



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Modern Studies

Advanced Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

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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 extended-response 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
• candidate provides no evidence of analysis (purely descriptive response). OR • analysis is not relevant to the question. For analytical comments to be relevant they must directly address either the question; or issues, arguments or evidence which the question addresses.	Candidate makes relevant analytical comments but • in the context of their answer, these may not be the key, or most relevant, aspects.	Candidate makes developed, relevant analytical comments and • in the context of their answer, these are the key, or most relevant, aspects • includes relevant, contemporary supporting evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and • links analytical comments to evaluative comments • includes relevant and contemporary supporting evidence from an international comparator country. Overall, analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by inclusion of sufficient key or most relevant aspects.	Candidate meets the criteria for 6 marks and • analytical comments are integrated in-depth with international comparison • analytical comments clearly integrate the ideas and arguments of others with their own. Overall, analysis shows an in-depth understanding of the question and supports a convincing line of argument.

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 analysis includes • relevant and contemporary evidence from an international comparator • explains a key, relevant difference or similarity between the issue in the UK/Scotland and in another country/countries.	Candidate's analysis meets the requirements for 2 marks and in addition • explains the extent of the difference/similarity • points of comparison, including the extent of the similarity or difference between the issue in the UK/Scotland and in another country/countries, are made throughout their response.	Candidate's evaluation meets the requirements for 4 marks and in addition • points of comparison are integrated into the line of argument • points of comparison 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
• candidate provides no evidence of evaluation (purely a descriptive response) OR • candidate's evaluation is not relevant to the question.	• candidate makes points of evaluation that are relevant to the question but are not developed OR • candidate makes a basic evaluation that is developed and relevant.	Candidate meets the criteria for 2 marks and • makes reasoned points of evaluation • relates points to their line of argument and uses them to make an overall judgement(s) on the question.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and • shows reasoned consideration of alternative arguments and evidence • provides reasoned evaluation and judgement of an alternative argument(s) or evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for 6 marks and • 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
Candidate provides no evidence of • a line of argument • a clear conclusion.	Candidate draws together pieces of information to summarise key points but • there is a lack of sufficient synthesis to support the conclusion • the line of argument in support of the conclusion is unclear.	Candidate shows evidence of • an overall conclusion which provides a relevant overall judgement that addresses the specific question • a line of argument and is supported by detailed reasons/evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and shows evidence of • 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.	Candidate meets the criteria for 6 marks and • 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
No evidence of analysis – purely descriptive response. OR Analysis is not at all relevant to the question.	Candidate's analysis identifies aspects of the research method which are relevant to the question but • does not identify the most relevant aspects OR • does not link the aspects to the scenario. Alternatively Award 2 marks where analysis identifies only one key aspect and links the aspect with the issue in the scenario.	Candidate's analysis identifies key aspects of the research method which is relevant to the question and • identifies relevant links of key aspects to the scenario • includes relevant and/or contemporary supporting evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and • links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments. • analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research methods.

Evaluation (research methods) – award up to a maximum of 6 marks			
0 marks	1–2 marks	3–4 marks	5–6 marks
No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response). OR Evaluative points are not relevant to the question. OR Evaluative comments lack reasoning.	Candidate makes points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question but - supporting evidence doesn't back up the evaluation - lack of development in reasoning OR - only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation is made which has supporting evidence. *Developed points may include, for example: - evidence - reasons - background information, support or reinforcement. Award a maximum of 1 mark where the reasoning is not developed or the candidate makes only one evaluative point.	Candidate makes developed, relevant points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question and in addition - 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.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and - 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 OR - 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.	concluding remarks simply summarise the key elements or main points.	- 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.	Candidate meets the criteria for 2 marks and - 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
No evidence of analysis – purely descriptive response. OR Analysis is not relevant to the question.	Candidate's analysis identifies aspects which are relevant to the question but • does not identify most relevant aspects OR • does not show relevant links. Alternatively Analysis identifies only one key aspect and • links the aspect with the trustworthiness of the source • includes supporting evidence.	Candidate's analysis identifies key aspects which affect trustworthiness of the source and • identifies relevant links • includes relevant supporting evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and • links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments • analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research.

Evaluation of trustworthiness – award up to a maximum of 6 marks			
0 marks	1–2 marks	3–4 marks	5–6 marks
No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response). OR Evaluative points are not relevant (do not refer to the source). OR Evaluative comments lack reasoning.	Candidate makes reasoned points of evaluation about the trustworthiness of the source but - there is lack of development in reasoning OR - they make only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation about the source, which has supporting evidence. *Developed points may include, for example: - evidence from the source - evidence from other social science research - reasons - background information about conducting social science research.	Candidate makes at least two developed* points of evaluation which - address the strengths and weaknesses of the source - are supported by knowledge about conducting social science research.	Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and - 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.	There is a clear overall judgement about the extent of trustworthiness of the source. The conclusion follows from a line of argument and is supported by reasons/evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for 2 marks and 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

