy-martha-lane-fox)

SECTION 2 — LAW AND ORDER AND RESEARCH METHODS — 90 marks

Part A — 60 marks

Attempt TWO questions

Question 6 — Understanding the criminal justice system

‘The criminal justice system is ineffective in dealing with crime and disorder.’

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30

Question 7 — Understanding criminal behaviour

‘Society creates its own criminals.’

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30

Question 8 — Responses by society to crime

‘Custodial sentences are the most effective method of dealing with crime.’

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30

[Turn over

Part B — 30 marks
Attempt BOTH questions

Question 9

You are researching the issue of falling crime levels across the UK and Scotland.

To what extent are semi-structured interviews a more appropriate research method than focus groups for researching this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples.

15

Question 10

To what extent can **Source B** be considered trustworthy?

15

Source B

Drugs laws play ‘cat and mouse’ with creators of legal highs, says senior government adviser
 By *David Barrett*, Home Affairs Correspondent, follow [@davidbarrett](#) on Twitter
 25 September 2014

Drug control legislation is being forced to play ‘cat and mouse’ with the creators of an ever-expanding range of new ‘legal highs’, the government’s senior drug adviser has warned. Professor Les Iversen, chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), said the category of synthetic drugs — formally known as ‘novel psychoactive substances’ — was growing all the time and legislation was struggling to keep up.

Prof Iversen said the council, which advises the Home Secretary on classifying legal and illegal substances, had already reviewed the controls on legal highs in 2009 and 2012 before the launch of its current inquiry earlier this year.

‘It looks as though we might have to go on doing this’, he said. ‘It’s a cat and mouse game but the cat should not withdraw in defeat.’ Chemists who create synthetic drugs, such as mephedrone, to mimic the effects of illegal drugs like cocaine or heroin have been known to tweak the chemical composition of substances to stay one step ahead of the law.

A European body which monitors new substances appearing in the black market said 80 different new types of legal high appeared last year. Prof Iversen added that the term ‘legal high’ was now inappropriate because many of the substances, including mephedrone, have been made illegal.

‘The number of serious harms such as deaths emerging from this group of drugs is not all that staggering but it is an issue that we will certainly continue to consider’, he said.

The chairman also said during a meeting of the ACMD in central London that the growth of online pharmacies was leading to far wider abuse of prescription drugs which are legitimately available as painkillers or other types of medication. ‘The misuse of medicines has become more of a topic because prescription medicines are so much more easily available on the internet’, said the chairman, a retired Oxford University professor of pharmacology. ‘It’s pretty easy to buy most medical products and this gives us a problem that is not easy to solve. We are going to try to evaluate the magnitude of the problem.’

Prof Ray Hill, chairman of the ACMD’s technical committee, said it was currently looking at abuse of a drug called pregabalin which is used to alleviate pain and anxiety, and to treat epilepsy.

‘We are getting a variety of reports now from various parts of the UK that this drug is being misused’, said Prof Hill. ‘It’s a drug that has some similar characteristics to opioid drugs when taken in very high doses. It’s probably too soon to have any substantive data on its harmful effects.’

(adapted from www.telegraph.co.uk/health/11122123/Drugs-laws-play-cat-and-mouse-with-creators-of-legal-highs-says-senior-government-adviser.html)

[Turn over

SECTION 3 — SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND RESEARCH METHODS — 90 marks**Part A — 60 marks****Attempt TWO questions****Question 11 — Understanding social inequality**

‘Social inequality is a product of individual choices.’

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30**Question 12 — The impact of social inequality**

‘Countries where wealth is more equally distributed suffer fewer health and social problems.’

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30**Question 13 — Responses to social inequality**

‘Government attempts to tackle socio-economic inequality have been unsuccessful.’

Discuss, with reference to the UK/Scotland **and** any other country/countries you have studied.

30

Part B — 30 marks
Attempt BOTH questions

Question 14

You are researching the issue of the domination of Britain's top professions by the privately educated.

To what extent are semi-structured interviews a more appropriate research method than focus groups for researching this issue?

In your answer you should make reference to relevant examples.

15

[Turn over

Question 15

To what extent can Source C be considered trustworthy?

15

Source C

How inequality is costing the economy billions

By Duncan Exley, 17 March 2014

Since the late 1970s, the UK has become one of the most unequal countries in the developed world. Research released today by Oxfam shows that just five families now have as much wealth as the poorest 20 per cent of the population. It's a frightening statistic, and for most people, one that offends their basic sense of decency. Can anyone really be 'worth' this much? Can so many people be worth so little?

Worryingly, for some the answer appears to be 'yes'. Perhaps even more concerning is the argument that inequality is not just acceptable, but desirable — driving the competitiveness vital to entrepreneurialism. But does seeing someone paid hundreds or even thousands of times more than you act as encouragement, or as a painful reminder of how little society values you?

The reality is that the consequences of the UK's extraordinarily high levels of inequality are far-reaching and catastrophic. Of the developed OECD countries, the UK is ranked 17th out of 23 for life expectancy, 19th out of 22 on obesity, 17th out of 21 on teenage births, and 17th out of 23 for imprisonment. More equal societies, meanwhile, top the table on almost every measure.

The IMF and others have pointed towards the damaging effects that inequality may have on economic growth. It makes perfect sense; if wages stagnate or fall for the majority of people, that a consumer-led recovery becomes tricky to engineer without encouraging a huge growth in personal debt.

In addition, the impact of inequality on our health, wellbeing and crime rates may also have a financial cost. Research recently conducted by the Equality Trust has found that the impact on the UK of some of the social consequences of inequality — including reduced healthy life expectancy, worse mental health, higher levels of imprisonment and murder — could cost the equivalent of over £39 bn every single year. If this was broken down to an individual level, it would show that the impact of inequality on every man, woman and child in the UK can be valued at £622.

Yet these figures may be just the tip of the iceberg. Many of the costs associated with inequality remain incalculable. For example, how does one value the higher level of community cohesion, trust, and social mobility associated with less unequal countries? Our estimate is based on a comparison between the level of inequality in the UK and the average level seen in developed countries.

In recent weeks, the issue of inequality has gained significant coverage; it is now unquestionably part of the public and political narrative. What we need is action to match the rhetoric. A living wage, a fairer tax system, and the creation of jobs with genuine opportunities for advancement should all be part of political party manifestos. But all parties serious about reducing costly social problems must also include an Inequality Test — an explicit goal that the impact of their policies will reduce the gap between the richest and the rest. The benefits of reducing inequality are clear — a richer, healthier and quite possibly happier society.

Duncan Exley is the director of the Equality Trust a campaignings reform group founded in 2009 by Bill Kerry, Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett.

(adapted from www.newstatesman.com/politics/2014/03/how-inequality-costing-economy-billions)

[END OF SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER]

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Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been provided to show how SQA would mark this specimen question paper.

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General marking principles for Advanced Higher Modern Studies

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) Where a candidate does not comply with the rubric of the paper and answers three 30 mark questions in one section, mark all responses and record the better mark.
- (d) Marking must be consistent. Never make a hasty judgement on a response based on length, quality of handwriting or a confused start.
- (e) Use the full range of marks available for each question.
- (f) The detailed marking instructions are not an exhaustive list. Award marks for other relevant points.
- (g) Award marks only where points relate to the question asked. Where candidates give points of knowledge without specifying the context, award marks unless it is clear that they do not refer to the context of the question.

Marking principles for each question type

For each of the question types the following provides an overview of marking principles.

The extended-response questions used in this paper are

- **discuss . . .** **30 marks**
- **to what extent . . . (research method)** **15 marks**
- **to what extent . . . (source stimulus)** **15 marks**

Discuss . . . questions

Candidates explore ideas about a contemporary issue. They gain marks for analysing, synthesising and evaluating different views and evidence to support a line of argument, leading to a conclusion.

Candidates support their line of argument by drawing on their knowledge and understanding of the issue. They include comparison of the issue in the UK and Scotland with relevant international examples.

To what extent . . . (research method) questions

Candidates draw on their knowledge and understanding of social science research to make an overall judgement on the suitability of given research methods.

Candidates may gain marks in a number of ways, and are expected to include the following

- analysis of the key ethical/practical aspects of using the research method in a given scenario
- evaluation of the relative suitability of research methods for researching a given scenario, supported with contemporary/relevant evidence
- supporting knowledge about social science research methods
- a line of argument leading to an overall judgement on the suitability of a research method.

To what extent . . . (source stimulus) questions

Candidates draw on their knowledge and understanding of social science research to make a judgement on the potential trustworthiness of a source.

Candidates may gain marks in a number of ways, and are expected to include the following

- analysis of the source to identify key aspects* which affect validity/reliability
- evaluation of the reliability/validity of the source in the context of social science research, supported with contemporary/relevant evidence
- supporting knowledge about conducting social science research
- a line of argument leading to an overall judgement.

*Key aspects may include

- provenance
- source evidence
- source errors
- omissions from the source
- bias
- specific issues relating to the source.

*‘Contemporary’ refers to the extent to which something is up-to-date.

With regards to viewpoints or arguments, this represents the most relevant, or currently accepted, thinking. Therefore, while viewpoints on Scottish independence are likely to change very quickly, contemporary thinking about the effects of inequality may include theorists who wrote decades ago.

With regard to evidence, it should also be up-to-date. For example, referring to HM Chief Inspector of Prisons’ Annual Report for 2007/2008 may be considered out-of-date unless there is a specific, relevant point to be made from that year, or a trend/pattern/comparison is being established.

Marking grids for 30 mark questions

Analysis

Analysis involves identifying various aspects, the relationship between them, and their relationships with the whole. It can also involve drawing out and relating implications.

Award analysis marks where a candidate uses their knowledge and understanding, or evidence from a source, to identify relevant aspects (for example of an idea, theory or argument), and clearly shows at least one of the following

- links between different aspects
- links between aspect(s) and the whole
- links between aspect(s) and related concepts
- similarities and contradictions
- consistencies and inconsistencies
- different views or interpretations
- possible consequences or implications
- understanding of underlying order or structure.

| 0 marks | 1–2 marks | 3–4 marks | 5–6 marks | 7–8 marks |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • candidate provides no evidence of analysis (purely descriptive response). <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analysis is not relevant to the question. <p>For analytical comments to be relevant they must directly address either the question; or issues, arguments or evidence which the question addresses.</p> | <p>Candidate makes relevant analytical comments but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the context of their answer, these may not be the key, or most relevant, aspects. | <p>Candidate makes developed, relevant analytical comments and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the context of their answer, these are the key, or most relevant, aspects • includes relevant, contemporary supporting evidence. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links analytical comments to evaluative comments • includes relevant and contemporary supporting evidence from an international comparator country. <p>Overall, analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by inclusion of sufficient key or most relevant aspects.</p> | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 6 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analytical comments are integrated in-depth with international comparison • analytical comments clearly integrate the ideas and arguments of others with their own. <p>Overall, analysis shows an in-depth understanding of the question and supports a convincing line of argument.</p> |

Comparison

Comparison involves making a judgement between two (or more) entities in order to show similarity or difference. Candidates must draw out key similarities/differences and show the extent of these.

| 0 marks | 1–2 marks | 3–4 marks | 5–6 marks |
|---|--|--|--|
| No evidence of relevant international comparison. | Candidate's comparison <ul style="list-style-type: none">explains a key, relevant difference or similarity between the issue in the UK/Scotland and in another country/countriesexplains the extent of the difference/similarity. | Candidate's analysis meets the requirements for 2 marks and in addition <ul style="list-style-type: none">points of comparison, including the extent of the similarity or difference, are made throughout their response and are supported by relevant and contemporary evidence. | Candidate's evaluation meets the requirements for 4 marks and in addition <ul style="list-style-type: none">points of comparison are integrated into and form a key part of their line of argument. |

Evaluation

Evaluation involves making a judgement(s) based on criteria.

Candidate should make reasoned evaluative comments on factors such as evidence that supports their line of argument, and evaluate alternative arguments.

Evaluative comments must relate to, for example

- the extent to which a viewpoint or argument is valid
- the extent to which a viewpoint or argument is supported by evidence
- the relative importance of factors in relation to the issue
- the impact or significance of factors when taken together
- the relative value of alternative arguments.

| 0 marks | 1–2 marks | 3–4 marks | 5–6 marks | 7–8 marks |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • candidate provides no evidence of evaluation (purely a descriptive response). <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • candidate’s evaluation is not relevant to the question. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • candidate makes points of evaluation that are relevant to the question but are not developed. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • candidate makes a basic evaluation that is developed and relevant. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 2 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes reasoned points of evaluation • relates points to their line of argument and uses them to make an overall judgement(s) on the question. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows reasoned consideration of alternative arguments and evidence • provides reasoned evaluation and judgement of an alternative argument(s) or evidence. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 6 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrates points of evaluation throughout their line of argument • uses reasons for discounting or accepting alternatives to clearly support their overall conclusion. |

Synthesising information to structure and sustain lines of argument

Synthesis involves drawing two or more pieces of information – knowledge, evidence or viewpoints – together to support a structured line of argument.

A line of argument involves bringing together or linking points in a coherent manner, building towards a conclusion. Candidates' conclusions should go beyond a summary of key issues, and their reasoning and evidence should build to a relevant overall judgement that addresses the specific question. A relevant conclusion with detailed supporting reasons should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the complex issue, which should include alternative viewpoints. Candidates may include conclusions throughout an extended response, and/or within one separate concluding section.

