

X236/13/01

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2012
FRIDAY, 11 MAY
9.00 AM – 12.00 NOON

MODERN STUDIES
ADVANCED HIGHER

Answer questions from **one** Study Theme only.

Choose **one** Study Theme from:

- **Study Theme 1:** Comparative Politics and Research Methods.
- **Study Theme 2:** Law and Order and Research Methods.
- **Study Theme 3:** The European Union and Research Methods.

In your chosen Study Theme:

- Answer **two** questions from Section A. Each question is worth 30 marks.
- Answer **all** questions in Section B. Section B is worth 30 marks.
- Spend approximately 60 minutes on each question from Section A and approximately 60 minutes on all parts of Section B.

Total for paper: 90 marks.



Answer questions from ONE Study Theme only.

STUDY THEME 1: COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND RESEARCH METHODS

SECTION A

Answer TWO questions from Section A.

Each question is worth 30 marks.

1. Context A: Political Parties

Discuss the influence of “smaller” political parties on the political process.

Answer in relation to the UK (including Scotland) **and** the USA.

(30)

2. Context B: Electoral Systems

Discuss the significance of candidate (including leader) personality and image in relation to voting behaviour.

Answer in relation to the UK (including Scotland) **and** the USA.

(30)

3. Context C: Decision-making in Central and Devolved/State Government

To what extent are Cabinets as much of a threat as a support to political leaders?

Answer in relation to the UK (including Scotland) **and** the USA.

(30)

4. Context D: The Politics of Influence

Examine the role of the media in relation to the political decision making process.

Answer in relation to the UK (including Scotland) **and** the USA.

(30)

Section B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

- 5. (a)** Discuss the features that constitute good practice when **planning** a piece of social science research relating to comparative politics.

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

9

- (b)** Why is consideration of ethical issues important in relation to conducting social science research?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

6

(15)

6. Study the source below and then answer the questions which follow.

June 21, 2010

Poll Finds Deep Concern About Energy and Economy

By JOHN M. BRODER and MARJORIE CONNELLY

Overwhelmingly, Americans think the nation needs a fundamental overhaul of its energy policies, and most expect alternative forms to replace oil as a major source within 25 years. Yet a majority are unwilling to pay higher gasoline prices to help develop new fuel sources.

Those are among the findings of the latest nationwide New York Times/CBS News poll.

The poll, which examines the public's reaction to the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico, highlights some of the complex political challenges the Obama administration faces. For instance, despite intense news coverage and widespread public concern about the economic and ecological damage from the Gulf disaster, most Americans remain far more concerned about jobs and the nation's overall economy.

And in that regard, President Obama does not fare well: 54 percent of the public say he does not have a clear plan for creating jobs, while only 34 percent say he does, an ominous sign heading into this fall's midterm elections.

Respondents were nearly evenly split on the President's handling of the economy—45 percent approve, 48 percent disapprove. His job approval rating remains just below 50 percent. And by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, Americans think the country is on the wrong track.

They are also impatient with Mr Obama's response to the oil disaster in the Gulf, by a large margin, and attribute the spill to risks taken by BP and its partners in the failed well, according to the poll, which was conducted by telephone from June 16 to 20 with 1259 adults.

Reba Davis, 78, a retired vocational nurse in Abilene, Tex, one of the poll respondents, said she believed that BP took shortcuts to save money in drilling the doomed well, but she also said the Government needed to take a stronger hand in overseeing offshore operations.

"The responsibility totally lies with BP and the regulatory system in our country, which is pretty slim and needs to be ramped up and enforced," Mrs Davis said in a follow-up telephone interview.

(Extracted from: <http://www.nytimes.com>)

(a) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information in this newspaper article?

7

(b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of covert compared to overt observation.

8

(15)

Answer questions from ONE Study Theme only.

STUDY THEME 2: LAW AND ORDER AND RESEARCH METHODS

SECTION A

Answer TWO questions from Section A.

Each question is worth 30 marks.

1. *Context A: Rights and Responsibilities in Relation to Law and Order in the UK*
“The UK can now be described as a just society based on fairness and respect. This means there is less need for reform of our human rights legislation.”
 Discuss. **(30)**

2. *Context B: The Causes and Effects of Crime in the UK*
 To what extent do traditional sociological theories of crime still explain the causes of crime and deviance in the 21st century? **(30)**

3. *Context C: Responses to Crime in the UK*
“Law and order policy is no longer shaped by political parties and the people; it is now a product of the media.”
 Discuss. **(30)**

4. *Context D: Penal Systems in the UK*
“Cramming more people into prison has created a system that is prohibitively expensive and dangerously ineffective. It is time to re-think our penal policy.”
 How valid is this claim in relation to penal policy in the UK? **(30)**

Section B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

5. (a) Discuss the features that constitute good practice when **planning** a piece of social science research relating to law and order.
You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **9**

 - (b) Why is consideration of ethical issues important in relation to conducting social science research?
You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **6**
- (15)**

Herald Scotland

Sunday 5 September 2010

Opposition pour scorn on latest crime statistics

Lucy Adams, Chief Reporter

The Scottish Government and opposition parties have tussled over the latest crime statistics after figures showed longer sentences for those found handling a knife.

Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill, said the findings were a wake-up call for criminals, but the Tories accused ministers of spinning the facts, pointing out that the majority of people convicted of possessing weapons avoided a jail term.