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
1.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks. Credit responses that refer to: • function and relevance • internal democracy and policymaking • membership and activism • influence of smaller parties • relevant global comparator(s) <i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>The Green Party in Scotland are a clear example of a party who were able to exert more influence over policy making than they should have. Despite having only eight MSPs after the 2021 Scottish Parliamentary election, they were able to exert disproportionate influence, particularly on energy and climate policy, due to the power-sharing agreement agreed with the SNP who relied on their support to pass legislation. For example, both co-conveners of the Scottish Green Party, Lorna Slater and Patrick Harvie, were awarded junior ministerial posts because of this power-sharing deal with Slater appointed Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity while Harvie was appointed Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>Within the UK parliamentary system, smaller parties have relatively little power due to the 'winner takes all' element of the First Past the Post System (FPTP) used to elect the UK Parliament. As Duverger acknowledged, the FPTP system has a statistical tendency to create a two-party system, which in turn can have the psychological effect of discouraging the electorate from voting for smaller 'third' parties who are perceived as having little chance of winning and are therefore considered a 'wasted' vote. Instead, the electorate are more inclined to vote for either of the 'big two' parties. For example, in the 2024 UK General Election, Labour gained 411 seats with 33.7% of the vote, providing an overall majority of 172 seats. This provided Labour with a strong mandate to govern and dominate the UK Parliament and its institutions. Additionally, the Conservatives remained the second largest party in 2024 with 156 seats, despite their worst showing in over 100 years. Collectively, these two parties won 81.8% of the seats based on a 57.4% share of the vote in 2024. This continues a pattern since the Second World War where the Labour Party or the Conservative Party have formed all governments in the UK which suggests the two main parties continue to dominate political issues at a UK government level to the exclusion of smaller parties. Nevertheless, there are arguments that the two-party system is creaking and being challenged, allowing smaller parties increasing influence. In 2024, smaller parties and independents gained a record share of over 40% of the vote</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>with the Liberal Democrats gaining 72 seats and Reform making a breakthrough with five seats. Labour and the Conservative's collective share of the vote also represented a collective record low for the 'big two'. When these results are combined with the 2010 and 2017 General Elections resulting in hung parliaments, and the Liberal Democrats helping to form a collation with the Conservatives from 2010-2015, there is clear evidence that smaller parties' influence has been steadily increasing in recent years. The increased share of the vote for smaller parties shows the electorate are more willing to give their vote to parties other than Labour or the Conservatives. Consequently, these larger parties have had to address or adopt positions on issues the electorate feel they have neglected but which smaller parties have addressed. For instance, Reform's rise has resulted in Labour and the Conservatives having to review and amend their policies on immigration and border controls. Therefore, although the two-party system and domination by Labour and the Conservatives persists, smaller parties seem increasingly more able to influence public opinion, discussion and policy in select areas by offering alternatives that force these parties to reconsider and adapt their own positions.</i> This example contains balanced analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 <i>Smaller parties in both the UK and the US may have little direct influence but they can have influence on policy through the spoiler effect they can exert over the electoral performance of bigger parties. By taking votes away from bigger parties, smaller parties can often reduce the chances of these parties or their candidates from winning elections. For example, in the US the Green Party have drawn votes away from the Democrats. While this has not been a factor in the most recent presidential elections, this was the case in the 2000 US Presidential Election when Ralph Nader stood as a candidate and received more votes in the swing state of Florida than the Democrat candidate Al Gore lost by, effectively handing the presidency to the Republican candidate George Bush. Similarly, in the UK, Reform's rise has coincided with a decline in the electoral fortunes of the Conservative Party. For instance, 24% of 2019 Conservative voters switched to Reform in the 2024 UK General Election, which contributed to the Conservatives losing over 250 seats and their grip on government.</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 <i>Despite lacking the numbers to pass legislation of their own, smaller 'third' parties can exert influence on policy making through legislative processes, partnerships and negotiation. The legislative process has numerous opportunities whereby smaller parties can secure amendments or compromises in exchange for their support. For example, since the SNP ended their power sharing agreement with the Scottish Green Party in 2024, they have actively courted other parties in the hope that their budget and legislative proposals would receive enough support to pass. As Labour and the Conservatives are diametrically opposed to the SNP Government's objectives of ending the two-child benefit cap and changes to tax thresholds in Scotland, this means the government have had to</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>develop policy positions that would be welcome by the Scottish Greens and the Liberal Democrats. As a result, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government Shona Robison MSP, responded to demands from both parties by including funding for ferries, mental health and dentistry – a demand of the Liberal Democrats – and almost £5 billion for green policies – a key demand of the Scottish Greens. In a similar scenario in Germany in 2024, the traffic light alliance of the Social Democrats (SPD), Greens and Free Democratic party (FDP) collapsed over disputes over budgetary proposals. Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the SPD sacked the finance minister and the FDP leader Christian Lindner over disagreement on the budget and how to deal with a black hole in the German economy. Scholz and the SPD viewed increased borrowing as the solution to this problem, which the FDP and Lindner opposed. As a result, Scholz was forced to hold a vote of confidence on the minority government, which they lost, triggering an early election in February 2025 and the collapse of the German government. Both these examples show that in political systems that usually require governments be formed by coalitions or minority administrations there are greater opportunities for smaller parties to exert influence on policy and decision-making. However, it is also clear that as minor partners in government, or in supply and confidence situations, smaller parties are often ignored by the larger governing party whenever their views on policy do not align with the objectives of the larger party.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 1 <i>Overall, smaller parties manage to exert influence on policy making by influencing the discussion around issues they stand on. The presence of smaller parties often forces larger parties to adopt policies to either retain or win back voters that they otherwise might lose. A key example of this in recent years has been the Brexit Party and then the Reform Party's stance on issues of sovereignty, border control and immigration, which have forced other larger parties to shift their positions on these matters. Nevertheless, in terms of electoral success, outside of the Labour Party, the Conservatives, and, in Scotland, the SNP, few parties have any significant representation and therefore any real political power or influence.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>Overall, it would be an exaggeration and over-simplification to suggest that smaller parties have too much power over policy making. A key determinant of their influence is the electoral system under which the political system operates. Centre-right commentators such as Alex Massie have argued parties such as the Greens in Scotland are 'extremists' and 'cranks' who have too much influence and should not be in government in the first place. This objection is based on the view that they represent marginal views and exercise disproportionate influence due to the proportional electoral system that allows them to hold larger parties to</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>hostage within coalition or cooperation arrangements. As a result, smaller parties push through niche agendas that lack support from the majority of voters. This can force larger partner parties to dilute policies of their own, undermining democracy and creating political instability, evidenced in the collapse of power-sharing coalitions in Scotland and Germany in recent years. However, progressive commentators such as Gerry Hassan argue smaller parties exert a positive influence and contribute ideas and people that traditional, bigger parties do not. This is seen in Scotland, Germany and New Zealand where Green parties, in coalitions or cooperation agreements, have offered broader choice, political representation and policies beyond the mainstream consensus. Nevertheless, smaller parties struggle to have any direct influence in the UK and US where the electoral systems prevent them gaining any substantive representation. Any influence they do wield is indirect, shaping debate around niche issues or putting forward spoiler candidates and bouncing larger parties into adopting or addressing the issues they campaign on.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
2.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks. Credit responses that refer to: • current political party policy and direction • comparison with parties' traditional ideology • similarities and differences between political parties' core values and policies • relevant global comparator(s) <i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>The decline in the influence of civic forms of nationalism is evident by the relative lack of success of the Green Party in UK politics and the roll back on environmental targets by UK governments. Civic nationalism's belief in environmental sustainability and the common good has informed the Green Party and environmental policies but has had limited electoral and political impact in the UK. Until 2024, the Green Party had only ever won one seat in a UK general election. With so little political pressure on environmental matters, successive Conservative-led governments were able to dilute greenhouse gas emission targets while prioritising other issues including the economy, Brexit and immigration.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>Debate around citizenship in Scotland and the UK show that ideas of nationalism still play a key role and influence on policy approaches in this area. Ethnic nationalism emphasises national identity and citizenship based on shared language, culture and heritage. In the UK, automatic acquisition of citizenship requires individuals to be able to prove that they were born within or outside the UK to a mother or father with British citizenship or settled UK status, or, that they were born a citizen of a UK colony with a right to live in the UK. Similarly, during preparation for a second Scottish independence referendum, the Scottish government laid out their criteria for achieving citizenship in an independent Scotland in their 'Building a new Scotland' papers. Here they stated that individuals would be automatically entitled to Scottish citizenship if they were already a British citizen living in Scotland, had been born in Scotland, had a parent who was a British citizen born in Scotland or had previously lived in Scotland for at least ten years. This approach attempted to emphasise the positive economic benefits a more civic approach to citizenship would bring. Despite this, Scottish public sentiment on the issue still leans heavily towards ethnicity and heritage being the most accepted criteria. YouGov polling found that the majority of Scots supported citizenship claims on the grounds of birthright and parentage, while only a minority supported residency as a criteria for gaining citizenship. Collectively, these points demonstrate that ideas around ethnic nationalism including heritage have not declined and still dominate debate, public opinion and policy around issues of citizenship in the UK and Scotland despite the Scottish government's attempts to emphasise a more civic and economic orientated rationale.</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 <i>Recent electoral defeats for nationalist parties in Scotland and Brazil show a decline in influence of nationalism. In Scotland, the 2024 UK General Election resulted in the dominant nationalist party, the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP), winning only nine seats, 39 less seats than their 2019 achievement. This also saw them trail behind the Labour Party who secured 37 of the 59 seats available in Scotland. Similarly, in Brazil, Jair Bolsanaro of the far-right nationalist Liberal Party, lost the 2022 Presidential Election to Lula Da Silva of the Worker's Party. This shows push back towards nationalism from socialist-influenced parties and ideals.</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 <i>Rather than being in decline, nationalism's influence, particularly on right-wing parties, is increasing and shifting parties' traditional ideologies as a result. Gordon Brown, former UK Prime Minister and an ardent opponent of nationalism, has acknowledged this, stating nationalism has replaced neoliberalism as the dominant ideology of the age. In the UK and US, national conservatism, as some have branded it, has become the dominant ideology of both the Conservative and Republican parties. According to the LSE, national conservatism is a post-populist ideology that accepts economic aspects of neo-liberalism in accumulating wealth and investment but rejects the neo-liberal globalisation agenda. Instead, national conservatism promotes national sovereignty, patriotism, and mono-culturalism and stands opposed to multi-culturalism, globalisation, international organisations and global 'elites'. In the UK, national conservatism's influence has been evident in the post-Brexit direction of the Conservative Party and their attempts to limit immigration numbers into the UK, which included the Rwanda deportation scheme. Suella Braverman who, when Home Secretary, stated that, 'multiculturalism makes no demands of the incomer to integrate and had failed' summed this up. This approach has parallels in the national conservatism of Donald Trump's Republican Party and their approach to migration set out during his campaign for a second term in 2024. Set out in the Heritage think-tank's 'Project 2025' policy document, this included plans to carry out mass deportation of illegal-migrants, change policy on birthright citizenship, bar undocumented children from schools, and forcibly separate children from parents at borders. However, in the sphere of immigration, the courts have limited some of conservative nationalism's influence. In the UK, legal challenges delayed the Rwanda deportation scheme, which the Labour government then abandoned when they assumed office in 2024. Commentators suggest that the US Constitution and the bill of rights will allow similar legal challenges in the US which will create difficulties for President Trump and the Republicans' immigration proposals. It is clear that nationalism increasingly emphasises the nation state over international cooperation and has had a significant influence on right-wing parties. However, this influence does not necessarily translate into changing policy or law as immigration issues in the UK and US show.</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				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. Conclusions Response 1 <i>Nationalism is not in decline and remains a powerful influence on political parties and issues. The rise of the populist Reform Party in the UK and their strong electoral performance in 2024, along with the continued success of nationalist parties in Scotland, including the Green Party and SNP, reinforces this view. Furthermore, the continued debate around immigration, border control, multi-culturalism and national security presented by right-wing parties shows that issues associated with nationalism including sovereignty, cultural identity, and immigration continue to dominate the political debate.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>There is almost nowhere in the world where nationalism can be said to be in decline. Across Europe, the US and Asia varying strands of civic, populist, conservative or ethno-inspired nationalism have taken root and are flourishing – forming governments, gaining political representation or influencing political debate and policy direction. In Scotland, the civic nationalism of the SNP has dominated the Scottish political scene since 2007. In Germany, the far-right AfD has become an established party in the German federal elections and the Bundestag. In the US, the Republican Party has been overtaken by the conservative nationalism of Donald Trump’s MAGA movement, which was resurgent in 2024 and won the presidency and both houses in Congress. Combined with the conservative dominated Supreme Court, this gives conservatives control of all the political levers of the US political system. Similarly, in China the CPC has adopted increasingly ethno-nationalist policies promoting in dealings with Tibetan and Uyghur culture, and foreign policy relations with Taiwan. Nevertheless, there is evidence that nationalism, if not necessarily in decline, is being checked in some places. The 2024 UK General Election saw the Labour Party rout the SNP in Scotland. While in 2021 the AfD dropped from being the third to the fifth most represented party in the Bundestag, suggesting there is pushback from other ideological positions. Still, these examples appear to be exceptions to the trend that has seen nationalism become the dominant ideal in global politics.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
3.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks. Credit responses that refer to: • local, city, state and national governments • devolved administrations and central governments • state governments and central governments • national governments and supranational institutions • relevant global comparator(s) <i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>The relationship between the Scottish and UK Parliaments and governments shows that conflict is a common feature of relations between devolved and central governments. The differences between the two governments over the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) bill, which removed the need for individuals to change their legal gender without a medical diagnosis and lowered the age requirement from 18 to 16 years, is a prime example of this. The UK Government intervened, challenged and blocked this Scottish bill legally through the UK Supreme Court because it affected UK-wide equality laws.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>Relations between national and supra-national governments are not always confrontational. In order to maintain the integrity and unity of multi-national organisations, compromise and common ground have to be found. Despite the UK having left the European Union over issues concerning sovereignty and the UK-EU Trade and Co-operation agreement not including provisions on formal foreign policy co-operation, it has still engaged and cooperated with the EU on matters that serve each other's interests in this sphere, particularly on issues of national security. Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022, the UK and EU member states, as well as other allies, have cooperated and coordinated political responses as well as economic and military support for Ukraine. In the immediacy of the invasion, both the UK and the EU condemned the invasion and called for a full withdrawal of Russian troops from the occupied areas. Economically, the UK and EU along with other countries, have also coordinated economic sanctions against Russia. According to the BBC, the UK and EU, along with the US, Australia, Canada and Japan, have imposed over 16,500 sanctions on Russia including freezing over \$350 billion of foreign currency reserves. The EU and the UK have also united in providing military support to Ukraine. The UK had provided almost \$8 billion and the EU over \$28 billion by 2024. As well as this, both have provided military support in the form of training and supplying Ukrainian armed forces. Collectively, by 2024 the UK and EU had trained 80,000 Ukrainian troops through military assistance programmes. This cooperation between the UK and EU during the Russia/Ukraine conflict shows that the relations between national and supra-national governments can be harmonious on matters of strategic importance even where there have been previous political divisions.</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 <i>An area on which different levels of government can come into conflict with each other is over revenue and finance. This is especially common when a higher branch of government has powers to cap the revenue raising powers of lower levels of government or can determine how block funding is distributed. In Scotland, there has been tension between the Scottish Government and local councils over council tax freezes and caps. The Scottish Government imposed freezes on councils between 2007-2017 preventing them from raising council tax levels, since then there have been limits on what councils can raise council tax by or further freezes. This led to demands by the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) in 2024 that local government must have the power to decide council tax levels locally. In Germany, the system of federalism creates similar division over revenue due to the federal government having greater powers over finances than the Länder (regional governments). Under federal arrangements, wealthier Länder complain they do not get enough funding due to the equalisation system that gives poorer Länder more of the tax funds distributed by the federal government.</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 <i>The likelihood of conflict between levels of government increases when the tiers of government are controlled by political parties with differing political outlooks or ideological persuasions. Within the UK's devolved system of governance, this has brought the nationalist controlled Scottish Government into conflict with the UK Government over the issue of sovereignty and constitutional arrangements. The Scottish Government has continued to advocate for a second referendum on Scottish independence on the grounds that the Brexit referendum had removed Scotland from the European Union and ran counter to the democratic will of the majority of Scots voters. The Scottish Government further argued that the 2021 Scottish Parliamentary elections had returned a majority of seats to pro-independence parties and gave the Scottish Government a mandate to hold a second referendum. Successive UK Prime Ministers rejected this argument, which was eventually referred to the UK Supreme Court, that ruled, 'the Scottish Parliament did not have the power to legislate for a referendum on independence because such a bill would relate to the future of the union of the UK, a matter reserved to Westminster'. In response to this judgment, Nicola Sturgeon said her government would look to use the next general election as a 'de facto referendum' on independence, suggesting the matter remains unresolved. Parallels exist in the US where state and federal governments have clashed over abortion and women's reproductive and civil rights since the Supreme Court of the United States' (SCOTUS) ruling on 'Dobbs V Jackson Women's Health Organisation'. This decision supported Mississippi's ban on abortion after fifteen weeks and overturned the 1973 ruling on 'Roe V Wade', which judged that a woman's right to an abortion was protected by the US constitution. Consequently, ten states including Idaho introduced total or near-total bans. In response to Idaho's 2022 'Defense of Life' Act, which</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>banned abortion in almost all cases, and made performing or assisting in an abortion a felony crime, the US Justice Department raised a legal challenge under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (Emtala). This countered that Idaho's law had an exception for the life – but not the health – of the mother. SCOTUS dismissed the case and returned it to the lower courts with Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson opining that, 'the conflict between state and federal law still exists – in real life'. These examples show that devolved and federal structures of government often bring governments into conflict when they reflect the disparate views of the electorate who have returned them to power, particularly when localised views conflict with wider national perspectives and priorities. Despite attempts to resolve these issues legally they still persist while there is no political alignment between the local and national governments.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 1 <i>Ultimately, the natural state of affairs between differing levels of government is conflict. Tensions between local councils and the Scottish Government over council tax freezes, disputes between the Scottish and UK Government over devolved powers and legislation, and the UK's withdrawal from and subsequent disagreements with the EU clearly show this. Different political ideologies and priorities make cooperation difficult and means strained relations are the natural state of affairs between varying levels of government.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>Conflict between different levels of government is a common state of affairs between central and regional or state governments. This is evident in Scotland, where the issue of Scottish independence has seen the Scottish Government seek full autonomy from the UK, and in Germany where regional states have expressed their wish for greater control and share of the tax dividends distributed by the federal government. A similar issue exists in the US where tensions between state and federal government over abortion laws have existed for over fifty years and continue with little likelihood of a resolution in sight anytime soon. These tensions are inevitable in political systems that try to balance the principle of localism with national approaches to issues for the common good of the nation. Nevertheless, in areas where central or supra-national governments can assert their dominance over lower levels of government or develop national or international consensus, there is opportunity for cooperation. On matters of national or regional security and issues affecting economic prosperity, this is always easier to achieve. However, this rarely occurs as the higher level of government asserts its dominance which more often than not creates conflict.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
4.			15	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 15 marks</i>. Credit responses that refer to: Unstructured interviews Benefits: • unstructured interviews allow free-ranging questions to be asked, producing highly valid, qualitative data • interviewers can build up rapport with participants making them feel at ease when discussing sensitive topics • the lack of pre-set questions means the interviewer can further explore points raised • participants can ask for clarification on any points • no internet access or literacy skills required for respondent Limitations: • unstructured interviews are difficult to replicate and are therefore unable to make generalisations or comparisons about the wider population – this makes them less reliable • carrying out and transcribing interviews is time-consuming and therefore it is difficult to carry out many interviews • the time-consuming nature makes it costly to the researcher • there is no anonymity in interviews which can lead to a reluctance to discuss sensitive issues • there may be interview bias and the interviewer may manipulate the interview by asking leading questions Surveys Benefits: • surveys may be postal, telephone or online, each of which has inherent benefits and drawbacks • surveys collect reliable data as they can be easily repeated • surveys allow for quantitative data to be easily obtained which is good for measuring social trends • surveys allow for information to be obtained quickly often covering a wide geographical area • participants can often take a survey at a place and time that is convenient to them which can increase response rate • the researcher is unlikely to be present which allows for more objective responses from participant • most surveys can be anonymous allowing for more honest answers about sensitive issues Limitations: • surveys, especially if using closed questions, do not allow for explanation or further comment on points raised • this lack of explanation of the reasons why something may occur reduces validity • participants may not understand all questions and there is a lack of ability to ask for clarification • surveys, especially postal surveys, can have low response rates • participants may not answer honestly