A well-reasoned conclusion will include

- clear evidence that a conclusion has been reached
- includes detailed reasons to justify the conclusion.

| 0 marks | 1–2 marks | 3–4 marks | 5–6 marks | 7–8 marks |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Candidate provides no evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a line of argument• a clear conclusion. | <p>Candidate draws together pieces of information to summarise key points but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• there is a lack of sufficient synthesis to support the conclusion• the line of argument in support of the conclusion is unclear. | <p>Candidate shows evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an overall conclusion which provides an overall judgement of the question• a line of argument and is supported by detailed reasons/evidence. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and shows evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an overall conclusion from a sustained line of argument developed by organising, linking or sequencing ideas throughout the response• an overall conclusion that includes a response to at least one relevant counter-argument. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 6 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, which they use to support their overall judgement• their overall judgement is based on several points of analysis or evaluation. |

Marking grids for 15 mark (research method) questions

| Analysis – award up to a maximum of 6 marks | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 0 marks | 1–2 marks | 3–4 marks | 5–6 marks |
| <p>No evidence of analysis – purely descriptive response.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Analysis is not at all relevant to the question.</p> | <p>Candidate’s analysis identifies aspects of the research method which are relevant to the question but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not identify the most relevant aspects <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not link the aspects to the scenario. <p>Alternatively</p> <p>Award 2 marks where analysis identifies only one key aspect and links the aspect with the issue in the scenario.</p> | <p>Candidate’s analysis identifies key aspects of the research method which is relevant to the question and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies relevant links of key aspects to the source • includes relevant and contemporary supporting evidence. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments. <p>Award full marks where analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research methods.</p> |

| Evaluation (research methods) – award up to a maximum of 6 marks | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 0 marks | 1–2 marks | 3–4 marks | 5–6 marks |
| <p>No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Evaluative points are not relevant to the question.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Evaluative comments lack reasoning.</p> | <p>Candidate makes points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting evidence doesn't back up the evaluation • lack of development in reasoning <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation is made which has supporting evidence. <p>*Developed points may include, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence • reasons • background information, support or reinforcement. <p>Award a maximum of 1 mark where the reasoning is not developed or the candidate makes only one evaluative point.</p> | <p>Candidate makes developed, relevant points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question and in addition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluative comments clearly address the stated research method(s) in relation to the specified scenario • addresses the potential effectiveness of the key stated research method in relation to the specified scenario. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addresses ethical issues in relation to the key stated research method(s) • where there is only one stated method the candidate also evaluates their own alternative method, or combination of methods, of researching the issue <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where there are two stated methods the candidate evaluates both methods and/or their own alternative method, or combination of methods, of researching the issue. |

| Conclusion – award up to a maximum of 3 marks | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 0 marks | 1 mark | 2 marks | 3 marks |
| No evidence of concluding remarks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluding remarks simply summarise the key elements or main points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conclusion follows from a line of argument and is supported by reasons/evidence It is clear which research method is preferred in relation to the specified scenario | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 2 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, using these to support the overall judgement their reasons for preferring/rejecting the research methods are clear. |

Marking grids for 15 mark (source stimulus) questions

| Analysis of a source – award up to a maximum of 6 marks | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 0 marks | 1–2 marks | 3–4 marks | 5–6 marks |
| <p>No evidence of analysis – purely descriptive response.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Analysis is not relevant to the question.</p> | <p>Candidate’s analysis identifies aspects which are relevant to the question but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not identify most relevant aspects <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not show relevant links. <p>Alternatively</p> <p>Analysis identifies only one key aspect and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links the aspect with the trustworthiness of the source • includes supporting evidence. | <p>Candidate’s analysis identifies key aspects which affect trustworthiness of the source and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies relevant links • includes relevant supporting evidence. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments <p>Award full marks where a candidate’s analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research.</p> |

| Evaluation of trustworthiness – award up to a maximum of 6 marks | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 0 marks | 1–2 marks | 3–4 marks | 5–6 marks |
| <p>No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Evaluative points are not relevant (do not refer to the source).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Evaluative comments lack reasoning.</p> | <p>Candidate makes reasoned points of evaluation about the trustworthiness of the source but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is lack of development in reasoning <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they make only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation about the source, which has supporting evidence. <p>*Developed points may include, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence from the source • evidence from other social science research • reasons • background information about conducting social science research. | <p>Candidate makes at least two developed* points of evaluation which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • address the strengths and weaknesses of the source • are used to support a reasoned overall judgement(s) • are supported by knowledge about conducting social science research. | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • judgements on strengths and weaknesses are supported by reference to relevant additional research/sources (this may include candidate’s own research) • the judgement includes consideration of alternative approaches which may increase the trustworthiness of the source. |

| Conclusion – award up to a maximum of 3 marks | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 0 marks | 1 mark | 2 marks | 3 marks |
| No evidence of concluding remarks | Concluding remarks simply summarise the key elements or main points. | <p>There is a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>The conclusion follows from a line of argument and is supported by reasons/evidence.</p> | <p>Candidate meets the criteria for 2 marks and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, using these to support the overall judgement expressed within the conclusion. |

Marking instructions for each question

Section 1 – Political issues and research methods

Part A

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
|----------|----------|--|
| 1. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • differences between insider and outsider status • measures of success • the individual group itself (money, popular support, celebrity endorsement, media, unity) • the political party in power (support from/receptiveness of, need) • the time period the group is operating in (events/circumstances, popular support) • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>The power of interest groups to influence is not equal. Some groups have more power than others, meaning that some groups' viewpoints are never heard by government and so these groups are unsuccessful. Groups like the British Medical Association (BMA) are successful as a result of them having direct access to the government. The government relies on them for their expertise and this knowledge helps the government to make decisions on policy, ensuring that the interest group's needs are met. Outsider groups, meanwhile, like Fathers4Justice, tend to have less success, as their methods are not seen as 'legitimate' by the government. Their lack of success is down to the fact that governments do not want to be seen to give in to illegal tactics used by groups like this. So their status is important, as are the methods they chose to use.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>The success of interest groups depends a great deal on their status as an insider or outsider group. The former benefit considerably from being invited into the decision-making process by the government. The fact that insider groups are part of the consultation process makes them very powerful and is extremely important in terms of gauging their success. Their status as an insider group is far more important than any other factor – like size, financing or interest from the media – since without the government's ear your message will not be heard or acted upon. Outsider groups, on the other hand, tend to be ignored by the government. In large part, this is usually down to the tactics used by the group. For example, 'Fathers4Justice' (F4J) in the UK gains a lot of media attention,</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>and has garnered a significant amount of support from the public for its cause, but it remains an outsider group, unable to truly influence government, as a result of activities that involve it breaking the law. Since the group was founded in 2001, members have stormed the Lord Chancellor's Office, thrown purple flour bombs at the Prime Minister, scaled the Palace of Westminster and York Minster and disrupted numerous live television shows. This kind of action leads the group to success in terms of media attention for its cause, but an overall lack of success in terms of achieving its ultimate goals as it alienates the very establishment figures that it wants to influence and who wield legislative power to reform UK laws. This is counter-productive as the government, the Church and network television cannot be seen to condone or support direct, illegal action which threatens the rule of law or public safety.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>In Britain, interest group activity is acceptable and desirable, with lobbying being the norm in a healthy democracy. The same is true in the USA. In France, however, interest group activity, although it does exist, is frowned upon. Interest groups are seen as trying to pervert the good of the whole community, since they look to promote 'particular will' rather than the 'general will'. So, this has an effect on their likelihood of success.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Arguably of far more importance than their status as an insider or outsider group, is the group's size and the intensity of its members: this is what give groups real clout. This can be seen in the UK with groups like The Confederation of British Industry (CBI), whose role is to promote business interests by advising and lobbying governments. The CBI represent 200,000 members and is the sheer number of businesses, universities, companies and public bodies, it serves to represent is crucial in terms of its ability to influence and be successful. This can also be seen in the USA, where the biggest and fastest-growing US interest group is AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons), with more than 40 million members (one American in eight), many of them educated, forceful, and strongly committed to preserving and enhancing social security and Medicare. The size of the group is important as a government is more likely to respond to larger pressure groups than smaller ones, as there are more potential votes to be won or lost. Size alone is not necessarily the most important element in interest group success though. Money and intensity often offset size. The well-funded American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), supported by many evangelical Christians, keeps Congress pro-Israel. The National Rifle Association (NRA) fights gun-control laws, mostly successfully. The AARP, the AIPAC and the NRA are Washington's most influential lobbies. While some of this is to do with size, it is important to recognise that if a group has secure financial</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>backing, it has more money to spend on organising such things as public demonstrations and advertising. If a group doesn't have secure financial aid then it can't afford to run and will not be able to fulfil its aims, for example, the Occupy London group. According to research by the Pittsburgh Tribune, interest groups in the USA spent \$518 million in 2013 lobbying Pennsylvania lawmakers. These clear international comparisons indicate the status is not the sole reason for success, but that size and money are crucial too.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Overall, it is clear that interests groups will be more successful if they hold insider status. The government will tend to listen to these groups, as they are often sizeable, and they give a good indication of the views of the public, whose votes they are trying to secure. In the UK, 40-50% of citizens are members of one or more interest group. Added to this, many outsider organisations do not have the members or the money to have any input. Unless they are able to form coalitions, they cannot defend their interests from larger, more powerful groups. The fact that interest groups make demands does not mean the demands will be heeded and it is far more likely that they will enjoy success if they have the government on side from the outset.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Insider pressure groups are the groups that the government considers to be legitimate and are, therefore, given access to decision-makers. Some of these groups have expert knowledge that is extremely important to the government in its decision-making. Insider groups may be invited to regular meetings with ministers or civil servants and new government proposals will often be circulated to them and it is quite clear that this is what makes them capable of success. The fact that insider groups are part of the consultation process makes them very powerful and long-term in terms of political influence. In addition, many governments rely on financial support from interest groups, as well as their expert knowledge, research and opinion. However, to suggest that their success is solely down to their status as an insider or outsider would be naive. The success of a group is affected by many factors, including size, finances, backing by prominent people in society and, probably most crucially, the receptiveness of the public and key politicians to the ideas the group are trying to progress. If the latter does not exist, then it does not matter how 'insider' a group may be, they are unlikely to make any headway. If, however, there is a desire to affect change in this area already, then the likelihood is that they will hold more sway. A clear example of this in recent years has been the success of groups like ASH in working alongside the government towards a Tobacco Free Scotland by 2034. That said, they do have to battle against the fact that tobacco companies also have</i></p> |

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| | | | | <p><i>several links with prominent members of the government. Former Transport Secretary Philip Hammond was among MPs treated to more than £1,000 worth of hospitality at the Chelsea flower show by Japan Tobacco International (JTI). Under Hammond's tenure, the Department of Transport reviewed legislation regarding smoking on ships and ruled against extending the smoke-free legislation to shipping. Thus, insider status is clearly very important, but it is not the sole factor of importance in guaranteeing success as an interest group and even those who do hold insider status, who are seeing success, remain vulnerable to other groups or individuals with opposing viewpoints holding sway too.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

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| 2. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can be gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the key principles of socialism • arguments that socialism is dying – decline in support, rise of the alt-right, never truly existed in reality • arguments that socialism is thriving – continued existence of socialist parties, governments and electoral success, resurgence in some countries recently • reference to other ideologies, which may be taking over/have taken over from socialism • the impact of recent changes in political climate and support • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Socialism can clearly be said to be dying. In recent years, fewer countries are being run by socialist parties and parties of this ideology have seen a decline in support. The easiest way to define socialism is that it seeks to redistribute the wealth of a nation, closing the gap between the rich and the poor. Current states that follow socialist principles include Laos, China, Cuba, and Vietnam. This number has dropped dramatically in recent years. Even where socialism remains, it could be said to have changed significantly from the roots of what socialism set out for it to be like. Much of this is down to the clear disadvantages of ‘true’ socialism, in that it relies on the cooperative nature of humans to work. It ignores those within society who are competitive, who seek ways to overthrow and disrupt society for their own gain. Socialism doesn’t reward people for being entrepreneurial, whereas capitalism does, and the latter has thrived in recent years at the expense of the former for obvious reasons.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Socialism is not dead and is not dying, but it has changed, and countries like Cuba, China and North Korea are less relevant to socialism now than when they adopted their own versions of it. The old socialist dictatorships proved to be more dictatorships than serious attempts to implement socialist ideas. However, what the socialist movement has provided is a counter-weight to free market avoidance of social issues, health, education and individual opportunity. Most industrial countries now accept that limitations on markets and supply of good social services are essential to the wellbeing of their society. A recent Bloomberg article stated that ‘despite shrinking support, traditional leftist parties still have an important cause to fight for.’ The traditional left doesn’t have to give up these important roles. What it needs, however, is to figure out who it stands for, what it stands for and how to communicate the ideas. The</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>arguments now centre around how much free market regulation and how much society should support basic services and provide equality in education and hence opportunity.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Just five European Union countries are still ruled by governments with socialist principles – Greece, Slovakia, Malta, Portugal and Spain. Only Spain’s Socialists won power in 2018, though this was via a parliamentary coup. In 2019, in Greece, the leftist bloc Syriza lost power after imposing harsh austerity measures. In the 2019 European Parliament election, the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats lost seats, while far-right populist parties and liberal, pro-European Union parties both gained ground. This shows socialism is dying across European nations, although the growth of the right as an alternative is perhaps not as much as may have been anticipated.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>In February 2019, US President Donald Trump declared, in relation to Venezuela, that there ‘is nothing less democratic than socialism, which always gives rise to tyranny’. He called the system ‘a failed ideology’ that ‘shut down free markets, repressed free speech’ and ‘destroyed the rule of law.’ Similar views have been expressed by Boris Johnson, who recently referred to the country as being ‘an absolutely tragic story of a people kept in hostage to a defunct ideology: a ghastly command economy, state socialism, the entire oil reserves in the hands of the state, the country going to wrack and ruin.’ The situation in Venezuela was also described by William Hague as being ‘a situation worse than any crisis of capitalism, anywhere in the world, at any time in the last 100 years. Their economy has shrunk by at least half – far worse than the Great Depression or the recent economic woes of Greece.’ Socialism, in this international comparator nation, clearly has not worked and is slowly killing the nation: three million people have fled and inflation has reached 1·7 million per cent, making money worthless.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Socialism has become associated with economic failure and political oppression. It is not dying, it has already died. More than ever we now live in a world dominated by capitalism and right wing ideology. Brazil recently elected a new far-right leader, Bolsonaro, and in Germany, The AfD party</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>became the first far-right group to enter the Bundestag since World War II in 2017. This was a direct response to the government's 'open-door' policy for Syrian refugees. These countries are just two among many, where the right is growing and the left is declining.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Socialism, as Trump said recently 'is dying, and Liberty, Prosperity, and Democracy Are Being Reborn.'</i> Much of this is down to changes in class systems, with the emancipation of the working class, primarily due to the extension of access to higher education. This has changed the working class and its dependence on left-wing parties and the ideology of socialism. As a result, the old proletariat has been replaced at the bottom of the class hierarchy by a new precariat, people working in the service economy with few chances and little desire to organise. They are often immigrants separated from each other by cultural divides and sometimes disenfranchised. The traditional left has had little to offer to either group and, as such, it seems clear why socialism has started to die. However, while purely socialist states have all but died out, there has been a resurgence in support for some socialist parties or figures across the world. In the USA, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a newly elected congresswoman who calls herself a democratic socialist, has become a sensation, Bernie Sanders has also made clear that he views himself to be a social democrat and Jeremy Corbyn, the hard-line leader of the UK Labour Party, has seen the party move further left again. The resurgence comes in the face of the rise of the right, who some see as having given up the battle of ideas and retreated towards chauvinism and nostalgia, the left meanwhile has been able to refocus on inequality, the environment, and how to vest power in citizens rather than elites, and this is beginning to win the voters over once more.</p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