Tory community safety spokesman John Lamont said: “The average prison sentence for handling an offensive weapon may be eight-and-a-half months but the SNP Government knows well enough that is a completely different thing from the average punishment.”

“Only 30% of all people convicted of carrying an offensive weapon go to jail. This is poor spin from our soft-touch SNP Government and one of many reasons why Scottish Conservatives want a two-year mandatory sentence for carrying a knife.”

According to Government figures, the length of custodial sentences for handling an offensive weapon rose by 21% in 2008–09 and the average length of time in prison was 263 days—double the length of average jail terms in 2005–06.

Mr MacAskill said: “We’ve seen jail terms for knife carrying increase by almost two-thirds over the past two years and we’ve delivered a record number of police officers—1000 extra—to catch offenders, with recorded crime in Scotland now at its lowest level for nearly 30 years.”

However, Richard Baker, Labour’s justice spokesman, said the statistics proved the folly of the Government’s plans to scrap jail terms of six months or less.

He said: “The SNP refuse to do anything about knife criminals and yet we find that 71% of knife criminals currently do not receive a custodial sentence and of those that do two thirds would avoid jail entirely under the SNP’s plans. We welcome the increase in length of sentences for those convicted of handling an offensive weapon. But we must always look to do more to tackle knife crime and, under Mr MacAskill’s plans to scrap sentences of six months, 627 criminals convicted of these offences would now actually go free.”

The statistics also show that 36% of those sent to prison had more than 10 previous convictions in the past decade.

There was also a 7% increase in the number of convictions resulting in a community service and a 12% decrease in the number of fines in the past year.

Robert Brown, the Liberal Democrat justice spokesman, said: “These figures show that rates of reoffending are appallingly high. Offenders frequently come out of prison as more hardened offenders than when they went in—and all at huge cost to the public purse.”

(Extracted from: <http://www.heraldscotland.com>)

(a) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information in this newspaper article?

7

(b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of covert compared to overt observation.

8

(15)

Answer questions from ONE Study Theme only.

STUDY THEME 3: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND RESEARCH METHODS

SECTION A

Answer TWO questions from Section A.

Each question is worth 30 marks.

1. Context A: Political Relations

To what extent have the national and international interests of the UK caused tensions within the European Union?

(30)

2. Context B: Representation and Participation in the European Parliament

To what extent have UK political parties been able to influence decision making in the European Parliament?

(30)

3. Context C: The European Union and its International Involvement

“Economic issues, such as the single currency, have hindered the development of the European Union as an economic bloc.”

Discuss.

(30)

4. Context D: Social Developments in the European Union with reference to the UK and the EU

“Civil liberties in the European Union have improved as a result of EU directives.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

(30)

Section B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

- 5. (a)** Discuss the features that constitute good practice when **planning** a piece of social science research relating to the European Union.

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

9

- (b)** Why is consideration of ethical issues important in relation to conducting social science research?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

6

(15)

Crisis, what crisis? EU demands Britain and other countries pay it £7 bn more in 6% budget boost.

By Jason Groves

Last updated at 9:42 AM on 29th April 2010

European bureaucrats last night brushed aside the economic crisis—and announced plans for an astonishing six per cent budget increase.

With governments across Europe imposing swingeing austerity measures, the European Commission stunned observers by proposing a lavish increase in its own funding.

Critics last night said Brussels was “living in cloud cuckoo land”.

The bumper increase would see the EU’s budget jump by almost £7 billion to £114 billion.

Britain is already the second highest net contributor to the EU budget, handing over a record £7.6 billion this year—almost exactly the cost of the entire army of Brussels pen-pushers.

A six per cent increase would see this soar by an extra £450 million.

Experts last night pointed out that the final budget is likely to be higher still as the Commission has not included the cost of setting up the EU’s new diplomatic service which is expected to add billions to the total.

EU Budget Commissioner, Janusz Lewandowski, said the huge spending increase was needed to allow Brussels to help aid the economic recovery.

But critics last night said it was astonishing that the EU was seeking a higher budget at a time of austerity.

Tory Europe spokesman, Mark Francois, said: “At a time when taxpayers and their governments across Europe are having to tighten their belts, the EU needs to do the same.”

Nigel Farage, MEP for the UK Independence Party, said the European Commission appeared to be “living in cloud cuckoo land”.

“With Greece collapsing and budgets tightening across Europe, the European Commission has demonstrated once again that it is utterly immune from reality”, he added.

The budget proposals have to be approved by the European Parliament and EU leaders. But a Brussels source said the “bulk” of the increase was likely to be nodded through.

They pointed out that the increase comes despite the fact that auditors have refused to sign off the Commission’s accounts for 15 years in a row because of concerns about fraud.

(Extracted from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk>)

(a) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information in this newspaper article?

7

(b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of covert compared to overt observation.

8

(15)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Study Theme 1 Section B Question 6—Article is extracted from “*Even on Gulf Coast, Energy and Economy . . .*” by *John M. Broder* and *Marjorie Connelly*, taken from **www.nytimes.com**. Reproduced by permission of The New York Times.

Study Theme 2 Section B Question 6 (a)—Article is extracted from “*Opposition pour scorn on latest crime statistics*”, by *Lucy Adams*, taken from **www.heraldscotland.com**. Reproduced by kind permission of The Herald.

Study Theme 3 Section B Question 6 (a)—Article is extracted from “*But in Brussels, they plan to spend more*”, by *Jason Groves*, taken from **www.dailymail.co.uk**. Reproduced by permission of the Daily Mail.