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Ethical issues including: • consent • privacy • harm • deception <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by elected representatives as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data.</i> This example contains analysis of a relevant issue. Response 2 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by elected representatives as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, The EU Referendum Interviews Dataset (part of The Qualitative Election Study of Britain) conducted 15 interviews where respondents were asked about their feelings and reactions to the Brexit referendum and result.</i> This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence. Response 3 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by elected representatives as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, The EU Referendum Interviews Dataset (part of The Qualitative Election Study of Britain) conducted 15 interviews where respondents were asked about their feelings and reactions to the Brexit referendum and result. An unstructured interview would be a suitable method for finding out the reasons why elected representatives may misuse drugs as rapport could develop between the interviewer and interviewee. The unstructured, conversational nature would allow qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons why elected representatives may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees may explain that the stresses of the job mean they turn to taking drugs or that they may socialise in places where drugs are available. However, the unstructured nature would make it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if incidences of elected representatives misusing drugs had increased or decreased. Furthermore, the interviewer could ask leading questions which could potentially skew the results.</i> This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario. Response 4 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by elected representatives as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, The EU Referendum Interviews Dataset (part of The Qualitative Election Study of Britain)</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				conducted 15 interviews where respondents were asked about their feelings and reactions to the Brexit referendum and result. An unstructured interview would be a suitable method for finding out the reasons why elected representatives may misuse drugs as rapport could develop between the interviewer and interviewee. The unstructured, conversational nature would allow qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons why elected representatives may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees may explain that the stresses of the job mean they turn to taking drugs or that they may socialise in places where drugs are available. However, the unstructured nature would make it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if incidences of elected representatives misusing drugs had increased or decreased. Furthermore, the interviewer could ask leading questions which could potentially skew the results. Surveys could be another useful way of researching misuse by elected representatives. If the survey was anonymous, the participants would be more likely to be honest – this would be useful for a subject such as drug misuse as elected representatives would be extremely unlikely to openly admit to taking illegal drugs. Surveys usually use closed questions and produce quantitative, reliable data. This would be useful for explaining trends in drug misuse by elected representatives, however, it wouldn't explore the reasons why elected representatives may take drugs and therefore the data produced would be less valid. This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method. Response 5 Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by elected representatives as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, The EU Referendum Interviews Dataset (part of The Qualitative Election Study of Britain) conducted 15 interviews where respondents were asked about their feelings and reactions to the Brexit referendum and result. An unstructured interview would be a suitable method for finding out the reasons why elected representatives may misuse drugs as rapport could develop between the interviewer and interviewee. The unstructured, conversational nature would allow qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons why elected representatives may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees may explain that the stresses of the job mean they turn to taking drugs or that they may socialise in places where drugs are available. However, the unstructured nature would make it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if incidences of elected representatives misusing drugs had increased or decreased. Furthermore, the interviewer could ask leading questions which could potentially skew the results. Surveys could be another useful way of researching misuse by elected representatives. If the survey was anonymous, the participants would be more likely to be honest – this would be useful for a subject such as drug misuse as elected representatives would be extremely unlikely to openly admit to taking illegal drugs. Surveys usually use closed questions and produce quantitative, reliable data. This would be useful for explaining

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>trends in drug misuse by elected representatives, however, it wouldn't explore the reasons why elected representatives may take drugs and therefore the data produced would be less valid. If anonymity has been promised, the researcher must ensure there is nothing that is personally identifiable in the published research. They must also ensure that informed consent is given which means that the interviewee is fully informed about the purpose of the research and has freely chosen to participate in it.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 6 <i>Unstructured interviews are more effective than surveys for gathering data on drug misuse by elected representatives. This is because the elected representatives can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may misuse drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data.</i> This concluding remark summarises key points – 1 mark. Response 7 <i>Unstructured interviews are more effective than surveys for gathering data on drug misuse by elected representatives. This is because the elected representatives can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may misuse drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data. Interviews also allow the subject to ask for any clarification of questions. Furthermore, unstructured interviews allow the interviewer the freedom to develop certain interesting points raised which can lead to meaningful and innovative research.</i> This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons – 2 marks. Response 8 <i>Unstructured interviews are more effective than surveys for gathering data on drug misuse by elected representatives. This is because the elected representatives can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may misuse drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data. Interviews also allow the subject to ask for any clarification of questions. Furthermore, unstructured interviews allow the interviewer the freedom to develop certain interesting points raised which can lead to meaningful and innovative research. Although most surveys can be quickly and easily distributed to a large number of recipients – and therefore keep costs to the researcher low – the lack of qualitative, valid data produced means this is not the preferred method – especially for a potentially sensitive issue such as drug misuse.</i> This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method – 3 marks.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
5.			15	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 15 marks</i>. Credit responses that refer to: Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable: • The Times is a high-quality broadsheet newspaper which will almost certainly contain factually correct information. Editors will review content before publication • the name and job title of Paul Morgan-Bentley is given. As Head of Investigations, it can be presumed that he is experienced in investigative journalism • the date is clearly given and 2022 is relatively recent and valid in relation studying political decisions made during COVID • the full web link of the article is provided meaning the reader could check the full article • undercover investigations means that workers at the DVLA were not aware they were working alongside journalists. This means a lack of Hawthorne Effect – when a subject changes behaviour when they know they are being researched • the graph uses data from reputable sources – The Times, The Sunday Times and the DVLA • the graph shows figures from every three months during a set period making the findings reliable as they are repeated • whilst there may be ethical concerns around this investigation, it could be argued that the findings are in the public interest and resulted in the DVLA improving standards Arguments that the source’s validity and/or reliability are questionable: • while the Times is a quality broadsheet, it is not politically neutral and is considered centre-right leaning. This means it could generally be in favour of Conservative rather than Labour policies • the author’s name is published but there is no way to contact them directly such as an email address or social media handle. This makes it harder to check their credentials • the date, while relatively recent, is during the Covid pandemic which has now ended which could be argued to reduce the source validity. There has also been a change of government for example, Grant Shapps is no longer transport secretary • the undercover investigation methods of pretending to work for DVLA raises many ethical concerns. Notably, that the findings were gathered from deception. There is also a lack of consent given. These make the findings ethically unsound • there is a lack of detailed explanation about the undercover investigation for example, it does not state how long the reporter was undercover for • undercover investigations would not produce reliable data as it would be extremely hard to repeat the research • the graph lacks specific numbers of how many staff were not working • the figures in the graph could be considered out of date as it was published during a time when there were COVID-19 restrictions in the workplace • as the investigation was carried out by only one journalist, there is a risk of subjectivity and bias • it states ‘Adapted from. . .’ which makes the source less trustworthy as it is unclear what has been added to or left out of the source

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			the fact that The Times operates a paywall means the original source is not freely available to the public and they would have to pay to access it <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Source A has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published.</i> This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source. Response 2 <i>Source A has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that this was an undercover investigation means that DVLA managers were not aware they were communicating with a journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when a subject changes their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that managers were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity.</i> This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source. Response 3 <i>Source A has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that this was an undercover investigation means that DVLA managers were not aware they were communicating with a journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when a subject changes their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that managers were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity. However, the undercover nature of the investigation means there are ethical concerns. The journalist applied for a job and did not disclose they were a journalist. This means that the source's findings are based on deception and that DVLA did not give consent to findings being published. These are cornerstone principles of ethical research and the lack of them reduces the trustworthiness of the source.</i> This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research. Response 4 <i>Source A has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that this was an undercover investigation means that DVLA managers were not aware they</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				were communicating with a journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when a subject changes their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that managers were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity. However, the undercover nature of the investigation means there are ethical concerns. The journalist applied for a job and did not disclose they were a journalist. This means that the source's findings are based on deception and that DVLA did not give consent to findings being published. These are cornerstone principles of ethical research and the lack of them reduces the trustworthiness of the source. Source A is adapted from a news article and although the web link is given to access the full report, it is behind a paywall. If the paywall was removed, it would increase the trustworthiness of the source as the reader would be able to access the full article and work out if anything was missing from, or had been added to, Source A. 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. Conclusions Response 5 Overall, Source A is not trustworthy as The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and the undercover investigation does not produce reliable findings as it could not easily be repeated. This example contains a simple summary of key points – 1 mark. Response 6 Despite the source being written by the 'Head of Investigations' and published by a quality broadsheet newspaper, Source A is trustworthy to a small extent. This is because The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and may therefore be biased towards Conservative Party policies. The undercover investigation does not produce reliable findings as it could not be easily repeated. This example contains a clear overall judgement about the extent of the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence – 2 marks. Response 7 Despite the source being written by the 'Head of Investigations' and published by a quality broadsheet newspaper, Source A is trustworthy to a small extent. This is because The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and may therefore be biased towards Conservative Party policies. The undercover investigation does not produce reliable findings as it could not be easily repeated. Furthermore, while the source provides a good snapshot of issues that occurred during the Covid pandemic, the pandemic is now over so the source could be considered out of date. This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation – 3 marks.