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| 3. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can be gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengths and weaknesses of devolution • strengths and weaknesses of unitary or federal systems of governance • strengths and weaknesses of bicameral and unicameral legislatures • strengths and weaknesses of parliamentary and presidential systems of government • strengths and weaknesses of codified and uncoded constitutions • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Many argue that devolution weakens the central authority of a nation state and that it is the first step toward breaking up a nation. Devolution would lead to more regions/nations clamouring for independence with nation states potentially breaking up, for example, the United Kingdom could cease to exist if Wales and/or Scotland became independent. This has become more of an issue in recent years and it looks likely that a second Scottish independence referendum will be called soon. In part this is down to the fall out from the Brexit referendum and negotiations, but it is also because of the success of devolution and people beginning to believe that Scotland can 'go it alone'. The Scottish public now view the Scottish parliament, rather than Westminster, as the most important political institution. For some this would be seen as an advantage of devolution, but others would argue that this is a clear disadvantage when compared to other arrangements, which would not have led Scotland to this point.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>One of the clear benefits of devolution is that it empowers people who now have greater local control over important decisions which affect their lives. Some argue that if more power were devolved to 'regions' in England, for example, in the north of England or Cornwall, then local people could develop those structures that would support the growth of business suited to their own region and not that of South-East England. It allows that if a problem exists, it can be resolved more quickly under a devolved system of governance. A federal system of governance usually requires a complicated constitutional amending process. This makes changing the US Constitution, for example, very difficult as 75% of state legislatures must approve any amendment. In addition, devolution is more flexible than, for example, a federal system of government, under which each state or province has the same level of autonomy. Devolution could result in some areas having a greater or lesser degree of autonomy. In Canada for example, Quebec desires greater autonomy than other provinces and devolution would allow for this. Wales has fewer powers</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>than Scotland, but under a federal system (for example, USA, Australia), all states/provinces have a level of equality. Devolution can also grant special recognition to people with strong identities within the state. This multi-layered identity can be seen in the United Kingdom. There are strong Welsh and Scottish identities, but many who see themselves as Welsh or Scottish also see themselves as British. This ‘nation within a nation’ concept could be argued to be more flexible in recognising group and cultural identities and a clear advantage over other systems.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>The United States and United Kingdom have very different systems of government. While the US has a written constitutional framework, the UK has no such written constitution. A devolved system of government present in the UK grants powers to the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly, for example. These powers allow for health, education and criminal justice to be decided by each respective nation. Individual states in the US can also make decisions on these same areas, proving that there are more similarities between the UK and the US than most realise. Deciding which constitutional arrangement is more effective and provides a truer form of democracy is debatable. What is clear is that both models reflect the decentralisation of power which is a trend that has come to typify many democracies in recent years.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>An examination of devolution in the United Kingdom in comparison to the constitutional framework in the United States suggests that elements of the US federal system are more democratic and more in keeping with Athenian direct democracy. For example, the Bill of Rights at the start of the US Constitution allows for an empowered citizenry, protected from any abusive government. With individual state rights also written into the US Constitution, no monarch or president can rescind those rights. Education, transport and separate tax-raising powers all suggest that US states, each with their own constitutions, have more advantages in comparison to the devolved system of government which exists in the UK. Indeed, each state has its own militia, referred to as a National Guard, which can be deployed in times of crisis by each respective state governor, without presidential or federal authority. However, despite these differences others suggest that a constitutional framework invites problems because constitutions can sometimes be inflexible and difficult to change. The US Constitution, for example, is often criticised for not reflecting and adapting to the times. With 38 out of the 50 states needing to ratify any change to the Constitution, many would suggest that constitutional arrangements in the US are outdated and invite division. The 2nd Amendment is a case in point as Americans continue to be divided over the ‘right to bear arms’ and the constitutional arrangement simply perpetuates the problem. While the US constitutional framework does</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>have some advantages, the constitution itself is so difficult to change that many see this as a weakness.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1 <i>People are more likely to accept and pass new legislation if it has come locally, from people who have a deep and clear understanding of the problem at a local level. This is the main advantage to devolution over the other potential constitutional arrangements. Devolution is far more democratic and closer to direct democracy than centralised forms of government. It also increases local area pride and gives a nation a greater sense of consciousness and identity.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Devolution offers people in Scotland the best of both worlds. Scotland has always maintained its own distinctive identity, legal and education systems, and other aspects of civic life. But devolution has, in two decades, brought political decision-making on key issues closer to the people affected by it, within the framework of a single UK. This has been instrumental in allowing, a Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government to be empowered to take decisions on a range of domestic policy areas, such as health, education and policing, so that specific Scottish needs are addressed. However, it also means that people in Scotland continue to benefit from decisions that are best made on a UK-wide basis. These contribute to guaranteeing the security of people in Scotland and the whole of the UK, providing significant economic opportunity, representing their interests in the world and allowing resources and risks to be shared effectively. Devolution has proved itself in Scotland to be a system of government that is flexible and responsive to changing needs and circumstances, with numerous extensions being made to the powers devolved over the years, including the most recent Scotland Act 2016 which transferred further powers in areas such as taxation, welfare and elections to the Scottish Parliament. However, while these advantages are clear, other systems could be seen to be at least as good, if not better. 165 of the 193 UN Member state countries are unitary states, including France, China and Japan, with the remainder being Federal States. In the latter, power is shared between the federal government and the states. It could be argued that this is better than a unitary state like the UK, where although some nations have a degree of autonomy they have no power to challenge the constitutionality of Acts of Parliament. Federalism can be seen as a compromise between the extreme concentration of power and a loose confederation of independent states for governing a variety of people, usually in a large expanse of territory. Federalism arguably has the virtue of retaining local pride, traditions and power, while allowing a central government that can handle common problems. However, clashes</i></p> |

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| | | | | <p><i>between the states and the federal government pose real problems. The state of California has filed 29 lawsuits against the federal government since President Trump took office, on issues including immigration, the environment and voting rights. Devolution, by comparison, seems to be a far more advantageous approach.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

Part B

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 4. | 15 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <p>Benefits of semi-structured interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allows researchers to establish ‘verstehen’ – understanding from the perspective of the interviewee • question ‘scripts’ or lists (interview guides) ensure a degree of similarity in the questions asked to each respondent, keeping results more reliable • qualitative interviewing is focused on the interviewee’s point of view rather than the researcher’s concerns, thus reducing interviewer bias • respondents’ views of the world, attitudes, motivations, feelings and emotions can be explored • concepts and wording of questions can be clarified to ensure understanding, reducing the risk of the researcher’s views being imposed • several interviews may be carried out with respondents, building on the trust established between interviewer and interviewee – in closed question structured interviews this would not be the case as it would invalidate the results. <p>Limitations of semi-structured interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information gained may be untrustworthy – based on respondents lying, forgetting or being ignorant of the issue in question. Interviewer presence (if viewed as unfriendly) may influence or limit interviewee’s responses • interviewer presence may lead to ‘interviewer bias’ – consciously or unconsciously directing interviewees to a certain type of response • interviews are unnatural social situations (ecological validity) which will always affect the behaviour of interviewees • interviewee accounts lack the rigour of scientific research such as subjective observation by the researcher – data potentially untrustworthy • interviewees are not representative of the general population, so researchers are unable to extrapolate generalisations about public opinion • publication of interviewees’ emotions may be a risk for them • interviewees must be clear about how confidential their responses would be. <p>Benefits of focus groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are useful for obtaining detailed information about personal and group feelings, perceptions and opinions • a skilled moderator can ensure the conversation stays on track, encourages participants’ engagement and prevents one individual dominating discussions • discussion amongst participants and group dynamics can generate new thinking about a topic and result in more in-depth discussions • the moderator can change the topic and lines of discussion to ensure discussions remain relevant |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are relatively quick and easy to organise and can generate quality data in a short space of time due to usually comprising between 6–12 participants and lasting no more than 90 minutes • saves time and money when compared to individual interviews. <p>Limitation of focus groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus groups can become influenced by one or two dominant people in the group making the information biased • they rely heavily on the skill of the moderator, an inexperienced or unskilled moderator will find it hard to control dominant characters • participants may find it difficult to share their real feelings towards some sensitive topics publicly which in turn influences the data • the data from focus groups cannot be projected onto generalisations about the wider population • focus groups are artificial situations, therefore the information and data generated by them cannot be deemed valid as people are not behaving naturally and are aware they are being observed and their responses recorded. <p>Alternative methods, which could include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surveys/questionnaires • unstructured/structured interviews • opinion polls, for example, Ipsos Mori, YouGov, Ashcroft poll ‘How Scotland voted and why’ • political blogs, for example, John Curtice’s weblog ‘What Scotland Thinks’. <p>Ethical issues including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consent • beneficence – do not do harm • anonymity • confidentiality • privacy • harm • deception • legality • use of vulnerable groups. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Semi-structured interviews would be relevant for gathering information on why the ‘Better Together’ campaign won the 2014 Scottish independence referendum as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals who voted ‘No’ and to ask them open questions to find out why they supported this position.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.</p> |

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| | | <p>Response 2 <i>Semi-structured interviews would be relevant for gathering information on why the ‘Better Together’ campaign won the 2014 Scottish independence referendum as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals who voted ‘No’ and to ask them open questions to find out why they supported this position. This would generate qualitative information that would allow those questioned to explain in-depth their reasons for voting ‘No’ and the issues that influenced them.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.</p> <p>Response 3 <i>Semi-structured interviews would be relevant for gathering information on why the ‘Better Together’ campaign won the 2014 Scottish independence referendum as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals who voted ‘No’ and to ask them open questions to find out why they supported this position. This would generate qualitative information that would allow those questioned to explain in-depth their reasons for their voting ‘No’ and the issues that influenced them. An example of this method being used was in February 2015 when an Edinburgh based qualitative research company, Quirkos, interviewed Edinburgh residents about their opinions on the campaigns for and against Scottish Independence in the run-up to the September 2014 referendum. Their sample included 12 adults who live in Edinburgh and were eligible to vote in the Referendum. There was a 50/50 gender split, and a slight overrepresentation of No voters (58%) which reflected the results in the referendum as closely as the sample size allowed. However, an issue with such a small sample is that it only contains participants from one geographical part of Scotland meaning generalisations about what influenced them cannot be easily applied to the wider Scottish population.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario.</p> <p>Response 4 <i>Focus groups would be relevant for gathering information on why the ‘Better Together’ campaign won the 2014 Scottish independence referendum as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals who voted ‘No’ as well as ‘Yes’ to explore what influenced or motivated their vote. This method produces rich, qualitative data that allow those participating to explain in depth their reasons for voting either ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ and discuss the key issues that influenced them.</i></p> <p><i>For instance, Lord Ashcroft Polls have conducted research into elections and Scottish independence using the focus group method, carrying out focus groups in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. In the run-up to the 2017 general election they found that support for the Conservatives had grown because of the SNP’s preoccupation with independence. However, the views of a small number of people from only two geographical areas is not representative of the whole of Scotland and they were only able to make predictions at a constituency level. Furthermore, Lord Ashcroft himself freely admits that he is not impartial, being a Conservative and a former party deputy-chairman and Minister. However, his research uses</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>professional researchers, looks at constituency level issues in the UK which is often ignored by other polling organisations and is freely available making it a cost-effective and efficient for other researchers to use.</i></p> <p><i>An alternative method that could be used would be a survey. Surveys have large sample sizes which can be representative of the general population studied and allow generalisations to be made about the whole population. For example, the Scottish Referendum Study, surveyed 5000 Scots in 2015 to assess voting patterns in the 2014 referendum. This research confirmed the arguments that worked best for the Unionist side were new powers for Holyrood.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.</p> <p>Response 5</p> <p><i>Focus groups would be a relevant alternative method for gathering information on why the ‘Better Together’ campaign won the 2014 Scottish independence referendum as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals who voted ‘No’ as well as ‘Yes’ to explore what influenced or motivated their vote. This method produces rich, qualitative data that allow those participating to explain in-depth their reasons for voting either ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ and discuss the key issues that influenced them. By explaining the purpose of the research to participants, gaining informed consent from them and ensuring their anonymity, researchers are also more likely to gain an honest representation of voters’ motivations making the findings more valid.</i></p> <p><i>For instance, Lord Ashcroft Polls have conducted research into elections and Scottish independence using the focus group method, carrying out focus groups in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. In the run-up to the 2017 general election they found that support for the Conservatives had grown because of the SNP’s preoccupation with independence. However, the views of a small number of people from only two geographical areas is not representative of the whole of Scotland and they were only able to make predictions at a constituency level. Furthermore, Lord Ashcroft himself freely admits that he is not impartial, being a Conservative and a former party deputy-chairman and Minister. However, his research uses professional researchers, looks at constituency level issues in the UK which is often ignored by other polling organisations and is freely available making it a cost-effective and efficient for other researchers to use.</i></p> <p><i>An alternative method that could be used would be a survey. Surveys have large sample sizes which can be representative of the general population studied and allow generalisations to be made about the whole population. For example, the Scottish Referendum Study, surveyed 5000 Scots in 2015 to assess voting patterns in the 2014 referendum. This research confirmed the arguments that worked best for the Unionist side were new powers for Holyrood.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario, analysis of an alternative method and consideration of ethical issues related to one method.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 6 <i>Focus groups are a more effective method than semi-structured interviews as they can gather a wider range of views more quickly and cost-effectively.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark summarises key points – 1 mark.</p> <p>Response 7 <i>Focus groups are a more effective method than interviews for gathering data on voting influences because it is a quick, easy and relatively cheap method for researchers to use. Various groups of voters, sharing some essential features such as a similar social class, can be researched across the country and are quick and easy to organise. Semi-structured interviews take much longer to carry out and may contain greater researcher bias as they allow the researcher to direct the conversation more.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons – 2 marks.</p> <p>Response 8 <i>Undoubtedly, surveys are preferable to semi-structured interviews and focus groups. Surveys allow large, representative samples of the population to be researched and produced. If the sample is not representative then it can be weighted to better reflect the general population. The data a survey produces can also be quantified and presented in accessible tabular and graphical formats. Although surveys have some key weaknesses, which have been acknowledged, the fact that generalisations can be applied to the wider population make them more reliable than both semi-structured interviews and focus groups, which despite producing qualitative data, are too limited in terms of sample size to be able to be applied to the wider population to explain their motivations when voting.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method – 3 marks.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 5. | 15 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <p>Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confidence that research has been verified and checked and went through editorial checks by sub-editors and been fact-checked • current and fairly up-to-date information • author, Julia Powles, is an academic at a prestigious university (Cambridge) and has expertise in law and technology, the area in which the legislation she is commenting upon lies • academic and official statistics are included or alluded to, including the Drip legislation • The Guardian is a quality, award-winning newspaper with an international reputation for quality journalism and investigative reporting • the website address is published to allow verification by the reader of the article and there are web links which can be opened to verify the validity further • date of publication shows it is a contemporary source • citation of Martha Lane Fox’s speech suggests she is a member of the UK House of Lords and therefore liable to be knowledgeable or an expert on the matter being debated – or will at least be well-informed on the issue • twitter address and website address are provided so research can be verified. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Arguments that the source’s validity and/or reliability are questionable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian is renowned as a supporter of left-wing parties and strongly opposed to the Conservative Party and its values and therefore unlikely to be impartial in commenting on legislation proposed by a Conservative-dominated coalition • the date of publication is within the timeframe of drafting and debating the legislation in question – the author may not have fully considered all aspects of the legislation • headline uses pejorative language suggestive of a prejudicial view • further pejorative language pervades the article • citation of Martha Lane Fox’s speech suggest she is a member of the UK House of Lords, however further elaboration on her background and credentials would be required to decisively judge whether she is a reliable source • Fox may be an opposition Peer and prejudicial and biased against the government of the day who introduced this legislation • citations of quotes in the passage linked to government propaganda, deception and hypocrisy are unattributed and therefore questionable • newspapers have no legal obligation to impartiality, unlike broadcast media, and therefore must always have their objectivity questioned • newspapers are a business and therefore liable to meet the demands of their readers as much as be concerned with printing objective-free news • as this is adapted from the original source, it may omit key issues and has been filtered in a way that may be selective • the research is qualitative and therefore may be based on personal opinion. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> |

