X236/13/01

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2015

WEDNESDAY, 27 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.

©

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 less ideological in recent years?

Answer in relation to the UK (including Scotland) **and** the USA. **(30)**

2. *Context B: Electoral Systems*

The people of the UK and USA are 'well served' by their respective electoral systems.

How valid is this claim?

Answer in relation to the UK (including Scotland) **and** the USA. **(30)**

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

Examine the effectiveness of checks on Executive power in the UK (including Scotland) and the USA.

Answer in relation to the UK (including Scotland) **and** the USA. **(30)**

4. *Context D: The Politics of Influence*

Assess the contribution of interest groups to politics and wider issues in society in the UK (including Scotland) and the USA.

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*) For your research, you have to carry out an interview with a group of voters. What would you need to consider before, during and after the interview?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **9**

(*b*) Why is it important to conduct pilot studies?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **6**

(15)

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

Marks

the two-way BREAKING NEWS FROM NPR

NPR is a privately and publicly funded non-profit membership media organization. NPR produces and distributes news and cultural programming.

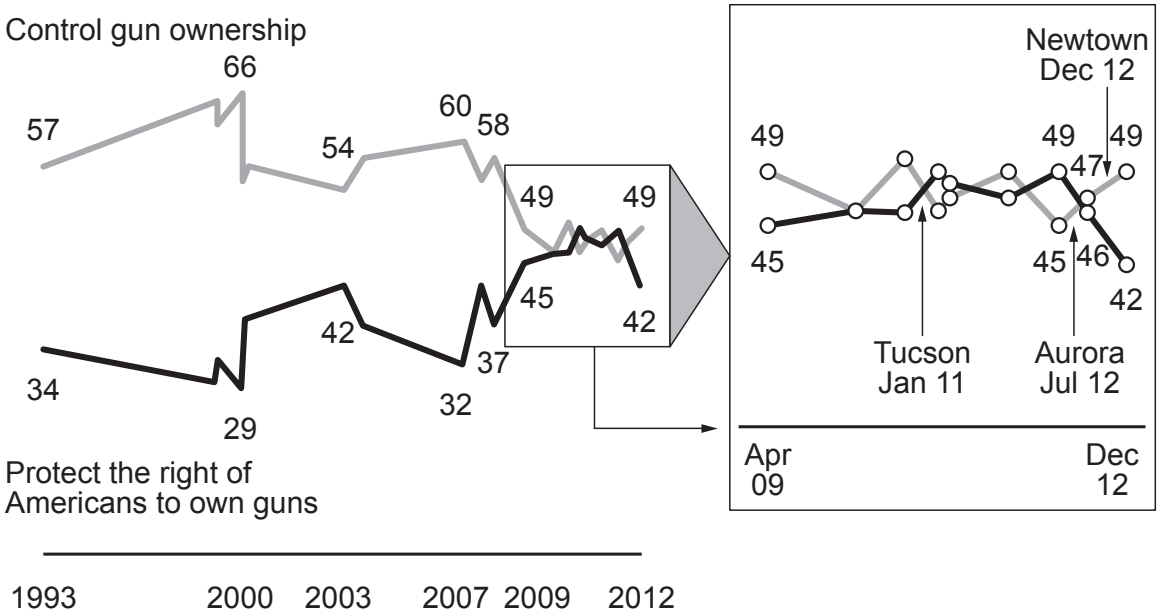
Gun Control: "Only Modest Change" In Opinion Since Newtown Shootings

by MARK MEMMOTT

December 20, 2012 2:53 PM

Views on Gun Control: 1993-2012

More important to ...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 17-19, 2012

The public's attitudes toward gun control have shown only modest change in the wake of last week's deadly shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., "the Pew Research Centre for the People & the Press reported Thursday afternoon. Pew's latest national survey of 1,219 adults was done Dec. 17-19 (Monday to Wednesday). So the Dec. 14 attack that took the lives of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School was on most respondents' minds. The new survey comes with a margin of error of +/– 3.4 percentage points on each of those major results.

Extracted from: www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2012/12/20/167720040/gun-control

(*a*) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information gathered in this piece of research? **7**

(*b*) What ethical issues have to be considered when gathering data for the purpose of social science research?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **8**

(15)

Marks

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*

In an era of population change and ongoing security threats, a written constitution (including a Bill of Rights) would strengthen citizenship.

Discuss. **(30)**

2. *Context B: The Causes and Effects of Crime in the UK*

How valid is the claim that the "*cost of crime*" in the UK is paid most heavily by young men? **(30)**

3. *Context C: Responses to Crime in the UK*

Recent government policies have cut crime and made Britain safer.

Discuss. **(30)**

4. *Context D: Penal Systems in the UK*

More purposeful activity in prison is the key element in both aiding rehabilitation and reducing re-offending. **(30)**

Discuss.

Section B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

5. (*a*) For your research, you have to carry out an interview with a group of prisoners.