Section 2 – Law and order and research methods

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
6.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 30 marks.</i> Credit responses that refer to: - effectiveness of the criminal justice system in protecting human rights and civil liberties - human rights and civil liberties - challenges to human rights and civil liberties - human rights and constitutional arrangements - impact of human rights legislation - relevant global comparator(s) <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Civil liberties are basic rights and freedoms granted to citizens of a country through national common or statute law. They include freedom of speech, of movement, from arbitrary arrest, of assembly, of association and of religious worship. Such fundamental rights and freedoms are the basis of a democratic society but are often denied to those within the criminal justice system. The government and police have extensive powers that can undermine these liberties, particularly through anti-terrorism laws such as the Terrorism Act 2000, which allows for expanded surveillance and extended detention without charge. Additionally, police powers, including stop and search under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, have raised concerns over racial profiling and excessive use of force. Public order legislation, such as the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, has further restricted the right to protest, limiting freedom of assembly.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>Civil liberties, the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed to individuals throughout the world, are increasingly at risk within the Criminal Justice System (CJS). Racial profiling, unlawful surveillance, and excessive use of force by the police undermine the human rights protections that are meant to safeguard citizens from government overreach. Additionally, the expansion of pretrial detention, the erosion of due process rights, and the use of coercive plea bargains disproportionately impacts ethnic minority groups, often leading to wrongful convictions or unfair sentencing. The increased use of incarceration in recent years, with the English/Welsh prison population doubling since 1993 to around 80,000 shows that without significant reforms, the justice system will continue to erode civil liberties, reinforcing systemic inequalities and diminishing trust in the CJS. In March 2024, the Scottish Human Rights Commission told the United Nations it is concerned about the progress of civil and political rights in Scotland, highlighting issues with access to justice for human rights violations and conditions in places of detention. In their report, they highlight systemic failures to implement recommendations on deaths in custody, the use of remand and mental health support in Scottish prisons and other places of</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>detention. On access to justice, the Commission also raised issues around the availability of legal aid, challenges being experienced in the courts system and time limits for judicial review, which make it difficult for people to challenge potential human rights violations.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 <i>Civil liberties are protected by democratic principles and human rights laws in the UK Criminal Justice Systems (CJS) and in the German CJS, but there are notable differences in their approach. In England and Wales, there are broad police powers, such as stop and search under Section 60, and the UK have implemented strict anti-terror laws that permit extended detention without charge. In contrast, Germany places a stronger emphasis on individual rights, with its constitution including strict limits on police surveillance and pretrial detention. Additionally, Germany's approach to rehabilitation within its CJS is more pronounced, focusing on reintegration rather than punitive measures. While both countries balance security with civil liberties, Germany generally imposes stricter legal constraints on state power, offering stronger protections against overreach by the government.</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 <i>In the UK, civil liberties are generally upheld in the CJS through legal safeguards, oversight mechanisms, and adherence to human rights standards, particularly under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Prisons across the UK, while not without issues such as overcrowding and inmate violence, are increasingly prioritising rehabilitation over retribution and punishment, and do their utmost to maintain basic rights, including access to legal representation, healthcare, and protection from torture or degrading treatment. In contrast, in some other countries, particularly in authoritarian regimes or nations with weak judicial oversight, it is not uncommon to see widespread civil liberties violations. In places like Russia, China, or parts of Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, people sent to prison may face inhumane conditions, those who disagree with the state may face arbitrary detention, forced labour, and severe mistreatment at all points within the CJS, with limited legal recourse. The stark contrast highlights how a nation's commitment to human rights and rule of law directly impacts the treatment of incarcerated individuals and the protection of their fundamental freedoms. While in the UK, most citizens have little to fear when it comes to their freedoms and civil liberties, this is very dissimilar to those living in China due to the country's authoritarian governance and tight control over legal processes. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) exerts significant influence over the courts, limiting judicial independence, and prioritises state interests over individual rights. Freedom of speech, assembly, and due process are written into their constitution, but are frequently curtailed, particularly in politically sensitive cases. While China's legal system includes some protections on paper, in practice, civil liberties are frequently overridden by state security concerns and political control. The high conviction rate, around 99%, suggests that trials often serve as</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>formalities rather than proper legal proceedings. Without significant reforms, China's justice system will continue to be criticised for its suppression of fundamental freedoms and human rights violations. This is very different to the UK, despite the push by some to reform the systems here.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 1 <i>In conclusion, it is clear that civil liberties are at risk in the CJS due to the expansion of police powers, restrictive anti-terror laws, and wider problems like access to legal aid and good representation in court. While measures to combat crime and terrorism are necessary, they often come at the expense of individual rights, leading to concerns over wrongful detention and too much government surveillance. Additionally, cuts to legal aid have made it harder for vulnerable individuals to defend themselves, increasing the likelihood of miscarriages of justice. The balance between security and civil liberties seems to have shifted in favour of state control, which undermines the principles of fairness and justice in the CJS and puts ordinary people's civil liberties at risk.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>Judicial safeguards and due process are essential in protecting civil liberties, ensuring that individuals receive fair treatment under the law. Courts play a critical role in upholding these rights by acting as a check on government power, interpreting laws fairly, and preventing abuses within the justice system. Broadly speaking, in the UK, civil liberties are not at risk within the CJS. Compared to some other countries where civil liberties are violated regularly, the CJS of Scotland and of England/Wales generally seem to 'get it right'. However, challenges such as legal aid cuts have significantly limited access to justice, particularly for those on a low-income, the vulnerable and minority groups, who either cannot afford or access proper legal representation. This creates an imbalance whereby some defendants have better legal representation than others, increasing the risk of wrongful convictions and miscarriages of justice. When individuals are unable to challenge evidence effectively or receive a fair trial due to inadequate legal support, the integrity of the entire CJS is compromised. Strengthening legal aid and ensuring robust judicial oversight are crucial if governments are to prevent unjust outcomes and maintain public trust in the rule of law. This is a much bigger issue elsewhere than it is in the UK, but the CJS of Scotland and of England/Wales cannot afford to be complacent in this matter.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
7.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 30 marks.</i> Credit responses that refer to: - contemporary relevance of theories of criminal behaviour including: - psychological for example, psychopathy, brain development studies, maternal deprivation, ACEs - physiological for example, warrior gene, low resting heart rate, serotonin or testosterone levels - sociological theories for example, subcultures, social learning, labelling, Neo-Marxist theory, right realism - relevant global comparator(s) <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Psychologists are interested in the minds of criminals. Why a person commits a crime depends on different factors, and no two criminals are the same when it comes to what leads them down a path of deviance. Psychological theories of crime focus on a person's personality, thinking patterns, and their brain development. Exploring early childhood experiences and how this influences brain development and their likelihood of committing crimes has grown in importance and there has also been more focus on understanding neurodiversity and conditions like ADHD. Estimates suggest around 40% of people in the criminal justice system may have ADHD and other similar developmental disorders. A study found when people took their ADHD medication they were 32-41% less likely to be convicted of a crime than when they were off medication for a period of six months or more.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>Someone who has experienced ACEs is more likely to go on to commit crime later in life and is also more likely to be a victim of crime, this is especially true if the person has experienced four or more ACEs, who are 20 times more likely to have been in prison at some point in their life. This therefore shows the clear and strong link between ACEs and criminality. There are many interconnected and complex reasons as to why this link occurs. ACEs are brought on by external sociological factors but are inherently psychological in nature, as they impact heavily upon a child's cognitive development, affecting a child's sense of right and wrong, normalising crime for them, and increasing their likelihood of participating in risk taking behaviour. All of which link and point to offending in the future. In addition to this, ACEs are linked to a number of other factors which can increase offending behaviour, such as mental health issues or substance abuse. Kam Bhui, a professor at Oxford, supports the importance of ACEs by saying 'Adverse experiences can have a significant impact on children's lives, and even reduce life expectancy by up to 20 years, causing social, emotional and cognitive impairment, risk behaviour, disability, social exclusion and poor health.' This therefore makes clear how factors such as ACEs are important in explaining criminal behaviour and are especially significant because they explain the cycle of crime. As a result, crime can easily become an intergenerational experience. Children with</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>higher numbers of ACEs tend to have suffered attachment difficulties, another recognised criminogenic risk factor. However, there are some people who experience many ACEs in their life and who do not go on to commit crime. Equally, many who have never faced childhood adversity such as abuse or neglect can go on to commit some truly terrible crimes. An explanation for this could be the presence of protective factors or buffers which stop ACEs from affecting someone's life in the same way. The presence of just one supportive adult in a child's life can be a protective factor. Overall, while we could view ACEs as a sociological factor, they are also psychological in nature and clearly lead to offending. This shows that psychological theories continue to have contemporary relevance, even though most would now argue that sociological theory is more important. However, the existence of people with ACEs who have never committed crime points to the fact that there must be other factors at play that contribute to criminality, such as parenting, which is very much sociological in nature rather than psychological.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 <i>In recent years there has also been a focus on the impact of traumatic brain injury. A study from the University of Glasgow found that 80% of inmates had suffered a significant head injury in the past, with many having experienced more than one head injury. They found that young offenders affected by significant head injury had poorer behaviour control. Similar research in America found that 60% of incarcerated people had experienced a traumatic brain injury. This clearly reveals the link between physical injury and crime, and points to psychological factors as remaining relevant as a cause of crime, considering that brain injuries could heavily influence someone's mind and behaviour.</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 <i>Evidence from a recent Welsh study on ACEs showed that those with four or more ACEs are 15 times more likely to be a perpetrator of crime in the last year and 20 times more likely to be imprisoned in their lifetime, as compared to those with fewer, or no, ACEs. Therefore, this highlights that ACEs have a significant sociological and psychological impact on children with long lasting effects on their health and well-being, making them more likely to commit crime. This is also seen in the US, with the California ACEs study examining 17,000 adult participants and finding that those with ACEs have higher levels of delinquency, antisocial behaviour and violence compared to those with no ACEs. So, it's clear that a similar situation in terms of the link between ACEs and the risk of crime is found in the US with ACEs having comparable impacts in adulthood and increasing their likelihood of crime. Other US studies have found that children who have a loving relationship with their father are 80% less likely to be involved with crime. This highlights the importance of love and nurture alongside rules and regulations when it comes to parenting, and the balancing of these aspects is essential in ensuring a child is much less likely to engage in</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>criminal behaviour. This clearly demonstrates the continued relevance of both psychological and sociological theories of crime in the modern era.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 1 <i>Psychological theories of crime continue to hold relevance in the modern era, and arguably more so now than they were perhaps seen to have been a few decades ago. Increasingly, researchers believe that the processes of the brain, brain injury and the impact of ACEs on brain development are important in understanding why people behave the way that they do. In 2012 alone over 250 judicial opinions cited defendants arguing in some form or another that their 'brains made them do it' according to research by Duke University and that number has climbed to around 420 each year. This shows that psychological theory has contemporary relevance, though it should be recognised that poor parenting, poverty and peer pressure, all sociological factors, play a big role too.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>Some psychologists suggest that an individual's personality is controlled by unconscious mental processes that are grounded in early childhood. The ego mediates between the id's desire for instant gratification and the strict morality of the superego. When a crime is committed, advocates of psychodynamic theory would suggest that an individual committed a crime because he or she has an underdeveloped superego, meaning nothing is stopping them from making bad decisions. While media coverage of crime would perhaps support this idea, that those committing crime have no sense of right and wrong and a lack of empathy towards their victims, this psychological theory is impossible to test. In reality, most people in the modern era would suggest that theories like this are limited in their contemporary relevance, as compared to the more obvious sociological causes of criminality. Even though psychology may help us understand why some criminals behave the way that they do, they cannot be used in isolation of sociological theories. This is because sociological factors are intersectional across all the theories and, so, sociological theories have arguably more contemporary relevance in explaining criminal behaviour. That said, the explanations are still not straightforward; they are complex, multifactorial and interactional and the impacts of each factor discussed above can be mitigated.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
8.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 30 marks</i>. Credit responses that refer to: - contemporary relevance of theories of punishment, including rehabilitation, retributivism, deterrence, incapacitation and denunciation - definitions and key features - theorists including Beccaria, Bentham, Durkheim, Hobbes, Marx, Foucault, Von Hirsch, Garland - modern relevance and contemporary examples of punitive approaches - criticisms of punitive theories and approaches - relevant global comparator(s) <i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Deterrence theory is to do with trying to dissuade people from committing crime – either in the first place, or as a reoffender. There are two kinds of deterrence, one being general deterrence in which punishments prevent the general public and society as a whole from offending by making an example of criminals. For example, the death penalty is used as general deterrence in some countries, where people fear being killed for committing crime, and in many countries you can expect to be sent to prison for breaking the law. General deterrence could be seen to be effective and relevant today, as a majority of people do not commit crime. Although arguably the reason for people not offending often comes from their own sense of morality rather than because of deterrence theory. Specific deterrence is about preventing the individual perpetrator from reoffending in the future. An example of this would be punishments given out to drunk drivers which would likely prevent them from reoffending.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>Deterrence is a hugely important function of punishment. In order for it to work, however, it has to meet the criteria of severity, certainty, and celerity, and it could be argued that in the UK today these simply are not met – the justice system is too soft. This could suggest that deterrence theory is marginally less important as a function of punishment, and that the general public would prefer more of a focus on either incapacitation or retributivism. In terms of severity, the punishment needs to be harsh enough to properly deter a criminal. Certainty is about ensuring that every criminal gets caught and receives a punishment, and celerity is about how swiftly and quickly that punishment is given. The reality is that these criteria are generally not being met in the UK today, and thus people are not being truly deterred from committing crime. Additionally, in the case of the most serious crimes and violent offences, these are often crimes of passion and, therefore, criminals are not thinking about the consequences of their actions and cannot be deterred by the possibility of punishment. Bentham believed that all punishment is unjustified if it goes farther than what is necessary to deter people from committing crime. Overall, deterrence as a theory of punishment is not effective and not the most important function of punishment in the UK and elsewhere around the</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>world. Instead, theories such as rehabilitation have superseded deterrence in relevance and are much more effective as a function of punishment.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 <i>In terms of severity, the punishment needs to be harsh enough to properly deter a criminal, but compared to countries like the US, where back to back life sentences and the death penalty are an option in some states, the UK does not hand out very harsh punishments – the average life sentence is 25 years, very few prisoners serve anywhere near as long as this, with 43% of offenders on short sentences, and only 249 individuals in Scotland are currently subject to an Order of Lifelong Restriction (OLR).</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 <i>The theory of rehabilitation is based on the sentiment that the punishment should fit the criminal and not the crime. That the punishment should be focused on addressing the root causes of crime for the specific offender, as a result this will lead to less crime rather than just hoping that harsh punishments will deter would-be offenders. This could take the form of therapy, drug treatment and helping the criminal to reintegrate into society or form closer social bonds with those around them, which is especially important, as almost all prisoners will leave prison and re-enter society. Rehabilitation as a theory of punishment serves an extremely important function and it has proven to be very effective in countries such as Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands which all have criminal justice systems heavily focussed on rehabilitation. For example, a study on global criminal recidivism rates found that in 2018/19 the 2-year reconviction rate in Norway was 17.6% as opposed to 43.8% in Scotland and 38.9% in England and Wales. This would suggest that rehabilitation as a function is more effective, than the UK approach that remains focused more heavily on incapacitation and deterrence. Additionally, in some states in the US, the death penalty is used alongside imprisonment to incapacitate. This has proven to be ineffective at deterring people from committing crime. Notably, states with the death penalty have a higher incidence of violence and murder than states without the death penalty in the US – the homicide rates in US states with the death penalty have been 48-107% higher than in states without the death penalty. This suggests that the death penalty is not effective at deterring crime. This is most likely because it does not meet the deterrent criteria of celerity and certainty, with offenders sitting on death row for a very long time, and because crimes that land offenders on death row are often crimes of passion, rather than need/want.</i> 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.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Conclusions Response 1 <i>In conclusion, deterrence is still somewhat important; however, it is not that most important function of punishment, instead incapacitation is. This is because although deterrence is a built-in feature of the criminal justice system, as most of the general public will avoid crime due to the consequences/punishment for criminal behaviour, deterrence is not always effective. It is usually only a minor part of sentencing, as other theories of punishment play a bigger role currently, mainly incapacitation. Incapacitation, especially within prisons, is seen to be an acceptable function of punishment but retribution, deterrence and rehabilitation all play key roles too. Rehabilitation may eventually become the most important, but it is not currently and, therefore, incapacitation is the most relevant.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>The public want to see criminals being punished harshly, because they believe this is the best form of justice and the only way to deter people from offending in the first place, or subsequently. There is a clear lack of understanding at how this will lead to reoffending. While having a strong justice system and a system of punishments is important for every society and clearly does serve to stop most people from offending, it is not working on its own, as evidenced by both the crime rate in general and high reoffending rates. The British public, fuelled by the media, demonstrate a thirst for vengeance, justice and retribution rather than just deterrence. Indeed, the public punish criminals even after they have completed their prison sentences and paid for their crimes, continuing to stigmatise former offenders. Fergus McNeill, Professor of Criminology at the University of Glasgow, highlights this and states that legally de-labelling people (for example removing their criminal records) is a necessary step in rehabilitation so that they can truly re-enter society without facing additional consequences from the public. Ultimately, rehabilitation is the most important function of punishment, rather than deterrence, when it comes to reducing and preventing future crime. It is especially relevant in many parts of the world and is becoming increasingly more so in the UK. Though Scotland and England/Wales continue to focus more so on incapacitation, in recent years rehabilitation has been increasingly seen to be the way to support offenders such that they can break their cycle of crime.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
9.			15	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 15 marks.</i> Credit responses that refer to: Unstructured interviews Benefits: • unstructured interviews allow free-ranging questions to be asked, producing highly valid, qualitative data • interviewers can build up rapport with participants making them feel at ease when discussing sensitive topics • the lack of pre-set questions means the interviewer can further explore points raised • participants can ask for clarification on any points • no internet access or literacy skills required for respondent Limitations: • unstructured interviews are difficult to replicate and are therefore unable to make generalisations or comparisons about the wider population – this makes them less reliable • carrying out and transcribing interviews is time-consuming and therefore it is difficult to carry out many interviews • the time-consuming nature makes it costly to the researcher • there is no anonymity in interviews which can lead to a reluctance to discuss sensitive issues • there may be interview bias and the interviewer may manipulate the interview by asking leading questions Surveys Benefits: • surveys may be postal, telephone or online, each of which has inherent benefits and drawbacks • surveys collect reliable data as they can be easily repeated • surveys allow for quantitative data to be easily obtained which is good for measuring social trends • surveys allow for information to be obtained quickly often covering a wide geographical area • participants can often take a survey at a place and time that is convenient to them which can increase response rate • the researcher is unlikely to be present which allows for more objective responses from participant • most surveys can be anonymous allowing for more honest answers about sensitive issues Limitations: • surveys, especially if using closed questions, do not allow for explanation or further comment on points raised • this lack of explanation of the reasons why something may occur reduces validity • participants may not understand all questions and there is a lack of ability to ask for clarification • surveys, especially postal surveys, can have low response rates • participants may not answer honestly