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| | | <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Source A has been produced by The Guardian newspaper. As a newspaper with an open, centre-left perspective it is likely to be biased and therefore unreliable.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Source A has been authored by Julia Powles, an academic at the prestigious Cambridge university and a researcher and expert in law and technology, the area in which the legislation she is commenting upon lies. As a researcher at a prestigious university she will wish to retain her academic reputation and should only publish verifiable and accurate information. This therefore increases the trust one places on this article.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>Response 3 <i>The Guardian newspaper is recognised as a quality broadsheet newspaper with a strong record in investigative journalism with detailed and well-judged writing. Articles from quality newspapers are therefore inherently more reliable and valid as pieces of social science research. Another positive of the article that improves the validity is that a website address and Twitter address are provided so further research can be conducted to make more sound conclusions. However, the Guardian is also a left-wing, liberal paper and likely to be biased against the Conservatives and their legislative policies.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research.</p> <p>Response 4 <i>In addition, the article in the source is contemporary and up to date, being published in July 2014 and therefore takes account of thinking at the time on the Drip Act. However, this could also be a failing of the article as a research method, as the law in practice may have changed by now and any assessment may be out of date and inaccurate. Additional research would have to be carried out to fully evaluate the veracity of the conclusions and findings laid out in the source. This would involve reference to a wider range of academic publications and official government documentation. However, one concern about any newspaper article as a reliable source of information is the issue of bias. The headline of the article states government legislation is ‘misleading and an affront to democracy’ and this immediately gives the indication that there will be a lack of balanced argument and the article will not offer an objective opinion. This undermines the validity of the article as a source of research. Furthermore, throughout the article this bias is compounded by use of</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>language such as an ‘abomination’ and ‘comprehensive mockery’, making it very clear that this article is far from objective in its examination of the legislation.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis and evaluation of a key aspect of the source supported by knowledge of social science research and reference to additional or alternative approaches which would increase the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 5 <i>Source A is not trustworthy due to the lack of impartiality shown by newspapers and the clear centre-left bias present.</i></p> <p>This example contains a simple summary of key points – 1 mark.</p> <p>Response 6 <i>Despite concerns regarding the trust of any newspaper due to bias, and the Guardian’s clear left-wing bias, Source A is still somewhat trustworthy as the articles’ author is an academic and should have followed academic and journalistic conventions to verify and confirm information is accurate. This should have also been edited and fact-checked before publication to ensure it contained accurate information and therefore has some value to researching the issue.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence – 2 marks.</p> <p>Response 7 <i>Source A has limited trustworthiness. The source has some validity as its’ author is an expert and an academic at Cambridge university, the highest rated UK university by reputation for expertise and excellence. However, having been published in 2014 the article is now quite dated, may not contain the most up-to-date information and is also likely to contain some political bias having been printed by an openly centre-left newspaper.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation – 3 marks.</p> |

Section 2 – Law and order and research methods

Part A

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 6. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of capacity in prisons • lack of access to rehabilitative programmes • budget cuts in policing • bureaucratic/legislative limits on policing, for example, European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) • powerlessness against large global organisations, for example, banks, tax avoidance • racism in the criminal justice system • effectiveness of policing strategies and practice • effectiveness of courts • weaknesses and strengths in the prison estate • weaknesses and strengths of government legislation • human rights legislation and the difficulties and safeties they produce • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>One way in which the UK’s criminal justice system has failed to deal with law and order is when the UK was challenged by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) for engaging in mass surveillance of its citizens. In 2018 the ECHR ruled that Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees privacy, was violated by the UK government’s bulk interception of mass data. The court cited insufficient safeguards when intercepting, processing and storing data. This suggests that UK courts had not adequately upheld the rights of its own citizens and that, had it not been for Strasbourg, the UK Government could very well have kept trampling over the privacy of its citizens. However, the same court found that the collection of mass data was not in itself illegal. It also found that the UK intelligence services had not abused their power and both Articles 8 and 10 did still protect free speech. This shows that when it comes to data collection the UK criminal justice system ultimately fell short in protecting the rights of its own citizens.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Response 2 <i>The statement that the criminal justice system is ineffective in dealing with crime and disorder is shown to be true in the effectiveness of UK policing. The core aspects of policing which include answering phones, investigating crime, responding to emergencies, bringing offenders to justice and neighbourhood policing are being impacted due to budget cuts to police forces across the country. Real-term reduction in police budgets is thought to be anywhere from 11–25% and, with the demands on policing increasing, the ability to protect the public has been called into question. According to one BBC report, in some cases when one local burglar is apprehended, then crime in that area can decrease by as much as 80% – but with only 11% of the police force available to the public at any one time, the police becomes less effective in dealing with this type of crime. This can also be explained by ECHR legislation which has forced another layer of bureaucracy on the police. This too has impacted the ability of the police to carry out their core tasks and protect the public, especially against threats to national security.</i></p> <p><i>Despite these financial and legislative pressures, some police forces have become more efficient and embraced technology and alternatives methods to assist their policing. Durham Constabulary for example have used on-line surveillance more frequently to protect store fronts from vandalism and the West Midlands Police, England’s second biggest force, handles most routine crimes such as burglary reports, almost exclusively on-line. Still other police forces have hired civilians to address the mental health of shoplifters who many times simply need help applying for benefits. Despite these innovations police departments are still struggling to cope with effectively dealing with crime and disorder. This is perhaps due to an increase in online crime and the fact that the police are increasingly having to respond to mental health emergencies and other non-crime issues as cuts to social services take effect.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>When comparing racism in policing in the UK to that of the United States it appears to be a greater problem in America. While the Greater Manchester Police and London Metropolitan Police have been accused of institutional racism in the past and there is a disproportionate number of black men in prison in the UK, the levels of police of brutality used against black Americans seems to occur more frequently in the United States. Police in the United States kill a disproportionate number of blacks in comparison to whites and when unarmed people are killed by the police in America, 39% of the time the victims are black. This, despite making up just 13% of the US population. Statistics such as these helped fuel the Black Lives Matter movement which gained momentum after the controversial police killings of Tamir Rice in Cleveland and Freddie Gray in Baltimore. Such brutality has occurred even though the killing of police officers while on duty are near record lows. Black people in America are also much more likely to be arrested for drugs even though the rate of usage and the amount of illicit</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>sales of drugs are similar among blacks and whites. This suggests that racism in the police is worse in America in comparison to the UK.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>To determine whether the criminal justice system is failing in the UK it may be worth examining racism, an issue which continues to be scrutinised despite the MacPherson inquiry released two decades ago. Comparing police brutality levels and sentencing to the United States reveals that in many ways problems remain with criminal justice systems in both countries. Racism in policing is thought to be much worse in the United States where white police officers killing unarmed black men seems to be a regular occurrence. The recruitment and retention of black and Asian officers in England and Wales has led to a more diverse police force, certainly in comparison to many police forces in the United States such Chicago or Los Angeles. However, despite making up just 3.3% of the population in England and Wales in 2018, black people experienced 12% of all use-of-force incidents and were three times more likely to be tasered in comparison to whites. In the United States blacks were three times more likely to have forced used against them by the police in comparison to whites. More troubling is the situation in some communities such as Chicago. Internal police records in Chicago following the 2015 shooting of an unarmed black man revealed there was widespread use of force on black Americans daily. In cases where force was used 90% of the victims were black. This suggests that racism and discrimination exist among police forces in England/Wales and the United States, but that police brutality is at greater levels in the United States.</i></p> <p><i>Racial prejudice exists beyond policing and can also be found in prisons. When comparing racial disparity in prisons between England and Wales and the United States a 2017 report by Labour MP David Lammy found a 'greater disproportionality' in the number of black people in prisons in England and Wales than in the US. The report found that black people make up 3% of the population in England and Wales yet make up 12% of the prison population. In the United States, black people make up 13% of the US population yet 35% of all prisoners in the United States are black. This suggests that there is overt racial prejudice in the criminal justice systems and that, at least in terms of sentencing, this prejudice could be at levels found in the United States.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1 <i>In some ways the criminal justice system in the UK has been ineffective in dealing with crime and disorder. The UK has been criticised for the way in which it has collected data on its citizens and for the extent at which racism exists among some police forces. There has also been evidence to</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>suggest that black people in the UK are more likely to receive a custodial sentence in comparison to whites. The disparity between blacks and whites held in prison in the UK suggests there is discrimination in the criminal justice system. Police brutality has not risen to the level of that in America however where there are regularly instances of racism levelled at police forces across the country. Therefore, the criminal justice system has not been effective in dealing with crime and disorder.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>To conclude, the criminal justice system in the UK continues to improve how it deals with crime and disorder. While UK citizens have had their privacy violated by technology giants such as Facebook and Google and by the UK government, this is occurring around the world as countries scramble to enact laws to rein in how big tech collects and uses our data. With the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) coming in to force recently it is clear that, the UK and European Union are ahead of the United States when it comes to protecting people’s privacy. This proves that the criminal justice system, more specifically the courts, have taken significant steps to protect how information is shared and protected. However, in other ways, it is clear there are still levels of racism and discrimination in policing in the UK. While this problem is not confined to the United Kingdom, further reforms are needed to examine why force is used more frequently against black men and women. Furthermore, evidence from David Lammy’s report suggests that there is racial disparity in many UK prisons which exceed that of the United States. This shows that the criminal justice system in the UK has a mixed record in dealing with crime and disorder.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

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| 7. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sociological, biological, psychological theories • social exclusion • lack of education • lack of employment opportunities • lack of drug rehabilitation centres • stigmatising/labelling of NEDs/CHAVs • poor parenting • poverty • alternatives to the view • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>One of the ways that ‘society creates its own criminals’ is through a lack of education in many deprived areas. With a lack of education comes a lack of employment opportunities, as many employers need at least basic levels of English and Maths in their employees. A study of young people in police custody found that 86% had been excluded from school. This can lead these young delinquents to be labelled NEDs (Non-Educated Delinquents) which in turn labels them within society and makes it even harder for them to gain lawful employment – and so the cycle continues. This is one way in which society creates its own criminals.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>The statement ‘society creates its own criminals’ can be evidenced by the Police Scotland statistic that 86% of young people in police custody had been excluded from school; this compared to just 2% of the broader population. According to a study published by the Centre for Policy Studies, poor literacy levels at entrance to secondary school fosters a culture of frustration and resentment towards societal institutions. This is clearly explained in Cohen’s theory of status frustration, where an individual does not have the education or means to create the level of wealth they aspire to, and so turn to crime to fulfil this aspiration. These criminals with low levels of education have been labelled by many in the mainstream media as NEDs. According to Becker, once a label has been applied to an individual or group within society, that label is granted master status, therefore gaining employment becomes extremely difficult.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>One country which proves that society does indeed create its criminals is South Africa. South African rates of poverty, unemployment and inequality all contribute to high rates of crime. For example, South Africa's Gini index score of 63 (with zero being full equality) places South Africa at the top of the global inequality scale. The United Kingdom scored a 34 in the same inequality study and has lower levels of violent and acquisitive crime. This suggests that inequality – a result of government policy, economic development and an uneven distribution of wealth and opportunity have a great deal to do with crime levels. Some estimates suggest there is 80% more crime in South Africa in comparison to the United Kingdom. This clearly shows that crime is less about an individual's make-up but more about how society influences the behaviour of individuals.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Regardless of society, interactionist theories such as Howard Becker's labelling theory help explain the frequency and nature of crime. Individuals with a negative label, irrespective of nation or community stand a higher risk of breaking the law. For example, African-American men in the state of Alabama are stopped by the police 14 times more frequently in comparison to white men. Social scientists in France and the United Kingdom have found similar crime studies which prove that young black men are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and negatively portrayed in the media, which, in turn, contributes to an implicit label by the police and courts. It is therefore not surprising that racial stereotyping by the police in all three countries has received widespread coverage in the media. While crime among black males in the United States is higher in comparison to crime committed by black males in France and the UK, this could be due to greater levels of inequality. Research from the Census Bureau found that fewer than 5% of black children grow up in areas with a poverty rate lower than 10% and more than half of black fathers present. By comparison, 63% of white children are raised in such an environment. Therefore, when a racial group is discriminated against by the justice system over generations it results in greater levels of poverty and a label. Such factors make it hard to deny that it is society which creates its criminals.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> |

