

X236/13/01

NATIONAL TUESDAY, 29 APRIL
QUALIFICATIONS 9.00 AM – 12.00 NOON
2014

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

To what extent have political parties become more polarised in recent years?

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

(30)

2. Context B: Electoral Systems

Scotland's range of electoral systems would improve representation and participation in elections of legislatures in both the UK and the USA.

Discuss.

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

(30)

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

It can be argued that the powers of the UK Prime Minister and the Scottish First Minister are the envy of the American President.

Discuss.

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

(30)

4. Context D: The Politics of Influence

To what extent have methods used by interest groups evolved in recent years?

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)** What advantages might the focus group method of research have in comparison to an individual qualitative interview?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

9

- (b)** To what extent is it important to record and transcribe qualitative interviews?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

6

(15)

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

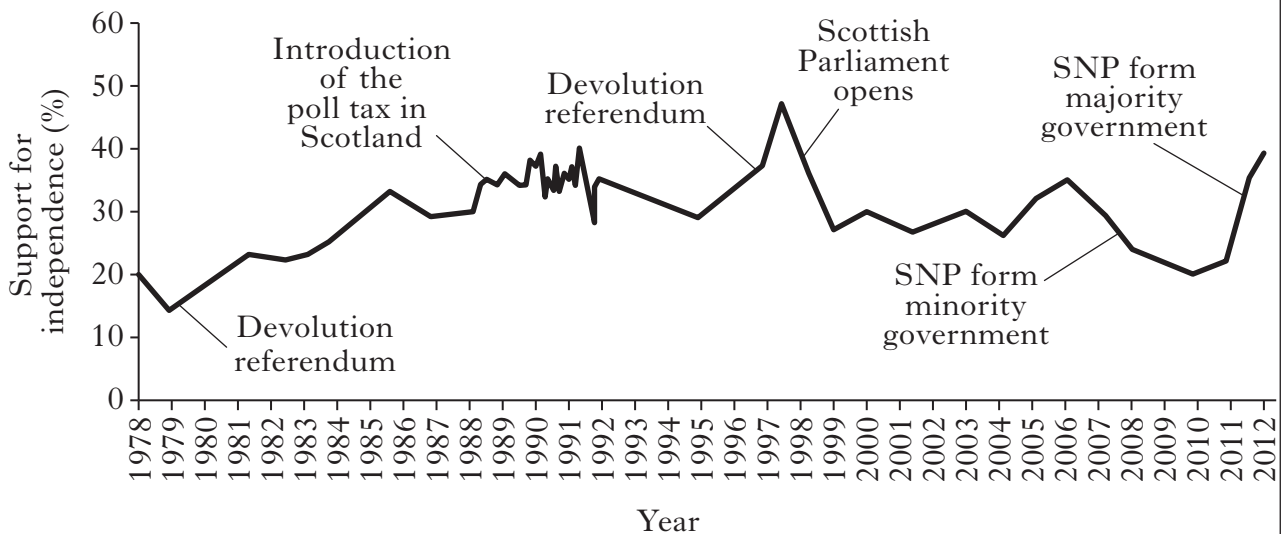
35 years of Scottish Attitudes Towards Independence

Published: 15 March 2012

Fieldwork: 1978-2012

Theme: Scotland

Ipsos MORI (formerly MORI) has been polling Scots on their attitudes to independence and devolution since 1978 and can track how views have changed over nearly 35 years. Although the wording of the question and the method for collecting opinion have occasionally changed, we are able to illustrate the fluctuations in support for independence over this period.



Data collected by Ipsos MORI (previously MORI). Field work conducted face-to-face or by telephone among c1,000 Scottish adults per wave. Please note, data from 1999–2008 comes from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, conducted face-to-face among c1200–1500 Scottish adults.

(Extracted from Ipsos MORI website)

(a) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information gathered in this piece of research?