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Ethical issues including: • consent • privacy • harm • deception <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by prison officers as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data.</i> This example contains analysis of a relevant issue. Response 2 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by prison officers as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, on a recent class visit to HMP Edinburgh, we asked the prison officers that showed us around a number of questions specifically about drug misuse amongst prison staff and they acknowledged that this was a problem.</i> This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence. Response 3 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by prison officers as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, on a recent class visit to HMP Edinburgh, we asked the prison officers that showed us around a number of questions specifically about drug misuse amongst prison staff and they acknowledged that this was a problem. This shows that an unstructured interview was a suitable method for finding out the reasons why prison officers may misuse drugs as rapport developed between us and the interviewees. The unstructured, conversational nature allowed qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons why prison officers may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees explained that the stresses of the job mean they may turn to taking drugs. However, the unstructured nature makes it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if incidences of prison officers misusing drugs had increased or decreased. Furthermore, the interviewer could ask leading questions which could potentially skew the results.</i> This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario. Response 4 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by prison officers as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, on a recent class visit to HMP Edinburgh, we asked the prison officers that showed us around a number of questions specifically about drug misuse amongst prison staff</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>and they acknowledged that this was a problem. This shows that an unstructured interview was a suitable method for finding out the reasons why prison officers may misuse drugs as rapport developed between us and the interviewees. The unstructured, conversational nature allowed qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons why prison officers may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees explained that the stresses of the job mean they may turn to taking drugs. However, the unstructured nature makes it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if incidences of prison officers misusing drugs had increased or decreased. Furthermore, the interviewer could ask leading questions which could potentially skew the results.</i> <i>Surveys could be another useful way of researching drug misuse by prison officers. If the survey was anonymous, the participants would be more likely to be honest – this would be useful for a subject such as drug misuse as prison officers may not want to openly admit to taking illegal drugs. Surveys usually use closed questions and therefore produce quantitative, reliable data. This would be useful for explaining trends in drug misuse amongst prison officers, however, it wouldn't explore the reasons why prison officers may take drugs and therefore the data produced would be less valid.</i> This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method. Response 5 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse by prison officers as the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, on a recent class visit to HMP Edinburgh, we asked the prison officers that showed us around a number of questions specifically about drug misuse amongst prison staff and they acknowledged that this was a problem. This shows that an unstructured interview was a suitable method for finding out the reasons why prison officers may misuse drugs as rapport developed between us and the interviewees. The unstructured, conversational nature allowed qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons why prison officers may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees explained that the stresses of the job mean they may turn to taking drugs. However, the unstructured nature makes it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if incidences of prison officers misusing drugs had increased or decreased. Furthermore, the interviewer could ask leading questions which could potentially skew the results.</i> <i>Surveys could be another useful way of researching drug misuse by prison officers. If the survey was anonymous, the participants would be more likely to be honest – this would be useful for a subject such as drug misuse as prison officers may not want to openly admit to taking illegal drugs. Surveys usually use closed questions and therefore produce quantitative, reliable data. This would be useful for explaining trends in drug misuse amongst prison officers, however, it wouldn't explore the reasons why prison officers may take drugs and therefore the data produced would be less valid. If anonymity has been promised, the</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>researcher must ensure there is nothing that is personally identifiable in the published research. They must also ensure that informed consent is given which means that the interviewee is fully informed about the purpose of the research and has freely chosen to participate in it.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 6 <i>Unstructured interviews are more effective than surveys for gathering data on drug misuse by prison officers. This is because the prison officers can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may misuse drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data.</i> This concluding remark summarises key points – 1 mark. Response 7 <i>Unstructured interviews are more effective than surveys for gathering data on drug misuse by prison officers. This is because the prison officers can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may misuse drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data. Interviews also allow the subject to ask for any clarification of questions. Furthermore, unstructured interviews allow the interviewer the freedom to develop certain interesting points raised which can lead to meaningful and innovative research.</i> This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons – 2 marks. Response 8 <i>Unstructured interviews are more effective than surveys for gathering data on drug misuse by prison officers. This is because the prison officers can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may misuse drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data. Interviews also allow the subject to ask for any clarification of questions. Furthermore, unstructured interviews allow the interviewer the freedom to develop certain interesting points raised which can lead to meaningful and innovative research.</i> <i>Although most surveys can be quickly and easily distributed to a large number of recipients – and therefore keep costs to the researcher low – the lack of qualitative, valid data produced means this is not the preferred method – especially for a potentially sensitive issue such as drug misuse.</i> This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method – 3 marks.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
10.			15	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 15 marks.</i> Credit responses that refer to: Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable: • The Times is a high-quality broadsheet newspaper which will almost certainly contain factually correct information. Editors will review content before publication • the name and job title of Paul Morgan-Bentley is given. As Head of Investigations, it can be presumed that he is very experienced in investigative journalism • the date is clearly given and 2024 is only a few years old making this source highly valid • the full web link of the articles used are provided meaning the reader could check the full articles • covert participant observation means that the prison staff were not aware they were communicating with a journalist. This means a lack of Hawthorne Effect – when a subject changes behaviour when they know they are being researched • the covert participant observation lasted eight days which would have allowed for many findings to be gathered • the graph uses data from reputable sources – The Times, The Sunday Times and HMP Prison and Probation Service • the graph contains a lot of information and shows figures from every two years during a set period making the findings reliable as they are repeated • whilst there may be ethical concerns around this investigation, it could be argued that the findings are in the public interest and resulted in a government investigation Arguments that the source’s validity and/or reliability are questionable: • while The Times is a quality broadsheet, it is not politically neutral and is considered centre-right leaning. This means it could generally be in favour of Conservative rather than Labour policies • the author’s name is published but there is no way to contact him directly such as an email address or social media handle – this makes it harder to check their credentials • while the author’s names is given, it is unclear whether he was the undercover reporter that carried out the covert observation • the date, while recent, focuses on the previous Conservative government. There has since been a general election and so the article may not be relevant any longer, for example Alex Chalk is no longer justice secretary • the covert participant observation methods of the reporter pretending to be a prison worker raises many ethical concerns. Notably, that the findings were gathered from deception. There is also a lack of consent given. These make the findings ethically unsound • covert participant observation does not produce reliable data as it would be extremely hard to repeat the research • as the covert participant observation was carried out by only one journalist, there is a risk of subjectivity and bias • the graph could be a little confusing to read and contains no specific figures of prison officers, only percentages • the source states ‘Adapted from. . .’ and gives two web links – this makes the source less trustworthy as it is unclear what has been added