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| | | <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1 <i>To conclude, while some scientific studies point to genetic differences in criminals, such studies do not compare to the overwhelming body of criminological research that support the role that society plays in crime levels. An uneven distribution of wealth is linked to crime, as shown in a comparison between the United Kingdom and South Africa. Finally, contemporary interactionist theories such as ‘labelling’ further prove that laws, norms and mores are societal creations suggesting that the societal explanations are more influential in comparison to physiological or psychological explanations of crime.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>In some respects, gene make-up and gender are driving factors which can increase or decrease a person’s risk to aggression and violent crime. Some argue that such physiological factors are cross-cultural irrespective of country and prove for example why men are more violent than women. This is true in examining violent crime in Norway, Indonesia and Canada. However, one cannot discount society’s role in influencing genes. How men are socialised has as great a role to play in explaining crime levels. In developed Western countries the role of masculinity suggests that many types of violent and sex crime can be traced to gender roles and more recent trends such as the proliferation of pornography. Discrimination, labelling and inequality also play more significant roles in explaining why many ethnic minorities get caught up in the criminal justice system. There is no doubt that crime is caused by a variety of short and long-term factors with some individuals more at risk than others. However, to suggest that society is not most responsible for influencing criminal behaviour ignores the overwhelming body of research both in the UK and from around the world.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 8. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-offending rates • success levels of rehabilitation within prisons • effects/consequences of conditions in prisons, for example, violence, deaths in custody, overcrowding, drugs and alcohol • rights of prisoners • current issues regarding the effectiveness of non-custodial sentences to prevent reoffending • success of alternatives to custodial sentencing, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – community sentencing – probation – fines – electronic tagging – restorative justice – rehabilitation programmes – multi-agency and policing approaches to crime • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Overcrowding is a major issue in Scottish prisons and this also has a limiting effect on rehabilitation. Despite a decrease in the number of prisoners held by the Scottish Prison Service since 2012, Scotland’s prisons remain overcapacity. HMP Barlinnie in Glasgow is operating at 139% capacity while HMP Inverness is at 137%. This has prompted some in the Scottish Parliament to claim that prisoners are ‘packed into prisons like sardines’. Five prisons out of 15 were at, or beyond, their capacity at the start of 2018 and this figure has now rose to nine. The consequences of overcrowding include violent disturbances, prisoner suicide, pressures on staff and a shortage of resources. Overcrowding also makes it very difficult to offer rehabilitation programmes. In addition, with fewer staff to monitor drug use and meet the general needs of prisoners the Howard League for Penal Reform has even suggested that the recent increase in suicides in prison is directly attributable to overcrowding.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Overcrowding continues to be major problem facing prisons in the United Kingdom. While the overall number of prisoners held in Scotland and England/Wales has fallen in recent years the pressure placed on prisons remains considerable. Prisons are not able to provide healthy environments for prisoners and are simply not able to achieve the aims set by Government ministers. Rehabilitating prisoners and reducing re conviction rates is hardly possible when prisoners are being</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>warehoused. With a Scottish prison population of approximately 7,600, and over 83,000 prisoners in England and Wales, the prison system is not able to cope with its mandate of rehabilitating prisoners and reducing re-conviction rates. Indeed, many prisons that are publicly run are currently housing larger numbers of prisoners than they were ever intended to or are equipped for. According to the Ministry for Justice, many prisons – such as at Swansea and Nottingham – are vastly overcrowded with Swansea at a population capacity of 184% of its uncrowded capacity. As prison officer numbers have reduced and prisoner numbers have increased, there has also been a rise in the number of disturbances and ‘incidents at height’ in England and Wales. There were 34,223 assaults in 2018, up 16% from 2017 suggesting that prisons are in crisis. Not only are prison disturbances and violent incidents on the increase because of this overcrowding, there are fewer staff to monitor drug use and meet the general welfare and care needs of prisoners. Because of this there have been 327 deaths in custody in the twelve months to March 2019. Shadow Justice Secretary Richard Burgon has remarked, ‘Our prisons have become a danger to officers, inmates and wider society’. This suggests that custodial sentences are failing to rehabilitate prisoners and are hardly effective at reducing crime.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>One country in which prison seems to work is Norway. In Norway just 20% of prisoners are reconvicted within two years of release compared to Scotland’s 67%. This suggests that custodial sentences can work if funded appropriately and have support from the general public. Norwegian prisons such as Bastoy aim to rebuild lives with less emphasis on punishment and security. Prison guards are more akin to social workers who support and encourage prisoners. Prisoners do not wear uniforms and call prison guards by their first name. Academic and vocational courses give prisoners skills for employment and many prisoners begin working in the community 18 months before release to make the transition back to the outside world as smooth as possible. Cognitive behavioural therapy and counselling services are also widely available, improving prisoners’ mental health.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>To suggest that custodial sentences are the most effective method in dealing with crime is not without merit. Well-funded prisons where prison guards act as social workers and are pro-active in addressing the needs of offenders stand the best chance of rehabilitating those most at risk of reoffending. Prisons have a vital role to play and perhaps no one has become more controversial in addressing the success and need for prisons than Charles Murray, the conservative author of ‘Does Prison Work?’ Murray’s argument challenges the prevailing view amongst the criminal justice establishment. While most advocates for prison reform argue that locking up criminals solves nothing Murray argues much the opposite</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>suggesting that prison both deters and prevents crime. Murray brings forth a litany of evidence illustrating that as crime rates climb the number of crimes cleared up by the police and the percentage of cleared-up cases that have resulted in a guilty verdict have fallen. Murray argues that the risk of being sent to prison for a crime has declined by 80% and it is this which has essentially made prison an ineffective deterrent.</i></p> <p><i>One country where rehabilitation is central to the prison estate is Denmark. Danish prisons encourage problem solving that lead the offender to commit the crime rather than punishing the crime itself. There is a clear emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration back into society. Getting prisons to resemble the outside world fosters a sense of normalisation. Most Danish prisoners sentenced to fewer than five years live in open prisons without walls and the security features of a typical Scottish prison. Prisoners work a standard Danish workweek (37 hours) or attend classes. Independence is fostered as prisoners do their own shopping and cooking. Married couples can live together and with their children, if under the age of three. It is no wonder Denmark has a low recidivism rate and is the envy of prisons in Europe. Compared to the penal estate in Russia, Brazil, Mexico and many American states the Danish approach would suggest that, custodial sentences, if modelled around trust, rehabilitation and reintegration, could very well be central to reducing crime.</i></p> <p><i>While there are exceptional examples of custodial sentences succeeding in reducing recidivism at some level, a growing body of evidence suggests that prison does more harm than good. Many nations still have criminal justice systems which are underfunded, punitive and ‘warehouse’ criminals in overcrowded prisons. Brazil is one nation that can be contrasted with both Denmark and Scotland. Brazilian prisons are vastly overcrowded and have faced widespread criticism for permitting a culture of violence within its walls. There is endemic violence with food scarce and cells so packed that inmates have no space to lie down. Private companies run many such prisons and are paid per head. Brazil’s prison population rate is 334 per 100,000 compared to Denmark’s 63 and Scotland’s 150. Brazil’s 2,600 prisons have an occupancy rate of 168% compared to Denmark’s under capacity of 96% and Scotland’s 93%. With Brazil incarcerating drug offenders with no criminal record it is having to enlarge its prison estate considerably. Brazil built 30 new prisons in 2017 alone and overcrowding is so endemic that a Brazilian court recently ruled that prisoners were due compensation because of it. The Brazilian female prison population has grown by 567% in the last fifteen years and over 500 male and female inmates dies each year in prison. Compared to Denmark’s approach which has reduced its prison population by nearly 20% in the last five years, Brazil’s failure to combat crime through custodial sentences has become quite clear. Even Scotland has reduced its prison population by nearly 8% since 2013 suggesting that for some nations, prison is an expensive and ineffective way to deal with crime.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> |

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| | | <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Custodial sentences do not work and do not reduce crime in Scotland, England or Wales. However, prisons that are well-funded and focus on prisoner integration and supporting offenders during and post-release are most likely to make a difference in contributing to crime reduction. Scandinavian models for incarceration offer an effective method for dealing with crime. However, other nations such as Brazil and Guatemala have overcrowded prisons which are dangerous, drug infested, controlled by gangs and underfunded. This suggests that custodial sentences are not very successful and therefore do not offer the most effective method of dealing with crime.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>To conclude, custodial sentences are certainly not the most effective method of dealing with crime. Despite research from Charles Murray, prisons do not deter people from committing crime. Prisoners are usually drawn from the poorest and most vulnerable in society. This is true for prisoners in Scotland, England and Wales and for prisoners from around the world. Most prisons punish the offender and do not have adequate resources to rehabilitate offenders, especially those on short sentences. It is true that long-term offenders and prisons that support offenders rather than punish them are more likely to leave prison and not reoffend, as in Denmark and Norway. However, for most prisoners and especially in countries such as Brazil, Guatemala and South Africa, custodial sentences do little to address the underlying causes of offending. Eradicating poverty, providing access to good schools and healthcare, and abolishing corruption are long-term solutions that would be much more effective at preventing crime than a prison sentence.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

Part B

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 9. | 15 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <p>Benefits of semi-structured interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allows researchers to establish ‘verstehen’ – understanding from the perspective of the interviewee • question ‘scripts’ or lists (interview guides) ensure a degree of similarity in the questions asked to each respondent, keeping results more reliable • qualitative interviewing is focused on the interviewee’s point of view rather than the researcher’s concerns, thus reducing interviewer bias • respondents’ views of the world, attitudes, motivations, feelings and emotions can be explored • concepts and wording of questions can be clarified to ensure understanding, reducing the risk of the researcher’s views being imposed • several interviews may be carried out with respondents building on the trust established between interviewer and interviewee. (In closed question structured interviews this would not be the case as it would invalidate the results.) <p>Limitations of semi-structured interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information gained may be untrustworthy – based on respondents lying, forgetting or being ignorant of the issue in question. Interviewer presence (if viewed as unfriendly) may influence or limit interviewee’s responses • interviewer presence may lead to ‘interviewer bias’ – consciously or unconsciously directing interviewees to a certain type of response • interviews are unnatural social situations (ecological validity) which will always affect the behaviour of interviewees • interviewee accounts lack the rigour of scientific research such as subjective observation by the researcher – data potentially untrustworthy • interviewees are not representative of the general population, so researchers are unable to extrapolate generalisations about public opinion • publication of interviewees’ emotions may be a risk for them • interviewees must be clear about how confidential their responses would be. <p>Benefits of focus groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are useful for obtaining detailed information about personal and group feelings, perceptions and opinions • a skilled moderator can ensure the conversation stays on track, encourages participants’ engagement and prevents one individual dominating discussions • discussion amongst participants and group dynamics can generate new thinking about a topic and result in more in-depth discussions • the moderator can change the topic and lines of discussion to ensure discussions remain relevant |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are relatively quick and easy to organise and can generate quality data in a short space of time due to usually comprising between 6–12 participants and lasting no more than 90 minutes • saves time and money when compared to individual interviews. <p>Limitation of focus groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus groups can become influenced by one or two dominant people in the group making the information biased • they rely heavily on the skill of the moderator, an inexperienced or unskilled moderator will find it hard to control dominant characters • participants may find it difficult to share their real feelings towards some sensitive topics publicly which in turn influences the data • the data from focus groups cannot be projected onto generalisations about the wider population • focus groups are artificial situations, therefore the information and data generated by them cannot be deemed valid as people are not behaving naturally and are aware they are being observed and their responses recorded. <p>Alternative methods, which could include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surveys/questionnaires • unstructured/structured interviews • focus groups • official documents and reports, for example, British Crime Survey (BCS), Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS). <p>Ethical issues including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consent • beneficence – do not do harm • anonymity • confidentiality • privacy • harm • deception • legality • use of vulnerable groups. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Semi-structured interviews would be relevant for gathering information on falling crime levels across the UK and Scotland as it would allow the researcher to identify and interview experts in the field of crime, such as academics and criminologists, who will have conducted extensive research into the issue.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Response 2 <i>Semi-structured interviews would be relevant for gathering information on falling crime levels across the UK and Scotland as it would allow the researcher to identify and interview experts in the field of crime, such as academics and criminologists, who will have conducted extensive research into the issue. Semi-structured interviews are also flexible and allow the interviewee to raise issues that may not have been considered by the researcher, thereby broadening the scope of the information and introducing different perspectives that the researcher may not have considered.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.</p> <p>Response 3 <i>Semi-structured interviews are an appropriate method for researching the issue of falling levels of crime in the UK and Scotland to an extent. This method allows the interviewer/researcher to produce qualitative data which not only identifies which types of crime have seen a decrease but may also give reasons why crime levels in the UK are falling. Semi-structured interviews allow the researcher to identify and interview experts in the field of crime, such as academics and criminologists, who will have conducted extensive research into the issue. Semi-structured interviews are also flexible and allow the interviewee to raise issues that may not have been considered by the researcher, thereby broadening the scope of the information.</i></p> <p><i>Semi-structured interviews might also allow the researcher to establish what Weber called ‘verstehen’, seeing events and issues through the eyes of the people that they study. Ann Oakley, sociologist and feminist, advocates this approach and argues that establishing a rapport with interviewees improved the quality of her research into women’s attitudes to housework. Oakley divided interviewing into ‘masculine’ and ‘feminist’, where ‘masculine’ interviewing is proper, scientific and objective whereas ‘feminist’ interviewing is collaborative, empathetic and superior. However, by seeking to achieve verstehen in researching crime, a researcher may lose sight of their objectivity and take the side of those interviewed, whether victims of crime or perpetrators of crime.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario.</p> <p>Response 4 <i>Focus groups would be a relevant alternative method for gathering information on the issue of falling levels of crime in the UK and Scotland as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals who have been victims of crime, perpetrators of crime or even experts in crime such as the police. This method produces rich, qualitative data that allows those participating to explain in-depth their views on crime and crime rates. For instance, over the years the Home Office and police authorities across the UK have used focus groups to gauge public opinion on various types of youth crime at a local or national level. This methodology can look at the range and diversity of public attitudes to youth crime, and the reasons behind these views. However, the findings are not representative</i></p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p><i>of the general population, although they do explore complex issues across a broad cross-section of the general public.</i></p> <p><i>However, a further alternative method that could be used would be the use of official government statistics such as the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey(SCJS). The SCJS involves a yearly study of over 6,000 adults across Scotland and their experiences and perceptions of crime. The advantage of using this established research is that it is a cost-effective method on a scale most researchers cannot match nor afford. However, the SCJS has limitations as it only looks at crime and private households and therefore doesn't cover a wide range of crimes including crimes without a specific victim, crimes against businesses and crimes with no victim to interview, for example, homicide.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.</p> <p>Response 5</p> <p><i>Focus groups would be a relevant alternative method for gathering information on the issue of falling levels of crime in the UK and Scotland as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals who have been victims of crime, perpetrators of crime or even experts in crime such as the police. This method produces rich, qualitative data that allows those participating to explain in-depth their views on crime and crime rates. For instance, over the years the Home Office and police authorities across the UK have used focus groups to gauge public opinion on various types of youth crime at a local or national level. This methodology can look at the range and diversity of public attitudes to youth crime, and the reasons behind these views. However, the findings are not representative of the general population, although they can explore complex issues across a broad cross-section of the general public.</i></p> <p><i>However, an alternative method that could be used would be the use of official government statistics such as the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS). The SCJS involves a yearly study of over 6,000 adults across Scotland and their experiences and perceptions of crime. Ethical issues are also taken into consideration with this research, as participants' anonymity and confidentiality is respected and information relating to sensitive issues such as drug use inputted by respondents privately rather than recorded by researchers. These measures ensure the honesty and reliability of respondents' responses and reduce the chances of any harm to participants. Another clear advantage of this method is that it is cost-effective and on a scale and cost most researchers could not match. However, the SCJS has limitations as it only looks at crime and private households so doesn't cover a wide range of crimes including crimes without a specific victim, crime against businesses and crime with no victim to interview, for example, homicide.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario, analysis of an alternative method and consideration of ethical issues related to one method.</p> |