What would you need to consider before, during and after the interview?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **9**

(*b*) Why is it important to conduct pilot studies?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **6**

(15)

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

Marks

ComRes is an award winning polling and research consultancy serving clients in the UK, Europe and Asia more

All data adapted from ComRes Research in June 2012. UK elected representatives were surveyed about their opinions regarding UK Drugs Policies.

Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs): 55 of the 129 MSPs participated in the survey (approximately 50% of those approached) between 17th May and 15th June 2012. Data were weighted by party and region to reflect the composition of the Scottish Parliament.

MSP PANEL SURVEY – SUMMER 2012

Q1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Scotland's current policies are effective in tackling the problems caused by illegal drugs.

Base: All respondents

			PARTY				
		Total	SNP	Labour	Lib Dems	Cons	Other
Unweighted Total		55	29	14	2	8	2
Weighted Total		55	29	16	2	6	2
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Agree strongly	(2.0)	1	1	–	–	–	–
		1%	2%	–	–	–	–
Agree	(1.0)	18	18	–	–	1	–
		33%	61%	–	–	12%	
Disagree	(–1.0)	23	8	8	2	3	2
		42%	29%	50%	100%	49%	100%
Disagree strongly	(–2.0)	10	–	7	–	3	–
		18%	–	45%	–	39%	–

Members of Parliament (MPs): 150 of the 650 participated in the survey (approximately 50% of those approached) between 22nd May and 22nd June 2012. Data were weighted by party and region to reflect the composition of the House of Commons. In response to the same question the MPs responded. 93% disagreed that "The UK's current policies are effective in tackling problems caused by illegal drugs".

Only 1% agreed strongly. 23 MPs or 16% agreed strongly. More Conservatives agreed and most Labour MPs disagreed.

Extracted from: http://www.comres.co.uk/poll/734/ukdpc-drug-policy-survey.htm

(*a*) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information gathered in this piece of research? **7**

(*b*) What ethical issues have to be considered when gathering data for the purpose of social science research?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **8**

(15)

Marks

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*

The policies of UK political parties reflect a lack of interest in the European Union.

Discuss. **(30)**

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

UK political parties play a major part in the decision making process in the European Parliament.

To what extent do you agree with this statement? **(30)**

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

The European Union has yet to come to terms with the problems created by enlargement.

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*

The European Union has impacted positively on human rights issues.

Discuss. **(30)**

Section B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

5. (*a*) For your research, you have to carry out an interview with a group of EU migrant workers.

What would you need to consider before, during and after the interview?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **9**

(*b*) Why is it important to conduct pilot studies?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **6**

(15)

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

Marks

Results of ICM Poll December 2012	
	Total
Respondents	1002
NET: vote to stay in	40%
Definitely vote to stay in	22%
Probably vote to stay in	18%
Probably vote to leave	15%
Definitely vote to leave	36%
NET: vote to leave	51%
Don't know	8%

7:00AM GMT 27 Dec 2012

ICM research interviewed a random sample of 1002 adults aged 18+ by telephone on 19-23rd December. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to the profiles of all adults. ICM is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

The ICM/Guardian poll found that 51% of respondents would vote to pull Britain out of the European Union while only 40% wanted to stay in. This marked an increase in euroscepticism since a previous poll in autumn 2011 which showed that only 49% wanted to leave the EU. This is a very significant change because a similar poll in 2001 resulted in the British public wanted to stay in Europe by a margin of 68% to19%.

These latest findings come as Prime Minister, David Cameron, plans to deliver a speech setting out his views on the UK's future in the European Union. Mr Cameron has been facing mounting pressure from within the right wing ranks of his own party and the UK Independence Party who are unhappy with the current relationship between the UK and the European Union.

Meanwhile, support for UKIP was running at 7%, a record high for the ICM/ Guardian polls.

(*a*) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information gathered in this piece of research? **7**

(*b*) What ethical issues have to be considered when gathering data for the purpose of social science research?

You should give relevant examples to support your answer. **8**

(15)

[*END OF QUESTION PAPER*]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Study Theme 1 Section B Question 6 - © 2012 National Public Radio, Inc. Excerpts from news report titled "Gun Control: 'Only Modest Change' In Opinion Since Newtown Shootings" by Mark Memmott originally published in NPR.org on December 20, 2012, and is used with the permission of NPR. Any unauthorised duplication is strictly prohibited.

Study Theme 1 Section B Question 6 – Graphic is adapted from "Most Say Assault Weapons Make Nation More Dangerous. After Newtown, Modest Change in Opinion About Gun Control." Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C. (December 20, 2012).

Study Theme 2 Section B Question 6 – Logo and data, adapted from **www.comres.co.uk/poll/734/ukdpc-drug-policy-survey.htm**, are reproduced by kind permission of ComRes.

Study Theme 3 Section B Question 6 – Data and reference to ICM research is adapted from Guardian/ICM Poll, December 2012. Reproduced by kind permission of ICM Unlimited.