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				to or left out of the source and which of the two web links content has come from the fact that The Times operates a paywall means the original source is not freely available to the public and they would have to pay to access it <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Source B has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published.</i> This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source. Response 2 <i>Source B has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that covert participant observation was used means that prison staff at HMP Bedford were not aware they were working alongside an undercover journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when subjects change their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that prison staff were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity.</i> This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source. Response 3 <i>Source B has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that covert participant observation was used means that prison staff at HMP Bedford were not aware they were working alongside an undercover journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when subjects change their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that prison staff were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity. However, the covert nature of the investigation means there are ethical concerns. The journalist did not disclose their occupation when applying for a job at HMP Bedford. This means that the source's findings are based on deception and that prison staff did not give consent to findings being published. These are cornerstone principles of ethical research and the lack of them reduces the trustworthiness of the source.</i> This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research. Response 4 <i>Source B has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that covert participant observation was used means that prison staff at HMP Bedford were not aware they were working alongside an undercover journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when subjects change their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that prison staff were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity. However, the covert nature of the investigation means there are ethical concerns. The journalist did not disclose their occupation when applying for a job at HMP Bedford. This means that the source's findings are based on deception and that prison staff did not give consent to findings being published. These are cornerstone principles of ethical research and the lack of them reduces the trustworthiness of the source.</i> <i>Source B is adapted from two news articles and although the web links are given to access the full articles, they are behind a paywall. If the paywall was removed, it would increase the trustworthiness of the source as the reader would be able to freely access the full articles and work out if anything was missing from, or had been added to, Source B.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 5 <i>Overall, Source B is not trustworthy as The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and covert participant observation does not produce reliable findings as it could not easily be repeated.</i> This example contains a simple summary of key points – 1 mark. Response 6 <i>Despite the source being written by 'Head of Investigations' and published by a quality broadsheet newspaper, Source B is trustworthy to a small extent. It is not clear if Paul Morgan-Bentley was the undercover reporter in the investigation or not. Also, The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and may therefore be biased on centre-right issues. The covert participant observation does not produce reliable findings as it could not be easily repeated.</i> This example contains a clear overall judgement about the extent of the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence – 2 marks. Response 7 <i>Despite the source being written by 'Head of Investigations' which implies an experienced journalist author, and published by a quality broadsheet newspaper, Source B is trustworthy to a small extent. It is not clear if Paul Morgan-Bentley was the undercover reporter in the investigation or not. Also, The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and may therefore be biased on centre-right issues. The covert participant observation does not produce reliable findings as it could not be easily repeated. Furthermore, the findings of the investigation were gathered through deception making the results unethical and thus reducing the trustworthiness of the source.</i> This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation – 3 marks.

Section 3 –Social inequality and research methods

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
11.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to a maximum of 30 marks. Credit responses that refer to: • definitions and key theories • theorists including Durkheim, Marx, Spencer, Parsons and/or Merton • modern relevance and contemporary examples • criticism of theories • relevant global comparator(s) Award credit for any other relevant points. Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Functionalism best explains social inequality today because it looks at society as a system where all parts work together to maintain stability. Social inequality exists because it is necessary for society to function. Functionalists argue that different roles in society require different skills and talents, so inequality is inevitable. For example, software developers are paid more than cleaners because their jobs are more important and require higher levels of education. Functionalists would also argue that the system motivates people to work harder as this can equate to greater rewards such as higher pay and a more desirable place to live. Without some inequality, Functionalists argue there would be no desire for many people to work hard. For instance, someone from a poor background can become rich if they work hard enough.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>Functionalism, rooted in the works of Talcott Parsons and Herbert Spencer, puts forth the argument that social inequality is an inherent and necessary component of a well-functioning society. Parsons argued that stratification exists to reward individuals based on their skills and contributions, ensuring that the most capable people fill essential roles. This meritocratic perspective implies that inequality reflects societal needs and fosters a sense of order and cohesion, necessary in any society today. Herbert Spencer's concept of 'survival of the fittest' adds a biological dimension to functionalism, suggesting that inequality stems from natural differences in ability and ambition. Some suggest this perspective aligns with modern capitalist economies, where income disparities reward innovation and hard work. In the UK, for instance, disparities in income levels are often justified as incentivising effort and excellence. The median full-time weekly earnings in Scotland in 2023 stood at £650, reflecting a significant divide compared to the UK-wide figure of £622, highlighting regional economic disparities as a reflection of differential economic contributions. Critics, however, argue that this perspective overlooks systemic barriers and entrenched privileges. Functionalism assumes a level playing field, ignoring inequalities in access to education and opportunity. For example, in Scotland, children from the most deprived areas are three times less likely to attend university</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				compared to those from affluent areas, undermining the idea of pure meritocracy. In contrast, individualism offers a more compelling explanation for social inequality in the 21st century. This perspective focuses on personal choices and behaviours, often blaming individuals for their circumstances. For example, the persistent gender pay gap in the UK, with women earning on average 14.9% less than men in 2022, is attributed by some as down to personal career choices rather than structural biases. Similarly, the UK's punitive approach to welfare, exemplified by the 'bedroom tax' and Universal Credit sanctions, reflects individualist ideologies, punishing those in poverty rather than addressing systemic inequalities. Thus, while the work of functionalists such as Parsons and Spencer were important in understanding social inequality in the mid-twentieth century, individualism better explains social inequality today because individualism has driven conservative policy decisions made by successive UK governments in recent years. This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 Functionalism argues that social inequality exists because it serves an important function in society. It claims that inequality is necessary to motivate people to work hard and achieve rewards. In Scotland and the UK, social inequality can be seen in differences in income, education, and health. For example, the median income in Scotland in 2023 was £650 per week, but many people in lower-paid jobs earn far less, and this is supposed to motivate people to work harder to achieve higher-paying roles. Functionalists might argue this system rewards effort and skills. However, comparing this to Finland, we see that their system is much more equal. Finland has a progressive taxation system and provides free higher education to all, which helps reduce inequality. In the UK, university tuition fees can reach up to £9,250 per year, making it harder for people from poorer backgrounds to access higher education. This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 Functionalism, as advanced by Emile Durkheim and Talcott Parsons, provides a framework for understanding social inequality as a necessary feature of a stable and functional society. Durkheim emphasised the importance of societal structures in maintaining order, arguing that inequality reflects the division of labour. This perspective is evident in contemporary Scotland, where disparities in income and opportunity are often linked to differing societal roles. For instance, in 2023, the median annual full-time income in Scotland was £33,000, but workers in sectors deemed essential, such as health and social care, often earned below this average, reflecting the functional necessity of stratification. Parsons extended Durkheim's ideas, suggesting that inequality is meritocratic, rewarding those who contribute most to societal needs. This is evident in Scotland's education system, where higher education is seemingly accessible to all through free tuition. However, only 27% of students from Scotland's most deprived areas entered higher education in 2022, compared