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| | | <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 6 <i>Focus groups are a more effective method than semi-structured interviews groups as they can gather a wider range of views more quickly and cost-effectively.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark summarises key points – 1 mark.</p> <p>Response 7 <i>Focus groups are a more effective method than interviews for gathering data on voting influences because it is a quick, easy and relatively cheap method for researchers to use. Interviews with various groups with experience or expertise related to crime can be organised across the country quickly and easily. Semi-structured interviews take much longer to carry out and may contain greater researcher bias as they allow the researcher to direct questions and conversation more.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons – 2 marks.</p> <p>Response 8 <i>Overall, official statistics such as the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey and Crime Survey of England and Wales are preferable to semi-structured interviews and focus groups. Official statistics survey large, representative samples of the population and produce extensive data. If the sample is not representative, then it can be weighted to better reflect the general population. The data produced can also be quantified and presented in accessible tabular and graphical formats. Although surveys have some key weaknesses, the fact that generalisations can be applied to the wider population make them more reliable than both semi-structured interviews and focus groups, which despite producing qualitative data, are too limited in terms of sample size to allow generalisations about their views and experiences of crime to be applied to the wider population.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method – 3 marks.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 10. | 15 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <p>Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • author is Home Affairs correspondent of a respected quality newspaper and likely a highly experienced commentator on crime and justice issues • date of publication is contemporary, which enhances reliability and validity • article cites opinions of highly qualified academics who are senior government advisors • article website address and twitter account of the journalist allows researchers to follow-up and verify the authenticity of the article and the author’s credentials • The Telegraph can be viewed as a source of contemporary views on the issue of drug legislation and valuable as a source of how the issue is portrayed by the media. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Arguments that the source’s validity and/or reliability are questionable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Telegraph has a well-known right-wing bias towards conservative causes and issues which may lead to it publishing loaded stories, misleading articles or omitting publication of reports damaging to its ideological position or the causes it supports • journalists are likely to write articles that fit with editorial/proprietary views, which can be biased, or which pass through an editorial process to ensure they reflect these views • views, quotes and figures cited in newspaper articles are likely to be selected by the journalist to fit a line of argument • independence of government advisors could be questioned • article’s tone and selected quotes could suggest a lack of objectivity • death from drug figures are alluded to but not included in the article • the European body referenced in the article requires clearer citation to evaluate the authenticity • Source B is adapted from the original article and therefore may have been selectively edited • controversy exists on the degree to which government drugs policy is science based, for example, former Chief Advisor to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), Professor David Nutt, was sacked in 2009 for expressing concerns over government cannabis classification. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Source A has been produced by The Telegraph newspaper. As a newspaper with a right-wing perspective it is likely to be biased and therefore unreliable.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Response 2 <i>Source A has been authored by David Barrett, Home Affairs correspondent, and therefore an expert in matters related to the government and criminal justice. This therefore increases the trust one places on this article.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>Response 3 <i>The newspaper the article is published in, The Telegraph, is recognised as a quality broadsheet newspaper with a strong journalistic record containing detailed and well-judged writing. Articles from this type of newspaper are more reliable and valid as pieces of social science research than tabloid newspapers which tend to sensationalise issues. However, The Telegraph is also a known right-of-centre publication and likely to be biased in favour of the government, especially a Conservative-led one. A positive aspect of the article is that the people involved in the writing can be checked out. The source provides a website address and Twitter account so further research can be conducted to make more sound conclusions as to the accuracy and validity of the information contained and the journalist’s background and expertise.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research.</p> <p>Response 4 <i>The Telegraph could be argued to be a trustworthy source as it is a quality newspaper which reflects and presents contemporary views of issues. The content and coverage in the article are likely to be accurate as The Telegraph will wish to maintain its authority as a revered news publication and will have measures in place to ensure the accuracy of the stories it publishes. However, research suggests that up to 60% of newspaper articles contain inaccuracies of some sort or another which leads to questioning of their reliability. Furthermore, as with all print journalism, The Telegraph is not bound by considerations of the issues of impartiality and balance and may lack objectivity – selectively using information to reflect its own biased political position or exaggerating or emphasising facts or opinions to push an agenda. To ensure the accuracy of the information of this source it would be necessary to verify this by comparing it to other news sources to gauge the areas they agree on in order to determine what can be determined to be facts.</i></p> <p><i>The Telegraph is also well known as a right-of-centre publication and is even known in the satirical magazine Private Eye as the ‘Torygraph’, which suggests that it will lack objectivity in any articles about the Conservative Party or the Conservative-led coalition whose drugs policy this article touches on. This article also cites opinions of highly qualified academics, Professors Les Iversen and Ray Hill, who also sit on the government’s Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). As academics they will have published peer-reviewed scholarly papers on issues related to those in this article and will not wish their academic reputations to be tarnished, so although this is a non-academic paper the views expressed are likely to be reliable. As government advisers their opinions are also valid as they will have inside knowledge of government policy and</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>considerations. However, due to their close relationship with government their impartiality can be questioned as they may be less than willing to be critical of a government to whom they owe their position. Indeed, in 2009 Professor David Nutt was sacked as Chief Advisor to the ACMD for criticising the then government’s cannabis policy which may have reduced the ability of members of this organisation to speak freely.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis and evaluation of key aspects of the source supported by knowledge of social science research and reference to additional or alternative approaches which increase the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 5 <i>Source A is not trustworthy due to the lack of impartiality shown by newspapers and the clear right-wing bias of the publisher, The Telegraph.</i></p> <p>This example contains a simple summary of key points – 1 mark.</p> <p>Response 6 <i>Despite concerns regarding the trust of any newspaper due to bias, and the Telegraph’s clear right-wing bias, Source B is somewhat trustworthy as the author is an expert on home affairs and the article includes comment and views by academics who could be argued to be experts in their field. This article should have also been edited and fact-checked before publication to ensure it contained accurate information which increases the trust one can have in it.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence – 2 marks.</p> <p>Response 7 <i>Overall, the article is limited in its trustworthiness as a source for a researcher. Although it is by a reputable newspaper, it contains several major flaws – including questionable or unsubstantiated views and opinions – which suggest it is a highly selective piece of work and lacks the objectivity that other sources of information may possess. Having been published in 2013 it is also quite dated and is most likely not the most accurate outline of crime and law issues related to drug policy of the government.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation – 3 marks.</p> |

