

X236/701

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2009

MONDAY, 25 MAY
9.00 AM – 12.00 NOON

MODERN STUDIES
ADVANCED HIGHER

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

Choose **one** Study Theme from:

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

In your chosen Study Theme:

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

Total for paper: 90 marks.



Answer questions from ONE Study Theme only.

STUDY THEME 1: COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND RESEARCH METHODS

SECTION A

Answer TWO questions from Section A.

Each question is worth 30 marks.

Marks

1. Context A: Political Parties

Critically examine the view that the most successful political parties in recent years have been those which have been able to reposition themselves on the political spectrum.

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

2. Context B: Electoral Systems

“It’s the economy, stupid!” (Bill Clinton 1992)

To what extent does this quote explain recent voting behaviour in the UK (including Scotland) and the USA?

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

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

“Executives have little to fear from their legislatures.”

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

4. Context D: The Politics of Influence

To what extent does the use of dramatic and violent methods by interest/pressure groups have a disproportionate impact on the political process?

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

SECTION B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

5. (a) Web-based surveys are becoming widely used in social science research.

To what extent is it true to say that, for social science research, web-based surveys offer significant advantages over more traditional survey techniques?

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer. **8**

(b) What would constitute good practice when **planning and conducting** an effective questionnaire for social science research into an issue within the Comparative Politics topic? **7**

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

The following opinion poll appeared in a major American regional newspaper in September 2007. The Presidential Primary elections began early in 2008.

(Asked of Democrats who support Clinton in head-to-head match up with Obama)

What are the main reasons you are more likely to support Hillary Clinton than Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination?

BASED ON CLINTON SUPPORTERS (Margin of Error: \pm 7% Points)

	2007 May 4–6	2007 Mar 23–25
	%	%
Clinton is more experienced	35	33
Like Clinton's views on issues/agenda	23	21
Clinton is a woman	17	14
Bill Clinton was President	10	9
Don't know enough about Obama/not familiar with him	10	11
Clinton is knowledgeable/intelligent	7	6
Other	21	21
No reason in particular	1	3
No opinion	1	2

(Asked of Democrats who support Obama in head-to-head match up with Clinton)

What are the main reasons you are more likely to support Barack Obama than Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination?

BASED ON OBAMA SUPPORTERS (Margin of Error: \pm 8% Points)

	2007 May 4–6	2007 Mar 23–25
	%	%
Obama is a fresh face/has new ideas	19	13
Agree with Obama's issue positions/agenda	18	18
Like Obama better/do not like Clinton	17	18
Clinton has too much baggage/don't want another Clinton	11	12
Obama has a better chance of being elected President	9	8
Obama is less divisive/polarising than Clinton	8	7
Other	20	29
No reason in particular	4	3
No opinion	2	2

- (a) As a social science researcher, to what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be made from this information?

8

- (b) Describe, **in detail**, the main differences between qualitative and quantitative research.

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.

7

(15)

Answer questions from ONE Study Theme only.

STUDY THEME 2: LAW AND ORDER AND RESEARCH METHODS

SECTION A

Answer TWO questions from Section A.

Each question is worth 30 marks.

- Marks*
1. *Context A: Rights and Responsibilities in Relation to Law and Order in the UK*
How valid is the claim that recent Human Rights legislation has hindered the fight against crime and prevented effective responses to threats from terrorism? **(30)**

 2. *Context B: The Causes and Effects of Crime in the UK*
Critically examine the view that white-collar crime has the greatest social and economic impact on groups in society. **(30)**

 3. *Context C: Responses to Crime in the UK*
To what extent are the UK police now “citizen focused” rather than “criminal focused”? **(30)**

 4. *Context D: Penal Systems in the UK*
“Prison is meant to punish and rehabilitate. Prison fails on both counts.”
To what extent is this the case? **(30)**

SECTION B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

5. (a) Web-based surveys are becoming widely used in social science research.
To what extent is it true to say that, for social science research, web-based surveys offer significant advantages over more traditional survey techniques?
You should refer to specific research examples in your answer. **8**

 - (b) What would constitute good practice when **planning and conducting** an effective questionnaire for social science research into an issue within the Law and Order topic? **7**
- (15)**

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

Table 1: Public Confidence in the Criminal Justice System (percentage very/fairly confident) in England and Wales

	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly	76	77	77	78
Treats people who come forward as witnesses well	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice	44	39	41	43
Deals with cases promptly and efficiently	39	36	38	39
Effective at reducing crime	36	31	35	39
Meets the needs of victims of crime	34	30	32	34
Dealing with young people accused of crime	25	21	24	27

(a) As a social science researcher, to what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be made from this information? 8

(b) Describe, **in detail**, the main differences between qualitative and quantitative research.

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer. 7

(15)

[Turn over

Answer questions from ONE Study Theme only.

STUDY THEME 3: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND RESEARCH METHODS

SECTION A

Answer TWO questions from Section A.

Each question is worth 30 marks.

Marks

1. Context A: Political Relations

To what extent have UK national and international interests led to serious conflict within the European Union?

(30)

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

“The European Parliament has failed to capture the imagination of the electorate in the European Union.”

To what extent is this statement accurate?

(30)

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

Assess the effectiveness of European Union policies on security.

(30)

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

To what extent have European Union policies to deal with discrimination been effective?

(30)

SECTION B

ALL parts of Section B should be answered.

This section is worth 30 marks.

5. (a) Web-based surveys are becoming widely used in social science research.

To what extent is it true to say that, for social science research, web-based surveys offer significant advantages over more traditional survey techniques?

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.

8

(b) What would constitute good practice when **planning and conducting an effective questionnaire for social science research into an issue within the European Union topic?**

7

(15)

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

Information Sources which most help citizens of the European Union form their opinion on enlargement. (Selected Countries) – Multiple answers were possible.

	TV	Newspapers	Radio	Internet	Discussions with friends/relatives/ colleagues
	%	%	%	%	%
EU25	71	43	29	18	14
Belgium	80	46	42	24	15
France	73	41	34	20	21
Italy	56	35	09	08	09
Latvia	78	42	37	26	10
Hungary	77	35	35	15	09
Netherlands	77	67	30	35	21
Austria	62	61	40	16	25
Poland	77	26	39	21	10
Slovakia	82	50	47	23	16
Sweden	78	69	38	29	20
UK	63	42	24	19	07
Romania	79	41	38	17	13
Croatia	83	47	23	11	14

Source: Special EUROBAROMETER255 (adapted)

(a) As a social science researcher, to what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be made from this information? **8**

(b) Describe, **in detail**, the main differences between qualitative and quantitative research.

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.

7

(15)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Study Theme 3 Section B Question 6—Data is adapted from *Special EUROBAROMETER255*. © European Communities, 1995–2009.