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				to 60% from the most affluent areas, illustrating the stratified nature of opportunity and outcomes. Comparatively, functionalism is also evident when explaining social inequality in India today. Durkheim's division of labour is starkly evident in India's stratified workforce. For example, members of historically marginalised castes are disproportionately represented in low-wage manual labour, a structural arrangement that supports the broader economic system. In 2021, over 90% of India's informal labour force earned less than the minimum wage, proving that there are systemic disparities evident throughout Indian society. Parsons' meritocratic principles are less visible in India due to entrenched social norms. Educational disparities illustrate this gap: while literacy rates have risen, only 25% of rural women were reported to be literate in 2020, compared to over 80% of urban men, reflecting societal barriers that challenge the idea of a universal meritocracy. Thus, functionalism does help to explain social inequality in both Scotland and India today but only to an extent. Clearly, India's urban-rural divide and social norms, that have always favoured men, have contributed to disparities in access and opportunity to a much greater extent in comparison to Scotland, questioning the extent to which stratification is genuinely merit-based. 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. Conclusions Response 1 <i>In conclusion, functionalism argues that social stratification is necessary for maintaining stability and rewarding individual contributions, as seen in both Scotland and India. However, evidence such as income disparity in Scotland and caste-based labour divisions in India shows that inequalities are not purely based on merit or functional necessity but have always been a part of India's culture especially. For instance, the unequal access to education in both countries, as well as the persistence of caste-based discrimination in India, highlights the limitations of functionalist theory in addressing these issues. Therefore, while functionalism contributes to understanding inequality, there are many other factors that play a greater role. Gender and racial discrimination better explain social inequality today in both Scotland and India in comparison to functionalism.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>In conclusion, while functionalism offers a compelling explanation for social inequality by emphasising the necessity of stratification for societal stability and cohesion, it fails to fully account for the complexities of inequality today. Durkheim's notion of the division of labour and Parsons' concept of meritocracy illustrate how inequality can serve functional purposes within society, such as motivating individuals to fill essential roles and ensuring the smooth operation of the economy. This framework can be observed in both Scotland and India, where income disparities and educational inequalities often align with societal roles, reinforcing the notion that inequality exists to fulfil societal needs. In Scotland, for example, varying access to higher education and regional income</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>differences demonstrate how societal structures contribute to inequality, while in India, the caste system and rural-urban divides further illustrate functionalism's relevance. However, some argue that functionalism has little relevance today because structural barriers exist that limit access to opportunities for marginalised groups. The evidence from both countries, such as Scotland's educational gap based on socioeconomic background and India's entrenched caste-based discrimination, reveal the limits of functionalism in explaining social mobility and the lack of equal opportunities for all individuals. These factors suggest that inequality is not always a product of merit or societal need but is often perpetuated by systemic barriers and social structures. Ultimately, while functionalism provides useful insights into the functional role of inequality in society, it does not fully account for the extent to which social, economic, and cultural factors perpetuate inequality. Therefore, a more balanced explanation, that considers functionalism but also individualism and Marxism, better explains social inequality today.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
12.		30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 30 marks.</i> Credit responses that refer to: • postcode poverty • short-term and long-term impacts on communities • access to services • labelling and stereotyping • businesses and local consumption • local demand and local employment • relevant global comparator(s) <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Social inequality can be noticed best when you look at local areas. In Scotland, Glasgow has many examples of this where people in some postcodes do much better than others. Bearsden is a wealthy postcode area near Glasgow which has nicer housing, higher average incomes, and where people often live longer. On the other hand, places like Paisley and Govan have more problems. In Paisley, some areas have higher unemployment and lower wages while Govan also has health problems and lower life expectancy. This shows that the impact of social inequality can be seen by comparing two places that are not far apart. For example, in Bearsden, some houses sell for over £400,000 and more people go to university. Meanwhile, in Govan, average house prices are often under £100,000. Schools in more deprived postcodes may have fewer resources, and pupils can have lower exam results. Local shops and services can also be affected by local income levels. Some shops in poorer areas might struggle, while in Bearsden you might see more high-end shops. In 2021, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation showed Govan was in a high deprivation category, while Bearsden ranked among the least deprived.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>The impact of social inequality is often most visible at the local level, where disparities in income, education, and housing concentrate within specific communities. Dundee, for example, consistently appears among the most deprived local authority areas in Scotland, with a child poverty rate of around 25% in some wards according to End Child Poverty Coalition figures. Here, the effects of social inequality manifest in overcrowded housing, fewer employment opportunities, and limited access to high-quality schooling. In the short term, these conditions can lead to higher crime rates, poorer health outcomes, and a diminished sense of community cohesion. Over time, families living in deprived areas may find it increasingly difficult to break out of the poverty cycle, as reduced educational attainment feeds into a lack of well-paying job opportunities, perpetuating structural disadvantage across generations. By contrast, wealthier postcodes in Edinburgh, such as Morningside or Stockbridge, show significantly lower child poverty levels (less than 10% in some cases) and benefit from well-funded schools, green spaces, and a robust cultural infrastructure. This creates an environment of greater social mobility,</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				where access to quality resources and networks foster academic and professional success. The stark contrast between these Edinburgh postcodes and Dundee highlights how social inequality can be sharply drawn at the local level, often only a few miles apart, yet worlds away in terms of prospects and life chances. Labelling and stereotyping further entrench these inequalities. Communities in Dundee's more deprived areas are frequently stigmatised as 'problem' neighbourhoods, which can discourage investment and perpetuate negative perceptions. Children growing up in these settings often internalise low expectations, while employers may overlook candidates from certain postcodes due to stereotyping and bias. Eventually, such stereotyping exacerbates social exclusion, hampering efforts to improve residents' life chances. Conversely, affluent areas benefit from reputational advantages, attracting further investment, higher property values, and access to desirable school catchments. Thus, the local context not only reveals how social inequality operates but also underpins how labelling and stereotyping reinforce the cycle of advantage and disadvantage, shaping both immediate prospects and the long-term outcomes of individuals and communities. This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 <i>The impact of social inequality is most obvious when you look at local areas. In Glasgow, there are clear differences in things like employment and the demand for services depending on which ward you visit. For example, data from 2022 shows that in some of Glasgow's poorer neighbourhoods, unemployment can be as high as 10%, while in the more affluent areas of the city, it is only around 3%. Because of these higher unemployment levels, there is greater demand for social housing and food banks in certain parts of Glasgow. Local charities report an increase in the number of people seeking help, showing that inequality affects everyday life at the community level. By comparison, Oslo in Norway also has some local inequality, but the scale is often smaller. In 2022, Oslo's overall unemployment rate was around 3.5%, although some districts had a slightly higher rate of about 5%. However, the difference between these areas tends not to be as severe as in Glasgow. Oslo's local authorities provide more social support, which reduces the gap in living standards, so the local demand for emergency services is lower compared to Glasgow.</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 <i>The impact of social inequality is often most visible at the local level, where differences in income, education, and employment opportunities can significantly shape day-to-day life. In Scotland, Wester Hailes in the southwest of Edinburgh highlights how concentrated deprivation has tangible effects on a community. According to local council data from 2022, unemployment rates in Wester Hailes stood at around 14%, compared to Edinburgh's overall unemployment rate of approximately 3.5%. This discrepancy places pressure on local services, reduces consumer spending power, and leads to a decreased variety of businesses operating in the area. Shops struggle to remain open due to lower demand, and local consumption</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>statistics reveal that the average household spends nearly 25% less on goods and services than the city average. Moreover, the limited presence of higher-paying jobs in Wester Hailes limits upward social mobility, perpetuating cycles of inequality for families who may lack the resources to access further education or training. In stark contrast, parts of Brussels – often referred to as one of the wealthiest hubs in Europe – demonstrate how local affluence can foster a flourishing economic ecosystem. While Belgium’s national unemployment rate fluctuates around 6%, the most prosperous parts of Brussels record rates as low as 3%, reflecting the concentration of EU institutions and multinational businesses in the area. With an influx of higher-paid international workers, local demand for goods and services in Brussels is strong, driving up consumption and supporting a diverse range of shops, restaurants, and cultural activities. This buoyant local economy reinforces a positive feedback loop of continued investment, as businesses and individuals benefit from each other’s spending power. The difference in average household income can be stark: residents in affluent Brussels municipalities may earn up to 40% more than the Belgian average, illustrating how localised wealth can magnify inequality on a broader scale. By comparing Wester Hailes in Scotland to Brussels in Belgium, it becomes evident that the impact of social inequality affects the types of jobs locally and consumer spending, among other variables. This suggests that levels of inequality, whether high or low, profoundly impact economic conditions at the local level.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 1 <i>In conclusion, it is evident that the impact of social inequality can be observed at the local level, where everyday conditions shape people’s quality of life. In Glasgow, the gap in life expectancy between the city’s most deprived and wealthiest neighbourhoods can be as large as twelve years, reflecting entrenched socioeconomic divisions. Similarly, Oslo experiences a stark contrast between affluent districts and lower-income immigrant areas, where access to education and employment opportunities can vary widely. In Brussels, the unemployment rate in some central districts is nearly double that of more prosperous suburbs, underscoring how inequality clusters in specific localities. While national policies and global economic forces influence these disparities, it is at the local level that their effects become most visible and immediate. Nevertheless, some argue that broader international inequalities may outweigh local differences, indicating that the local level is not always the clearest measure for examining social inequality today.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>In conclusion, the impact of social inequality is undeniably visible at the local level, exemplified by urban disparities in cities such as Dundee, Oslo, and Brussels. For instance, in Dundee, over 30% of children are living in poverty, illustrating how socio-economic inequalities can be concentrated</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>and deeply felt within a community. Similarly, Oslo, despite Norway's reputation for high living standards, has experienced rising housing costs and a 5% unemployment rate in certain districts, demonstrating pockets of disadvantage within an otherwise affluent environment. In Brussels, home to the EU institutions, an estimated 25% of residents live below the poverty line, highlighting the stark contrast between wealthy administrative quarters and marginalised neighbourhoods. These examples underscore that local level disparities are concentrated and do shape residents' everyday experiences. However, social inequality is not always most visible at the local level. Inequalities at the national level are more easily observed because they receive greater media coverage, influencing public debate and policy decisions. Ultimately, while localised indicators of social inequality can expose significant divisions, national level data and political attention often reveal even broader systemic imbalances that require holistic, countrywide approaches to be effective. Addressing these disparities at every level is essential for achieving greater equality not just in Scotland but in European nations as well.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
13.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 30 marks.</i> Credit responses that refer to: Effectiveness of • welfare and healthcare provision • education and housing provision • social security and employment strategies • legislative approaches and economic policy • relevant global comparator(s) <i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>In recent years, the UK Government has introduced welfare reforms that they said would reduce inequality, but many people still think they've failed. For example, the introduction of Universal Credit was meant to simplify the benefits system and encourage more people to find work, yet it has been criticised for making some claimants worse off. Evidence from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation suggests that the number of people living in poverty has increased in the last decade, partly due to issues like the five-week wait for Universal Credit payments. Meanwhile, the poverty rate in the UK remains high at around 22%, which is one reason people think welfare isn't working as it should. The Government also introduced measures like the benefit cap and bedroom tax, but these policies have often been seen as punishing people who are already struggling, rather than helping them. In addition, food bank use has gone up significantly since the reforms, which many campaigners blame on benefit sanctions and low levels of payments.</i> This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation. Response 2 <i>Although successive UK governments have attempted to address inequality through a range of legislative and economic strategies, critics maintain that these measures have largely failed to bridge the widening gap between rich and poor. Under Rishi Sunak's Conservative Government, legislative initiatives such as the extension of the National Insurance threshold and adjustments to the Universal Credit taper rate have been seen as steps to help low-income earners. However, these reforms have not fully compensated for rising living costs, stagnating wages, and cuts to public services. Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) indicates that the UK's Gini coefficient remains high at 0.35, suggesting persistent inequality. Meanwhile, Keir Starmer's Labour Government, upon taking office, promised a more progressive tax regime and a commitment to supporting working families through expanded childcare subsidies and a proposed living wage increase. Despite these ambitions, critics argue that the fundamental issues, such as a housing crisis fuelled by insufficient social housing construction and chronic underinvestment in regional economies, have not been adequately resolved. For example, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation reports that around 22% of the population remains below the poverty line, reflecting considerable structural issues that small policy changes alone cannot address. Economic policy debates have</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>revolved around whether austerity measures championed by the Conservatives have deepened hardship in lower income communities, particularly those reliant on public services. While Labour has pledged to reverse some cuts, it has also faced criticism for failing to present a clear alternative that can rectify decades of wealth concentration among the elite. Therefore, many argue that these legislative approaches and economic policies, despite lofty promises from both Conservative and Labour governments, have not effectively narrowed the ever-widening divide between the wealthiest and the most vulnerable members of society, indicating that the government has ultimately failed in reducing inequality.</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporar supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. Comparison Response 1 <i>The government in Scotland tries to reduce health inequalities through the NHS, but some groups face major health issues, especially in deprived areas like Glasgow, where life expectancy is significantly lower than the national average. Even though prescriptions are free, people still struggle to access specialist care if they live in remote locations. For example, average waiting times for certain procedures have gone over the government’s target, which indicates the system is failing to keep health inequality in check. Meanwhile, in the United States, healthcare is mostly private, and many individuals have to rely on health insurance provided by employers or the government programme Medicaid if they are on a low income, but that still leaves millions of people without adequate coverage. According to a 2021 study, about 31 million Americans do not have any health insurance, which can lead to serious disparities in access and outcomes. Scotland might claim to have a more equitable system, but it still has not solved significant health issues like obesity and alcohol misuse, which are higher in deprived parts of the country, suggesting the government approach is falling short. In comparison, the US Government has tried reforms like the Affordable Care Act, yet high medical bills and insurance coverage gaps remain.</i> This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country. Response 2 <i>One of the key areas where the UK Government has been scrutinised for failing to reduce inequality is education, a sector widely regarded as critical for levelling opportunity. In England, the introduction of the Pupil Premium aimed to provide targeted funds for disadvantaged pupils, yet figures from the Education Policy Institute show that the attainment gap between pupils from low-income backgrounds and their more affluent peers is still substantial. In 2022, disadvantaged secondary school students were on average 19 months behind their wealthier counterparts. Scotland’s attempts to close the attainment gap with its own Scottish Attainment Challenge also saw limited progress, with Audit Scotland noting in 2022 that significant disparities remained, particularly in rural communities where resources were spread thinly. These figures suggest that while government interventions exist in principle, in practice they have not fully addressed the root causes of educational inequality. In contrast, the Chinese Government has pursued centralised reforms aimed at equalising educational opportunities, although success remains uneven. The</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				implementation of compulsory nine-year education nationwide in the 1980s helped bring more children into the educational system. However, substantial disparities persist between urban centres and poorer rural provinces such as Guizhou and Gansu, with the average per pupil funding in wealthier regions exceeding that of rural areas by nearly 30% in 2021. Even so, targeted initiatives like Project Hope have channelled billions of yuan into building schools in impoverished areas, demonstrating a state-led commitment to bridging the urban-rural divide. When compared to the UK's mixed results, China's strong central control allows for more decisive action, though the overall success in reducing educational inequality remains debatable given the deeply entrenched socio-economic disparities. Critics in both countries claim government funding remains insufficient to tackle root causes. In the UK, austerity measures have constrained budgets for school improvements, while in China, corruption in local governance hampers the distribution of resources in rural areas. 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. Conclusions Response 1 <i>In conclusion, governments discussed in this essay have not done enough to tackle inequality effectively. Healthcare in the US remains mostly privatised, meaning 8.6% of people had no health insurance in 2021, while Scotland's NHS is free, yet has long waiting lists. The UK's welfare system, such as Universal Credit, faces criticism for sanctions and delays that push people into more debt. For example, according to the Trussell Trust, food bank use went up by 33% in 2020. The two-child benefit limit from 2017 also made life harder for single-parent families, which added to child poverty. Recent data shows that a quarter of children in the UK are poor, showing the government's failings. Critics think these policies don't do enough to give real support and help reduce social inequality. Furthermore, underfunding of social care and lack of affordable housing have also widened gaps between the richest and poorest communities.</i> This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence. Response 2 <i>In conclusion, while successive UK governments have introduced a range of legislative and economic policies aimed at alleviating inequality, such as the Minimum Wage Act of 1999, the subsequent National Living Wage, and various housing initiatives like Right to Buy, their collective impact remains debatable. The statutory living wage, which rose to £10.42 in 2023 for those over 25, is widely seen as insufficient to meet the high cost of living in urban centres, thereby perpetuating financial insecurity among low earners. Critics argue that rising property prices and stagnant real wages have exacerbated wealth disparities, particularly in regions already facing acute poverty. Similarly, although higher education expansion was intended to boost social mobility, tuition fees and living costs continue to create barriers for low-income students. In China, the government's high-profile poverty reduction campaigns, including targeted investments in rural infrastructure, have brought down official poverty rates significantly;</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>however, concerns persist about whether these measures address deeper structural inequalities in urban and rural areas alike. Dr Sarah Wilson from the University of Stirling maintains that these government interventions have reduced income gaps by creating job opportunities and expanding social safety nets. Meanwhile, philanthropist James Chen contends that entrenched inequalities remain stubbornly persistent, as the trickle-down benefits of economic growth seldom reach the most disadvantaged. Nevertheless, some analysts highlight marginal successes, for instance, the expansion of Universal Credit in the UK and the introduction of new pilot welfare programs in China which have alleviated immediate pressures for certain vulnerable groups. Ultimately, while various government responses have achieved short-term improvements, long-term systemic reform appears limited. Therefore, the evidence suggests that the government has not succeeded in reducing inequality, leaving scope for more targeted and stronger policy interventions going forward.</i> This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
14.			15	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 15 marks.</i> Credit responses that refer to: Unstructured interviews Benefits: • unstructured interviews allow free-ranging questions to be asked, producing highly valid, qualitative data • interviewers can build up rapport with participants making them feel at ease when discussing sensitive topics • the lack of pre-set questions means the interviewer can further explore points raised • participants can ask for clarification on any points • no internet access or literacy skills required for respondent Limitations: • unstructured interviews are difficult to replicate and are therefore unable to make generalisations or comparisons about the wider population – this makes them less reliable • carrying out and transcribing interviews is time-consuming and therefore it is difficult to carry out many interviews • the time-consuming nature makes it costly to the researcher • there is no anonymity in interviews which can lead to a reluctance to discuss sensitive issues • there may be interview bias and the interviewer may manipulate the interview by asking leading questions Surveys Benefits: • surveys may be postal, telephone or online, each of which has inherent benefits and drawbacks • surveys collect reliable data as they can be easily repeated • surveys allow for quantitative data to be easily obtained which is good for measuring social trends • surveys allow for information to be obtained quickly often covering a wide geographical area • participants can often take a survey at a place and time that is convenient to them which can increase response rate • the researcher is unlikely to be present which allows for more objective responses from participant • most surveys can be anonymous allowing for more honest answers about sensitive issues Limitations: • surveys, especially if using closed questions, do not allow for explanation or further comment on points raised • this lack of explanation of the reasons why something may occur reduces validity • participants may not understand all questions and there is a lack of ability to ask for clarification • surveys, especially postal surveys, can have low response rates • participants may not answer honestly