Section 3 – Social inequality and research methods

Part A

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 11. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definitions of social inequality • discussion surrounding theories of social inequality • evaluation of conflict/functionalist explanations • impact of social inequality in society • influence of social inequality on groups in society • effectiveness of government policies on social inequality • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Functionalists believe that differences in power, wealth and other social prizes within society are fair and justified. They believe that the rewards of social status, money, wealth and so on motivate some people to work hard and achieve the most important jobs. Therefore, society is unequally structured and social inequality exists (and is fair) because of people’s inherent functional importance. For example, doctors are paid well, have a high status in society and deserve this because they have worked hard and studied for many years to achieve an important job such as this. However, problems do lie in this theory as there is no way to officially and fairly measure which occupations are more valuable than others to society. Take nurses for example: they work long hours and are an important part of the healthcare service – without them it would cease to function – however; this is a profession that lacks prestige and good pay and thus seems to contradict the functional idea that the system is fair.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Conflict theorists believe that stratification and inequality is harmful to society as it simply benefits the rich and maintains the status quo. Conflict theory also assumes the rich (or, according to Marx, the bourgeoisie) try to increase their wealth and status at the expense of the poor (or proletariat). For theorists such as Marx, social inequality is not inevitable but is part of a competitive system that is maintained and continues to persist because of people and a society based on economic self-interest. For example, McLeod’s ‘Ain’t No Makin’ It’ highlights how conflict theory can be used to explain social inequality in relation to education. He argues that teachers treat lower-class pupils differently and do not push them as hard/have lower expectations for them, placing them in lower ‘tracks’</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>because they have generally had fewer educational opportunities than middle and upper-class pupils. These pupils are then prepared for blue-collar jobs, trades and so on and are not encouraged in the way that they should be to set their sights higher and attempt to move up the social ladder. They point out that private education is out of reach for many and generally accessed by upper class and already privileged children. State or public schools on the other hand – especially those in poor catchments and run down areas – are underfunded, lack resources and perpetuate inequality. However, a criticism of conflict theory in explaining the existence of social inequality is that not everyone is motivated by economic self-interest. From a conflict perspective, although social inequality is not inevitable, it is driven by collective forces and conflicts in society and differentiates often on the basis of class, gender and race. Individual choices have, at best, limited scope in a capitalist system that creates ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’. According to the two main schools of thought, social inequality definitely exists, however they disagree on the role that it plays and its impact on society.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>The gap between some nations has narrowed. However, huge inequalities remain between Asia and the advanced economies of the West. This is largely due to government policies and not individual choices. Average global incomes have moved closer together due to the growth of China and India. However, overall equality across individuals has improved very little. American inequality stems from tax decreases for the rich and the easing of regulations on the financial sector. It has worsened due to government under-investment in infrastructure such as education and health care. Europe seems eager to follow America’s rising inequality due to public sector policies. Governments’ embrace of austerity, from Britain to Germany, is leading to high unemployment, falling wages and increasing inequality. Officials like Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, and Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, argue that Europe’s problems are a result of increased welfare spending. But that line of thinking has only taken Europe into recession. The recession may be officially over but that is little comfort to the 27 million out of a job in the European Union. On both sides of the Atlantic, the austerity policies of government continued to be pursued, justified as the only way to achieve prosperity, through government actions. This underlines the fact that government decision making is more powerful than individual choices in terms of influencing inequality.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Social inequality, given its impact upon health and wealth, is clearly not the individual choice of most rational individuals. A study published in the</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>higher the level of income inequality, the higher the rate of cardiovascular-related deaths and hospitalisations. Based on surveys from 2009 to 2015, participating countries with the lowest levels of income inequality (Central Europe and Scandinavian countries), had the lowest heart failure rate, at 10.9 per 100 person-years. Countries with intermediate income inequality levels (North America, Australia, and India) had a rate of 11.7 per 100 person-years, while those with the highest level of inequality had the highest rates of heart failure, at 13.7 per 100 person-years. The share of national income going to the richest 1% has increased rapidly in North America (the United States and Canada), China, India, and Russia and more moderately in Europe. World Inequality researchers report that this period coincides paradoxically with the rollback in these countries and regions of various post-World War II policies aimed at narrowing economic divides. By contrast, countries that did not experience a post-war egalitarian regime, such as the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and Brazil, have had relatively stable, but extremely high levels of inequality. Rapid economic growth in Asia (particularly China and India) has lifted many people out of extreme poverty. But the global richest 1% has reaped a much greater share of the economic gains. Although their share of global income has declined somewhat since the 2008 financial crisis, at more than 20% it is still much higher than their 16% share in 1980. The top 1% in the United States holds 42.5% of national wealth, a far greater share than in other OECD countries. This is remarkable as in no other industrial nation does the richest 1% own more than 28% of their country's wealth. The United States dominates the global population of high net worth individuals, with nearly 5.3 million individuals owning at least \$1 million in financial assets. China has had the most rapid growth in the share of world millionaires, jumping from 5% of the global total to 7% between 2017 and 2018. But more than 65% of the world's millionaires continue to reside in Europe or North America, with 41% residing in the United States. The United States is home to more than twice as many adults with at least \$50 million in assets as the next five nations with the most super rich combined. China is rising rapidly up the ranks, with the number of individuals in the \$50 million club rising from 9,500 to 16,500 between 2017 and 2018. The United States has more wealth than any other nation. However, America's top-heavy distribution of wealth leaves typical American adults with far less wealth than their counterparts in other industrial nations. This clearly denotes that social inequality is not a product of individual choices given vast wealth differentials, which impact profoundly upon quality of health experienced by individuals, but rather that of policies adhered to by relative political systems.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Increasing social and economic inequality in recent years has triggered a significant amount of analysis on the causes and consequences of these</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>changes, and whether such inequality stems from individual choices or collectivist sources. The arguments for and against this position, blames the effects of economic inequality on economic growth and efficiency, politics and democracy, individual behaviours that result in poor health outcomes and, social cohesion. People live longer in nations with lower levels of inequality, as measured here by the Gini coefficient, a standard global benchmark. In the United States, average life expectancy is four years shorter than in some of the most equitable countries. Poverty is, of course, a very important social issue but inequality shows that economic inequality in itself is also an important social problem that should be addressed given that social inequality is not necessarily always a product of individual choices.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Therefore, it is difficult to pinpoint whether individual choices or wider forces play a part in determining the socio-economic status of an individual. It is inconclusive whether innate abilities such as work ethic and intelligence may necessarily be definitive factors influencing an individual's social status. Hence, social inequality may not necessarily be a product of individual choices. More determined individuals may keep improving themselves and striving for better achievements, which justifies a higher wage. However, it is debatable as smarter people tend to have higher income and hence more wealth. In his report, 'IQ and the Wealth of Nations', Dr Richard Lynn opined that there is a correlation of 0.82 between average IQ and GDP. However, it has been criticised it for employing the wrong methods of evaluation (Gould, 2018). In addition to innate abilities, diversity of preferences, within a society or among different societies, may contribute to inequalities. When it comes to working harder, equally capable individuals may have totally different priorities, resulting in a difference in their incomes. Their saving patterns may also differ, leading to different levels of accumulated wealth. This reinforces that social inequality can be a product of individual choices dependent upon individual preferences.</i></p> <p><i>However, excessive financialisation which helps explain Britain's dubious status as the second-most-unequal country, after the United States, among the world's most advanced economies also helps explain (the soaring) inequality. In many countries, weak corporate governance and eroding social cohesion have led to increasing gaps between the pay of chief executives and that of ordinary workers not yet approaching the 500 to-1 level for America's biggest companies but still greater than pre-recession levels. Japan, which has curbed executive pay, is a notable exception. Thus, social inequality can be a product of individual choices depending upon conscious and sub conscious decision making but this may be limited by social and economic backgrounds of particular individuals. Government policies appear to be failing to close the opportunity gap for less advantaged groups to reduce inequalities. In fact, public sector actions such as austerity appear to be actually widening inequalities and eroding the meritocratic principles that exhort social inequality can indeed be a product of individual choices dependent upon individual preferences.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 12. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition of wealth distribution • health and social problems: life expectancy, mental illness, teenage pregnancy, violence, crime rates, educational attainment, poorer health levels, drug use, etc • theories and recent studies of wealth inequality • significance of poverty and wealth gap • relevance of social factors • impact of government policy on income distribution and disparity • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>14 million people live in poverty in the UK which highlights how unequal a society the UK has become. The health and social issues resulting from this hit groups such as the disabled, single parents, unemployed or those working irregular or zero-hours jobs particularly hard. In the most affluent areas of Scotland, men experience 24 more years of good health and women experience 23 more years compared to the most deprived areas. The life expectancy of people with learning disabilities is substantially shorter than the Scottish average. Gender-based violence is experienced unequally, with 17% of women and 7% of men having experienced the use of force from a partner or ex-partner at some point in their lives. The wider environment in which people live and work can shape their individual experiences of low income, poor housing, discrimination and access to health services. Unequal wealth distribution can determine individual experiences and lead to inequalities in terms of quality of health and general quality of life.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis and evaluation of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Response 2</p> <p><i>Countries where wealth is more equally distributed suffer fewer health and social problems. The UK continues to suffer increased wealth inequality and, therefore, a greater prevalence of social issues. ‘The Inner Level’ (2018) academic publication, the follow up to the 2009 ‘The Spirit Level’, scrutinised the personal, individual effects of inequality: how the social effects of the gap between rich and poor impact on people. ‘The Inner Level’ examines a society that has dealt with 10 years of austerity, and seen almost every family impacted by stagnant wages, increased job insecurity, cuts and changes to the benefits system and public services nationally and locally, as well as a surge in problems with mental health across society. Concerns about self-worth and self-presentation and so on are all exacerbated by inequality. Problems of self-doubt, social anxiety, stress, and fear of how we are seen by others have an impact on day-to-day emotions for individuals, but also a wider impact on relationships, our ability to build functioning communities, and the health and wellbeing of entire populations. These issues are massively exacerbated by inequality, and a belief in meritocracy means that any failure is deemed a personal failure. Greater inequality heightens social threat and status anxiety, evoking feelings of shame which feed into our instincts for withdrawal, submission and subordination: when the social pyramid gets higher and steeper and status insecurity increases, these are widespread psychological costs. Stress of poverty also influences the cognitive development of babies and children. Measuring the levels of the stress hormone cortisol in infants found that poverty, and the amount of time spent in poverty, can hamper the mental development of children. The social demarcations of class, from what we eat and how we talk, to what culture we consume, are also rigorously upheld in more unequal societies, making discrimination much easier and preventing social mobility. In more unequal societies, fewer people marry someone of a different class background, the number of visits to art galleries and museums is lower, the prison population is higher and the age of criminal responsibility for children is lower. Wilkinson and Pickett cite extensive statistical evidence that unequal societies are responsible for less fulfilling personal lives, and in turn harm public health, scupper educational progress, increase crime and lower life expectancy. Since 2008, a boy born in the most deprived 10% of areas of the UK has a life expectancy of 68, eight years below the national average and 14 years below that of boys born in the least deprived areas. In the poorest areas there has been barely any recent improvement in cancer mortality. There has been a steep fall in deaths from coronary heart disease in the poorest areas: but the rate of mortality is still twice the Scottish average. Scotland’s child poverty rate did, however, drop 10% from 31% to 21% and is now lower than England’s. In common with the rest of the UK, pensioner poverty also dropped substantially, from 230,000 to 120,000. This illustrates that countries, such as the UK, where wealth is more unequally distributed, suffer far greater health and social problems than those where wealth distribution is more equitably dispersed.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Unequal wealth distribution is a key factor in causing health and social problems to exist. It is clearly seen when you compare countries like the UK and the USA with many of the Scandinavian nations. The former are quite unequal when it comes to wealth distribution and the latter are amongst the most equal in the world. The Scandinavian nations, for example, have a life expectancy of around 78 for men and 83 for women, which is two-three years better than for Scotland and the UK, and three-four years better than the USA. Other factors, like wealth inequality, may have more influence than overall economic strength of a country in causing social and health problems. In the UK in recent years, the gap between the rich and the poor has increased. Groups like the Equality Trust want political parties to have a policy on inequality, as the belief is that we are currently overlooking wealth inequality as a serious social and economic issue. Many would argue that a more equal UK would experience fewer health and social problems. We would also have higher life expectancy, fewer mental health and general social problems, less crime, fewer problems with substance-misuse and long-term sickness. Added together this would make us a better, happier, healthier society.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Americans not only die sooner, but also suffer higher rates of injury and disease than their peers in other high-income countries. It is clear, though, that social and economic inequality is an important factor. All Americans, rich and poor, are suffering the consequences. The United States is among the richest nations in the world. That prosperity does not translate to better health, however. Where the US health disadvantage is concerned, few segments of the population are spared. The ‘Shorter Lives, Poorer Health’ report found that just about all Americans – from birth to age 75, with low incomes and high, with or without health insurance, with or without college educations – are worse off than people in other wealthy countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan and most of Western Europe. Specifically, Woolf et al found that US health falls short in nine broad areas: adverse birth outcomes (including infant mortality and low birth weight); injuries, homicides and sexually transmitted diseases; HIV and AIDS; drug and alcohol-related deaths; obesity and diabetes; heart disease; lung disease; and disability from arthritis and other physical limitations. Compared with other high-income countries, the US health-care system is more fragmented, and more Americans are uninsured, often finding health care to be inaccessible or unaffordable. Individual behaviours are also a cause of concern.</i></p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p><i>Compared with other countries, Americans consume more calories, experience more violent deaths, misuse more prescription and illicit drugs, and have more alcohol-related traffic accidents. The US has higher rates of poverty and income inequality than most other wealthy countries, which undermine its health in a multitude of ways. Among the 17 countries evaluated the United States had the highest rates of poverty and child poverty, according to the OECD. More than one in five American children live below the federal poverty level, making them more likely to suffer from asthma and obesity and have poorer nutrition, less access to health care and lower vaccination rates. Adults with lower socioeconomic status are more likely to experience high blood pressure, obesity, heart disease, infectious diseases and mental illness. For people just scraping by with paying the rent or struggling to afford transport to work, taking a trip to the gym or to the doctor for a check-up is out with their financial means. People living at the low end of the socioeconomic spectrum may be most affected by health inequalities, but poorer health does not exist only among the poor. Just having money does not necessarily make you healthier. Even Americans who are insured, college-educated, with higher incomes and healthy behaviours are worse off than similar groups in other countries. Richard Wilkinson PhD, a social epidemiologist at the University of Nottingham Medical School, says it is the inequality itself. Societies with greater inequality suffer more health and social problems. People in more egalitarian societies live longer, experience less violence, have lower rates of obesity and teen pregnancy, are less likely to use illicit drugs and enjoy better mental health than their counterparts in countries with a wide divide between rich and poor. And children in more equal societies score higher on the UNICEF Index of Child Wellbeing, which includes factors such as immunisation rates, deaths from accidents, alcohol and tobacco use and educational success. In America, the gap between the haves and have-nots is wide and getting wider. Since the 1970s, inequality has risen sharply. The richest 1% of Americans made 9% of the total pre-tax income in 1990, compared with 20% in 2018. The US is one of the most unequal of the rich, developed countries, and it suffers so many of the consequences. In unequal societies competition is fierce and people worry about their place in society. Often that translates to a constant, low-level anxiety. People trust each other less and community life weakens and inequality adversely impacts the whole social fabric.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1</p> <p><i>Thus, reducing the gap between the rich and the poor would have a positive effect on the whole population. Lowering poverty through creating tackling employment would help to close the wealth gap. This, in turn, would alleviate social and health issues impacting on disadvantaged groups. This would impact positively upon future generations and would reduce problems relating to education, employment, housing health and crime. There is much evidence from Scandinavian countries where there is more equality, that fewer problems exist there than they do in the likes of the UK and the USA. By contrast, in nations where wealth is more equally distributed, there have been far fewer problems relating to health and social issues.</i></p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Therefore, the fight against inequality must become a much higher political priority, as evidence shows that most social problems are worse in more unequal societies, and that inequality lies at their root. Inequality has also played a significant role in the global economic crisis. There is a mass of evidence showing that inequality is behind most social problems in advanced countries. If inequality were lower, these problems would be less severe. Income inequality arises first and foremost in the workplace. This could be addressed by introducing low pay ratios, and promoting trade union and employment rights. Reforming the tax system can produce greater equality for example, by increasing inheritance and property tax, and cracking down on tax havens. Public services have a massive effect on increasing the well-being and opportunities of those on the lowest incomes – for example, by reducing the cost of university education for those who cannot afford it, and increasing the supply of good affordable housing. This could help to generate a smaller gap between rich and poor which would mean a happier, healthier and more successful population. The most unequal countries, including the UK, have much worse social problems than the most equal countries. If the UK were more equal, everyone would be better off. If inequality were halved, murder rates and obesity would halve too; mental illness would reduce by one-third; imprisonment rates and births to teenage mothers would decrease by one-fifth. Social mobility and levels of trust would greatly improve too.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 13. | 30 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definitions of inequality • nature of government policies • discussion of Scottish/UK policies regarding inequality • discussion of Scottish/UK levels of inequality and impact • comparison(s) with another country or countries and their policies • role of the private and voluntary sectors • comparison(s) with another country or countries and their levels of inequality and impact • role of the private and voluntary sectors • relevant global comparator(s). <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>UK Government policies to tackle socio-economic inequality have been unsuccessful. Instead of reducing inequality they have instead promoted it. Income tax is calculated as a percentage of earnings, so as a person's income rises their tax rate increases, meaning that people earning the same income will be taxed at the same rate, and those earning more or less will pay more or less tax. The tax system also has bands of tax, with a tax-free allowance, so that at very low income, no tax is paid, and at very high income the upper tax band is applied. Equality is sought because everyone in the same tax band pays the same tax. This means that a high earning individual will get the same tax-free allowance as the low paid, and will pay tax at the same rate as others over the different bands of income. Efforts to reduce social inequality mean that benefits such as healthcare and education are provided free or means tested, targeted support for those most in need. This takes the form of Universal Credit (UC), a single means-tested benefit. In addition from April 2019, free personal care came into force for under 65s in Scotland. These benefits could make an impact on final income, increasing it for the poorest, and narrowing the gap between rich and poor.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Response 2</p> <p><i>Government attempts to tackle socio-economic inequality have been successful given that income tax in the UK is mildly progressive as it largely fails to redistribute income. This is because individuals on low incomes pay no income tax. Most people (typically those at the lower socio economic strata) are allowed to receive a certain amount of income before having to pay income tax. This is known as the basic personal allowance. In 2019–2020, the basic personal allowance is £12,500, up from £11,850 in 2018–2019. Beyond this, income earners pay tax at the basic rate, which is currently 20%. Those on more substantial earnings pay tax on some of their income at a higher tax rate, which is 40%. A higher rate of 45% is applicable to those earning over £150,000 of taxable income. These tax bands help narrow the income gap and so help reduce inequality. Wider forces such as Brexit can be more significant than Government policies in terms of contributing to and overcoming inequalities. The impact of leaving the European Union is clear from the short-term economic forecasts for Scotland, with growth forecast to fall from 1.3% in 2018 to 0.8% in 2019. Moreover, economic growth in Scotland is expected to dip to 1.2% in 2019, before accelerating to 1.6% in 2020, according to PwC’s latest UK Economic Outlook report. PwC predicts that in 2019 Scotland’s GVA growth will outpace the UK, which is expected to grow by 1% before also reaching nearly 2% in 2020. Gross value added (GVA) is the sum of gross domestic product (GDP) with taxes and subsidies taken into account. Out of 12 nations and regions analysed by PwC, only the South East of England is expected to grow at a faster rate than Scotland this year, at 1.3%. Scottish growth will match London and the South West. However, economic growth across the UK is expected to slow as a result of the drag on business investment due to ongoing uncertainty over the outcome of Brexit. In order to exploit education as a vehicle for reducing inequality, the UK government modelled its approach on Sweden with its system of ‘free schools’ which allows for parental choice and private sector involvement. However, despite this perhaps surprising sight of the Conservatives favouring welfare policies of the Swedes, or the ‘education voucher’ approach of the Danes, critics have argued that free schools will simply target the pupils from existing better-off backgrounds anyway, thus not contributing to social mobility. As studies of the Nordic states such as ‘The Spirit Level’ show, there are already lower rates of inequality in these states anyway and education does not stand alone. The ability of free schools to do this is in doubt, as articulated by the former Swedish education minister. With considerable disputes over education policies, it is clear that governments are constantly changing and enacting policies, the impact of which upon socio-economic inequalities can be described as ‘mixed’, at best.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>Comparison</p> <p>Response 1 <i>The importance of reducing inequality has been a central aim of international development for several decades. Britain is 17th of the 152 countries recently ranked. Sweden is most committed to reducing inequality, and Nigeria the least; one in 10 Nigerian children still die before their fifth birthday, and an estimated 112 million people live in poverty. This suggests that inequality is not inevitable, but the direct result of a government's policy choices. In 2019, just eight men, mostly Silicon Valley CEOs, own the same wealth as half the world's population. The gap between the wages of bosses and workers has been growing. At the same time as the power of trade unions has been diminishing. In the UK, the average FTSE executive now earns 386 times the income of a minimum wage worker. These contrasts with Austria, which promotes equality; employers with more than 25 staff must ensure at least 4% of their employees are disabled. Education is a key focus for addressing inequalities. Critics argue that no tuition fees in Scotland simply benefits the middle classes, as it reduces the funding for the less well-off. The introduction of fees up to £9,000 per year in England may also put off less well-off students, thus limiting social mobility. The importance of education is also reflected by the current UK government emphasis on greater parental choice by creating a Swedish-style set of 'free schools' in England. However, even in the generally more equal Sweden, the impact of the free schools system is difficult to assess.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>The UK's is ranked as 17th in a new inequality index which ranks Sweden top out of 152 countries, and Nigeria bottom (Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2019). Lack of investment in education and relatively low tax rates have created a highly unequal society. Researchers used 18 factors which have a key impact on levels of inequality: taxation, social spending on sectors such as health, welfare and education, and labour rights. The UK's student tuition fees are now the highest in the industrialised world, and the government's decision to raise fees and abolish maintenance grants has shifted the debt burden disproportionately on to poorer students. In 2015, the UK government's spend on education was down 6% from 2010. While Britain's tax structure is ranked only 96th in the new inequality index, it rises to 33rd on tax overall because of its relatively robust ability to collect tax revenues. This mirrors a global trend whereby low-income countries tend to have more progressive tax structures but fewer resources to enforce them, while the inverse is true for high-income countries. This is attributed to the fact that the UK has slashed corporation tax further and faster than most other rich countries. The government proposal to reduce this from 19% to 17% will generate more inequality. Even the 26% rate Labour proposes is still a lot lower than in economically thriving Germany. The new Commitment to Reducing Inequality index looks at how</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>much governments set aside to generate a more accurate picture of the root causes of inequality. Only one country had actually raised corporation tax, and that was Chile. Rich people are paying less and less tax, and that has been seen in mainstream economics as a way of liberating your economy and developing growth. By contrast, South Africa's taxation system has the greatest impact on inequality. The country is consistently rated as one of the world's most unequal on the Gini index, demonstrating that a more nuanced approach to inequality statistics can yield dramatically different results. The income gap in South Africa is astronomical – the incomes of the richest decile are more than 1,000 times higher than the poorest. But when the impact of taxes and social spending are factored in, the wages of the richest are reduced dramatically, becoming 66 times higher than the poorest, according to the World Bank. While richer nations generally do better on labour inequality overall, poorer countries tend to have much more progressive minimum wages. Liberia, for example, has the world's highest minimum wage compared to GDP per capita; in the US, the minimum wage has been frozen at \$7.25 since 2009. Adjusted for inflation, this means a minimum wage worker is now worse off than they were 50 years ago. Palestine had the highest spend on minimum wage in the world and also scored highly on labour rights, ranking 8th overall. But the index does not capture the key drivers of inequality in the country: protracted occupation, recurrent conflict and the denial of Palestinian rights. Women are hit hardest by wage inequality. Globally, women do the bulk of domestic labour and care work, which subsidises national economies for little or no reward. Oxfam found that only half of the 152 countries have laws forbidding gender discrimination or mandating equal pay. This clearly illustrates that internationally, government policies to tackle both social and economic inequality have been difficult to attain. This can be attributed to political and cultural national and international constraints.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect, relevant contemporary evidence from the UK and other country/countries, evaluation of their similarities/differences and/or evaluation of the validity of alternative arguments.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Therefore, growing economic inequality means that it should be addressed more effectively by Governments due to its social impact upon issues such as education, crime and health. The financial crash highlighted the substantial incomes at the top of the income ladder, and austerity drew attention the plight of those at the bottom. More recently, inequalities between the old and young have moved up the political agenda. For others, there is no inequality more pressing than the gap in earnings between men and women. Regardless of which group is spotlighted, the widening income gap between the rich and poor has highlighted the need to understand the causes of relative inequality and poverty, and to introduce suitable policies to reduce poverty and narrow the income gap. Much of the inequality we see today in richer countries is more down to decisions made by governments than to irreversible market forces. However, to control inequality, inequality reduction must be a central aim of government policy and wider society.</i></p> |