7

(b) *“In sampling, size is not necessarily the most important consideration.”*

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

8

(15)

[Turn over

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*
How valid is the claim that protection and preservation of individual freedom can threaten the collective good of society? **(30)**

2. *Context B: The Causes and Effects of Crime in the UK*
To what extent has “nurture” become more influential as a root cause of crime? **(30)**

3. *Context C: Responses to Crime in the UK*
Performance and accountability of police forces in the UK have both improved in recent years.
Discuss. **(30)**

4. *Context D: Penal Systems in the UK*
Rehabilitation is revolutionising the penal system in the UK.
Discuss. **(30)**

Section B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

5. (a) What advantages might the focus group method of research have in comparison to an individual qualitative interview?
You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **9**

 - (b) To what extent is it important to record and transcribe qualitative interviews?
You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **6**
- (15)**



(a) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information gathered in this piece of research?

7

(b) “In sampling, size is not necessarily the most important consideration.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

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

“UK governments have consistently put UK interests before those of the European Union and, in doing so, have failed to reap the full benefits of membership.”

Discuss.

(30)

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

“The European Parliament has been a huge success for the people of the UK.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

(30)

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

“The European Union has gone from strength to strength despite problems such as the Eurozone crisis.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

(30)

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

“Discrimination is no longer an issue within the European Union.”

Discuss.

(30)

Section B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

5. (a) What advantages might the focus group method of research have in comparison to an individual qualitative interview?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

9

(b) To what extent is it important to record and transcribe qualitative interviews?

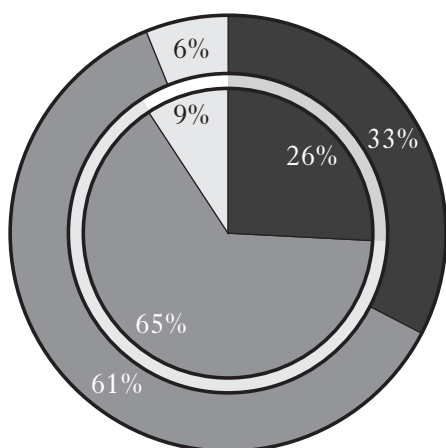
You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

6

(15)

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

QA25.1 Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.
My voice counts in the EU



● Tend to agree ● Tend to disagree ○ Don't know

	Tend to agree		Tend to disagree		Don't know	
	EB76.4	Evolution Dec.2011 – Aut.2011	EB76.4	Evolution Dec.2011 – Aut.2011	EB76.4	Evolution Dec.2011 – Aut.2011
EU27	33%	+7	61%	-4	6%	-3
DK	61%	+8	37%	-4	2%	-4
BE	55%	+12	44%	-10	1%	-2
NL	55%	+13	43%	-10	2%	-3
SE	52%	+10	46%	-9	2%	-1
DE	47%	+11	44%	-12	9%	+1
FR	45%	+11	51%	-8	4%	-3
FI	43%	+8	56%	-7	1%	-1
HU	38%	+2	58%	-1	4%	-1
AT	31%	+6	64%	-6	5%	=
BG	27%	+7	58%	-5	15%	-2
ES	27%	+3	68%	-1	5%	-2
LV	25%	+13	72%	-10	3%	-3
LT	25%	+6	66%	-2	9%	-4
UK	22%	+6	75%	-2	3%	-4
EL	15%	+3	84%	-2	1%	-1

Special Eurobarometer 379
Future of Europe

Research was completed between the 3rd and 18th December 2011. All EU countries were sampled using a multi-stage random sample. Interviews were conducted “face to face” in people’s homes. A total of 26,693 interviews were carried out.

(Extracted from: Report for the European Commission)

(a) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information gathered in this piece of research?

7

(b) “In sampling, size is not necessarily the most important consideration.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer.

8

(15)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Study Theme 1 Section B Question 6 – Source is adapted from “35 Years of Scottish Attitudes Towards Independence” (www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2935/35-years-of-Scottish-attitudes-towards-independence.aspx). Reproduced by kind permission of Ipsos MORI.

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