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Ethical issues including: • consent • privacy • harm • deception <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse in areas of deprivation as when interviewing people who live in these areas, the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data.</i> This example contains analysis of a relevant issue. Response 2 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse in areas of deprivation as when interviewing people who live in these areas, the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation produced a study entitled ‘Falling Short: the experiences of families living below the Minimum Income Standard’ that was based on thirty in-depth interviews with families on low incomes.</i> This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence. Response 3 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse in areas of deprivation as when interviewing people who live in these areas, the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation produced a study entitled ‘Falling Short: the experiences of families living below the Minimum Income Standard’ that was based on thirty in-depth interviews with families on low incomes. An unstructured interview would be a suitable method for finding out the reasons why people living in these areas may misuse drugs as rapport could develop between the interviewer and interviewee. The unstructured, conversational nature would allow qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons people living in these areas of deprivation may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees may explain that easy availability, lack of stigma and stress of living in these areas may make it more likely for them to take drugs. However, the unstructured nature would make it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if different areas of deprivation had different levels of drug misuse.</i> This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario. Response 4 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse in areas of deprivation as when interviewing people who live in these areas, the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid,</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>qualitative data. For example, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation produced a study entitled 'Falling Short: the experiences of families living below the Minimum Income Standard' that was based on thirty in-depth interviews with families on low incomes. An unstructured interview would be a suitable method for finding out the reasons why people living in these areas may misuse drugs as rapport could develop between the interviewer and interviewee. The unstructured, conversational nature would allow qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons people living in these areas of deprivation may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees may explain that easy availability, lack of stigma and stress of living in these areas may make it more likely for them to take drugs. However, the unstructured nature would make it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if different areas of deprivation had different levels of drug misuse.</i> <i>Surveys could be another useful way of researching drug misuse in areas of deprivation. If the survey was anonymous, the participants would be more likely to be honest – this would be useful for a subject such as drug misuse as people may not want to openly admit to taking illegal drugs. Surveys usually use closed questions and produce quantitative, reliable data. This would be useful for explaining trends in drug misuse in areas of deprivation, however, it wouldn't explore the reasons why people may take drugs and therefore the data produced would be less valid.</i> This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method. Response 5 <i>Unstructured interviews would be a useful method of researching drug misuse in areas of deprivation as when interviewing people who live in these areas, the free-flowing, open questions used would provide valid, qualitative data. For example, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation produced a study entitled 'Falling Short: the experiences of families living below the Minimum Income Standard' that was based on thirty in-depth interviews with families on low incomes. An unstructured interview would be a suitable method for finding out the reasons why people living in these areas may misuse drugs as rapport could develop between the interviewer and interviewee. The unstructured, conversational nature would allow qualitative data to be gathered about the reasons people living in these areas of deprivation may misuse drugs – for example, the interviewees may explain that easy availability, lack of stigma and stress of living in these areas may make it more likely for them to take drugs. However, the unstructured nature would make it hard to gather quantitative evidence of trends. As unstructured interviews are difficult to repeat, and therefore less reliable, the researcher would struggle to see if different areas of deprivation had different levels of drug misuse.</i> <i>Surveys could be another useful way of researching drug misuse in areas of deprivation. If the survey was anonymous, the participants would be more likely to be honest – this would be useful for a subject such as drug misuse as people may not want to openly admit to taking illegal drugs. Surveys usually use closed questions and produce quantitative, reliable data. This would be useful for explaining trends in drug misuse in areas of deprivation, however, it wouldn't explore the reasons why people may</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>take drugs and therefore the data produced would be less valid. If anonymity has been promised, the researcher must ensure there is nothing that is personally identifiable in the published research. They must also ensure that informed consent is given which means that the interviewee is fully informed about the purpose of the research and has freely chosen to participate in it.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 6 <i>Interviews are more effective than online surveys for gathering data on drug misuse in areas of deprivation. This is because they can be unstructured and therefore the respondents can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may use drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data.</i> This concluding remark summarises key points – 1 mark. Response 7 <i>Interviews are more effective than online surveys for gathering data on drug misuse in areas of deprivation. This is because they can be unstructured and therefore the respondents can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may use drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data. Interviews also allow the subject to ask for any clarification of questions. Furthermore, interviews could be semi-structured which would allow for some reliable, quantitative data to be gathered through the asking of closed questions as well as detailed explanations from subsequent open-ended questions.</i> This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons – 2 marks. Response 8 <i>Interviews are more effective than online surveys for gathering data on drug misuse in areas of deprivation. This is because they can be unstructured and therefore the respondents can open up and give detailed explanations as to why they may use drugs and therefore produce rich, qualitative data. Interviews also allow the subject to ask for any clarification of questions. Furthermore, interviews could be semi-structured which would allow for some reliable quantitative data to be gathered through the asking of closed questions as well as detailed explanations from subsequent open-ended questions. Although online surveys can be quickly and easily distributed to a large number of recipients, and therefore keep costs to the researcher low, the lack of qualitative data produced means this is not the preferred method – especially for a potentially sensitive issue such as drug misuse.</i> This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method – 3 marks.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
15.			15	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways up to <i>a maximum of 15 marks</i>. Credit responses that refer to: Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable: - the Times is a high-quality broadsheet newspaper which will almost certainly contain factually correct information. Editors will review content before publication - the name and job title of Paul Morgan-Bentley is given. As Head of Investigations, it can be presumed that he is very experienced in investigative journalism - the date is clearly given and 2023 is only a few years old making it valid - the full web link of the article used is provided meaning the reader could check the full article - covert participant observation means that the debt agents were not aware they were working alongside a journalist. This means a lack of Hawthorne Effect – when a subject changes behaviour when they know they are being researched - the covert participant observation lasted for a month which would have allowed for many findings to be gathered - the graph uses data from reputable sources – The Times, The Sunday Times and Ofgem - the graph is also easy to read and it is clear British Gas received the most complaints - whilst there may be ethical concerns around this investigation, it could be argued that the findings are in the public interest and resulted in an Ofgem investigation Arguments that the source's validity and/or reliability are questionable: - while the Times is a quality broadsheet, it is not politically neutral and is considered centre-right leaning - the author's names is published but there is no way to contact him directly such as an email address or social media handle. This makes it harder to check their credentials - while the author's name is given, it is unclear whether he was the undercover reporter that carried out the covert observation - the date, while recent, focuses on the previous Conservative government. There has since been a general election and so the article may not be relevant any longer, for example Grant Shapps is no longer in government - the covert participant observation methods of the reporter pretending to be a debt collector raises many ethical concerns. Notably, that the findings were gathered from deception. There is also a lack of consent given. These make the findings ethically unsound - covert participant observation does not produce reliable data as it would be extremely hard to repeat the research - as the covert participant observation was carried out by only one journalist, there is a risk of subjectivity and bias - the graph contains no specific numbers of complaints - the graph is from a short time period, the third quarter of 2022 with no mention of the other quarters. Also, it is not repeated making it less reliable

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				• it states ‘Adapted from. . .’ which makes the source less trustworthy as it is unclear what has been added to or left out of the source • the fact that The Times operates a paywall means the original source is not freely available to the public and they would have to pay to access it <i>Award marks for any other relevant points.</i> Possible approaches to answering this question Analysis and evaluation Response 1 <i>Source C has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published.</i> This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source. Response 2 <i>Source C has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that covert participant observation was used means that staff working at Arvato were not aware they were working alongside an undercover journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when subjects change their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that the debt collectors were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity.</i> This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source. Response 3 <i>Source C has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that covert participant observation was used means that staff working at Arvato were not aware they were working alongside an undercover journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when subjects change their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that the debt collectors were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity. However, the covert nature of the investigation means there are ethical concerns. The journalist did not disclose their occupation when applying for a job at Arvato. This means that the source’s findings are based on deception and that debt agents did not give consent to findings being published. These are cornerstone principles of ethical research and the lack of them reduces the trustworthiness of the source.</i> This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Response 4 <i>Source C has been published by The Times newspaper. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as The Times is a highly regarded, quality broadsheet newspaper. Editors will have fact-checked the article before it was published. Furthermore, the fact that covert participant observation was used means that staff working at Arvato were not aware they were working alongside an undercover journalist. This means that there was a lack of the Hawthorne Effect present (when subjects change their behaviour as they know they are being researched). This means that the debt collectors were more likely to be honest and therefore the findings from the investigation would have higher validity. However, the covert nature of the investigation means there are ethical concerns. The journalist did not disclose their occupation when applying for a job at Arvato. This means that the source's findings are based on deception and that debt agents did not give consent to findings being published. These are cornerstone principles of ethical research and the lack of them reduces the trustworthiness of the source. Source C is adapted from a news article and although the web link is given to access the full article, it is behind a paywall. If the paywall was removed, it would increase the trustworthiness of the source as the reader would be able to freely access the full article and work out if anything was missing from, or had been added to, Source C.</i> 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. Conclusions Response 5 <i>Overall, Source C is not trustworthy as The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and covert participant observation does not produce reliable findings as it could not easily be repeated.</i> This example contains a simple summary of key points – 1 mark. Response 6 <i>Despite the source being written by 'Head of Investigations' and published by a quality broadsheet newspaper, Source C is trustworthy to a small extent. It is not clear if Paul Morgan-Bentley was the undercover reporter in the investigation or not. Also, The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and may therefore be biased on centre-right issues. The covert participant observation does not produce reliable findings as it could not be easily repeated.</i> This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence – 2 marks. Response 7 <i>Despite the source being written by 'Head of Investigations' which implies an experienced journalist author, and published by a quality broadsheet newspaper, Source C is trustworthy to a small extent. It is not clear if Paul Morgan-Bentley was the undercover reporter in the investigation or not. Also, The Times is known for being a centre-right newspaper and may therefore be biased on centre-right issues. The covert participant observation does not produce reliable findings as it could not be easily repeated. Furthermore, the findings of the investigation were gathered</i>

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				<i>through deception making the results unethical and thus reducing the trustworthiness of the source.</i> This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation – 3 marks.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]