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| | | <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Hence, the gap between rich and poor is now at its highest level in 30 years in most OECD countries. The overall increase in income inequality is driven by the top rich 1% who has seen their incomes accelerate away from the average. Therefore, there appears to be a distinct failing on the part of the public sector to deliver effective policies to tackle inequality. The OECD claims that reducing inequality through public policies does not harm growth providing the chosen policies are well designed and implemented. Efforts should focus on families with children and improvements in human capital investment to promote equity. This means employing a tax and benefits system which takes proportionately more tax from those on higher levels of income, and redistributes welfare benefits to those on lower incomes while promoting skills development and learning. Taxes and benefits can clearly compensate for the failure of labour markets to provide sufficient original income for all citizens. However, such intervention can be criticised because it may create a disincentive effect, which occurs when individuals are discouraged from working hard because they pay more of their income in taxes. It may also generate welfare dependency, where some individuals may not look for ways to improve their own position because the state provides insurance against poverty, unemployment, and disability. Thus, effective Government policies which encourage labour market participation to combat external global influences can be conducive to alleviating inequality providing recognisance is made to ensure that a welfare dependent culture does not evolve.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p> |

Part B

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| 14. | 15 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <p>Benefits of semi-structured interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allows researchers to establish ‘verstehen’ — understanding from the perspective of the interviewee • question ‘scripts’ or lists (interview guides) ensure a degree of similarity in the questions asked to each respondent, keeping results more reliable • qualitative interviewing is focused on the interviewee’s point of view rather than the researcher’s concerns, thus reducing interviewer bias • respondents’ views of the world, attitudes, motivations, feelings and emotions can be explored • concepts and wording of questions can be clarified to ensure understanding, reducing the risk of the researcher’s views being imposed • several interviews may be carried out with respondents, building on the trust established between interviewer and interviewee — in closed question structured interviews this would not be the case as it would invalidate the results. <p>Limitations of semi-structured interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information gained may be untrustworthy — based on respondents lying, forgetting or being ignorant of the issue in question. Interviewer presence (if viewed as unfriendly) may influence or limit interviewee’s responses • interviewer presence may lead to ‘interviewer bias’ — consciously or unconsciously directing interviewees to a certain type of response • interviews are unnatural social situations (ecological validity) which will always affect the behaviour of interviewees • interviewee accounts lack the rigour of scientific research such as subjective observation by the researcher — data potentially untrustworthy • interviewees are not representative of the general population, so researchers are unable to extrapolate generalisations about public opinion • publication of interviewees’ emotions may be a risk for them • interviewees must be clear about how confidential their responses would be. <p>Benefits of focus groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are useful for obtaining detailed information about personal and group feelings, perceptions and opinions • a skilled moderator can ensure the conversation stays on track, encourages participants’ engagement and prevents one individual dominating discussions • discussion amongst participants and group dynamics can generate new thinking about a topic and result in more in-depth discussions • the moderator can change the topic and lines of discussion to ensure discussions remain relevant |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are relatively quick and easy to organise and can generate quality data in a short space of time due to usually comprising between 6–12 participants and lasting no more than 90 minutes • saves time and money when compared to individual interviews. <p>Limitation of focus groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus groups can become influenced by one or two dominant people in the group making the information biased • they rely heavily on the skill of the moderator, an inexperienced or unskilled moderator will find it hard to control dominant characters • participants may find it difficult to share their real feelings towards some sensitive topics publicly which in turn influences the data • the data from focus groups cannot be projected onto generalisations about the wider population • focus groups are artificial situations, therefore the information and data generated by them cannot be deemed valid as people are not behaving naturally and are aware they are being observed and their responses recorded. <p>Alternative methods, which could include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surveys/questionnaires • unstructured/structured interviews • official documents and reports, for example, from UK government’s Social Mobility and Child Poverty (SMCP) reports or ‘Higher Education: The Fair Access Challenge’ • independent organisations’ reports, for example, the Sutton Trust, the Rowntree Foundation, Child Poverty Action Group. <p>Ethical issues including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consent • beneficence — do not do harm • anonymity • confidentiality • privacy • harm • deception • legality • use of vulnerable groups. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Semi-structured interviews would be relevant for gathering information on the issue of the domination of Britain’s top professions by the privately educated as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals from such backgrounds to interview to gauge their experiences and opinions on why this might be the case.</i></p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p>This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>Semi-structured interviews would be relevant for gathering information on the issue of the domination of Britain's top professions by the privately educated as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals from such backgrounds to interview to gauge their experiences and opinions on why this might be the case. This would generate qualitative information that would allow those questioned to explain in-depth the advantages they feel a private education offers and why this is closely linked with top positions within the top professions in the UK.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.</p> <p>Response 3 <i>Semi-structured interviews would be relevant for gathering information on the issue of the domination of Britain's top professions by the privately educated as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals from such backgrounds to interview to gauge their experiences and opinions on why this might be the case. This would generate qualitative information that would allow those questioned to explain in-depth the advantages they feel a private education offers and why this is closely linked with top positions within the top professions in the UK. However, if this is conducted face-to-face it can increase the chances of interviewer bias affecting results by allowing the interviewer to steer questioning in such as a way that it distorts the outcome of the interview towards the interviewer's preconceptions. In relation to the sensitive issue of inequality and private education's role, the risk of this is high if the researcher has any bias towards or against private education.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario.</p> <p>Response 4 <i>Focus groups would a would be relevant for gathering information on the issue of the domination of Britain's top professions by the privately educated as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals from such backgrounds to interview to gauge their experiences and opinions on why this might be the case. This method produces rich, qualitative data that allow those participating to explain in-depth their viewpoints and experiences. Indeed, an Edinburgh university study used this methodology to study health inequalities in their 2015 study, 'Desperately Seeking Reductions in Health Inequalities'. This involved focus groups comprised of researchers involved in health inequality reduction. Although this produced high quality discussion no consensus was agreed on the best policy or approach to tackle inequality. A lack of consensus or inability to quantify or group differing opinions is a weakness of this type of qualitative research.</i></p> |

| Question | Max mark | Detailed marking instructions for this question |
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| | | <p><i>An alternative method that could be more useful for a researcher to use would be the research of others such as reports by the independent organisation, Child Poverty Action Group. This would be cost effective as the data has been produced by others and is freely available. However, the validity of this data to the researcher's topic may be questionable as it will not necessarily have been commissioned or conducted to look directly at the issue of private school domination of top occupations.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.</p> <p>Response 5 <i>Focus groups would a would be relevant for gathering information on the issue of the domination of Britain's top professions by the privately educated as it would allow the researcher to identify groups or individuals from such backgrounds to interview to gauge their experiences and opinions on why this might be the case. This method produces rich, qualitative data that allow those participating to explain in-depth their viewpoints and experiences. Indeed, an Edinburgh university study used this methodology to study health inequalities in their 2015 study, 'Desperately Seeking Reductions in Health Inequalities'. This involved focus groups comprised of researchers involved in health inequality reduction. Although this produced high quality discussion no consensus was agreed on the best policy or approach to tackle inequality. A lack of consensus or inability to quantify or group differing opinions is a weakness of this type of qualitative research.</i></p> <p><i>An alternative method that could be more useful for a researcher to use would be the research of others such as reports by the independent organisation, Child Poverty Action Group. This would be cost effective as the data has been produced by others and is freely available. However, the validity of this data to the researcher's topic may be questionable as it will not necessarily have been commissioned or conducted to look directly at the issue of private school domination of top occupations. Despite this, if the researcher does use the research or work of others it is important that this is referenced and acknowledged to avoid plagiarism and accusations of intellectual theft.</i></p> <p>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario, analysis of an alternative method and consideration of ethical issues related to one method.</p> |

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| | | <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 6 <i>Focus groups are a more effective method than semi-structured interviews groups as they can gather a wider range of views more quickly and cost-effectively.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark summarises key points — 1 mark.</p> <p>Response 7 <i>Focus groups are a more effective method than interviews for gathering data on inequality-related issues because it is a quick, easy and relatively cheap method for researchers to use. Various social class groupings, sharing similar essential features such as educational background and occupation, can be researched across the country being quick and easy to organise. Semi-structured interviews take much longer to carry out and may contain greater researcher bias as they allow the researcher to direct the conversation more.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons — 2 marks.</p> <p>Response 8 <i>Undoubtedly secondary research by others is preferable to semi-structured interviews and focus groups. Secondary research on the topic of education and inequality would allow cheaper, quicker access to key information. Data produced by other independent organisations can also be fact-checked. Semi-structured interviews and focus groups are relatively more expensive and time-consuming to organise and produce and will be limited in the numbers they can sample.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method — 3 marks</p> |

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| 15. | 15 | <p><i>Candidates can gain marks in a number of ways up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p>Award marks where candidates refer to</p> <p>Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxfam is a reputable, international charity that campaigns, researches and attempts to eradicate poverty and injustice • Source C is a contemporary source • citation of OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperative Development), a reputable international economic organisation • the Equality Trust is linked to reputed academics Wilkinson and Pickett, authors of ‘The Spirit Level’ • source C’s content refers to recognised issues associated with inequality • website reference allows researcher to vouch for authenticity of the article. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Arguments that the source’s validity and/or reliability are questionable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the New Statesman’s impartiality is questionable as it is a left-leaning, pro-Labour (Blairite) publication • article is an adapted, edited version — original article would be required to fully determine trustworthiness • Equality Trust, questionable objectivity of a campaign group • Wilkinson & Pickett, authors of ‘The Spirit Level’ argue for reform of capitalism • Duncan Exley’s purpose is clearly an anti-cuts agenda, arguably anti-coalition (potentially anti-Conservative/anti-Liberal Democrat) • figures cited on cost of inequality (£622 per person) are questionable without source or citation • figures referred to, are an ‘estimate’ — would need to know what calculations this estimate was based on to determine if it is a reliable figure • Source C lacks alternative views to those associated with ‘collectivist’ solutions. <p><i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p>Possible approaches to answering this question</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Response 1 <i>Source C draws on evidence from reliable, international organisations, Oxfam and the OECD, who have expertise in poverty and economic issues which are relevant to the issue of social inequality.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>Response 2 <i>The author of source C, Duncan Exley, is Director of an equality organisation, as such he is likely to be an expert on the issue of poverty</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>and inequality, therefore his views can be trusted to a large extent as he will be well informed and educated on these issues. The source accurately refers to issues linked to poverty such as lower life expectancy, mental health problems, obesity and high rates of crime.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>Response 3 <i>The author of source C, Duncan Exley, is Director of an equality organisation, as such he is likely to be an expert on the issue of poverty and inequality, therefore his views can be trusted to a large extent as he will be well informed and educated on these issues. The source accurately refers to issues linked to poverty such as lower life expectancy, mental health problems, obesity and high rates of crime. However, the author may be biased as the Equality Trust is a pressure group campaigning for reform of approaches to tackling inequality and poverty, therefore this brings into question the degree of trust we can place on source C.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research.</p> <p>Response 4 <i>Source C draws on evidence from reliable, international organisations, Oxfam and the OECD, who have expertise in poverty and economic issues which are relevant to the issue of social inequality. As a Director of an equality organisation, Duncan Exley is likely to be an expert on the issue of poverty and inequality, therefore his views can be trusted to an extent as he will be well informed and educated on these issues. The source accurately refers to issues linked to poverty such as lower life expectancy, mental health problems, obesity and high rates of crime. However, the author may be biased as the Equality Trust is a group campaigning for reform of approaches to tackling inequality and poverty. The article's title — 'How inequality is costing billions' — is clearly one-sided and is deliberately written to convince the reader to be opposed to inequality and in favour of the living wage and taxes that will reduce the gap between rich and poor. In order to eradicate doubt about the article's bias further research of alternative secondary research to fact-check its contents would be required to increase trust in this source.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis and evaluation of a key aspect of the source supported by knowledge of social science research and reference to additional or alternative approaches which increase the trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Response 5 <i>Source C is not trustworthy due to the lack of impartiality and left-wing bias of the author and publishers.</i></p> <p>This example contains a simple summary of key points — 1 mark.</p> |

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| | | <p>Response 6 <i>Despite concerns regarding the trust of any magazine and the New Statesman's clear left-wing bias, Source C is somewhat trustworthy as the articles' author is an expert in the field of poverty and inequality and should have followed academic and journalistic conventions to verify and confirm information is accurate.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence — 2 marks.</p> <p>Response 7 <i>Source C has limited trustworthiness. It is clear that the source has a political agenda and has limited trustworthiness to a researcher without access to alternative views and information. The author's objectivity is questionable as he is a director of an equality campaign group and is unlikely to promote views which run counter to his organisation's aim to redistribute wealth and lower inequality between rich and poor. This bias is reinforced by the publisher of the article, the New Statesman, which has a well-known left-wing/pro-Labour bias. Overall, this source's trustworthiness is limited due to issues of the author's lack of objectivity, political purpose and the one-sidedness of the information presented.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation — 3 marks.</p> |

[END OF SPECIMEN MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]