

# X236/701

---

NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2011

TUESDAY, 31 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*

To what extent has there been a serious decline in the importance of political parties in recent years?

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

**(30)**

**2.** *Context B: Electoral Systems*

*“UK electoral systems are more faithful to the principles of democracy than those used in the USA.”*

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

**(30)**

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

Examine the view that the powers of the American President are greater than those of his UK counterparts.

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

**(30)**

**4.** *Context D: The Politics of Influence*

*“The UK lags well behind the USA in the sophistication and influence of its interest groups.”*

To what extent is this true?

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) You are conducting a survey in a major Scottish city about people’s views on the Scottish Parliament.

What type of sample would you choose and why?

**7**

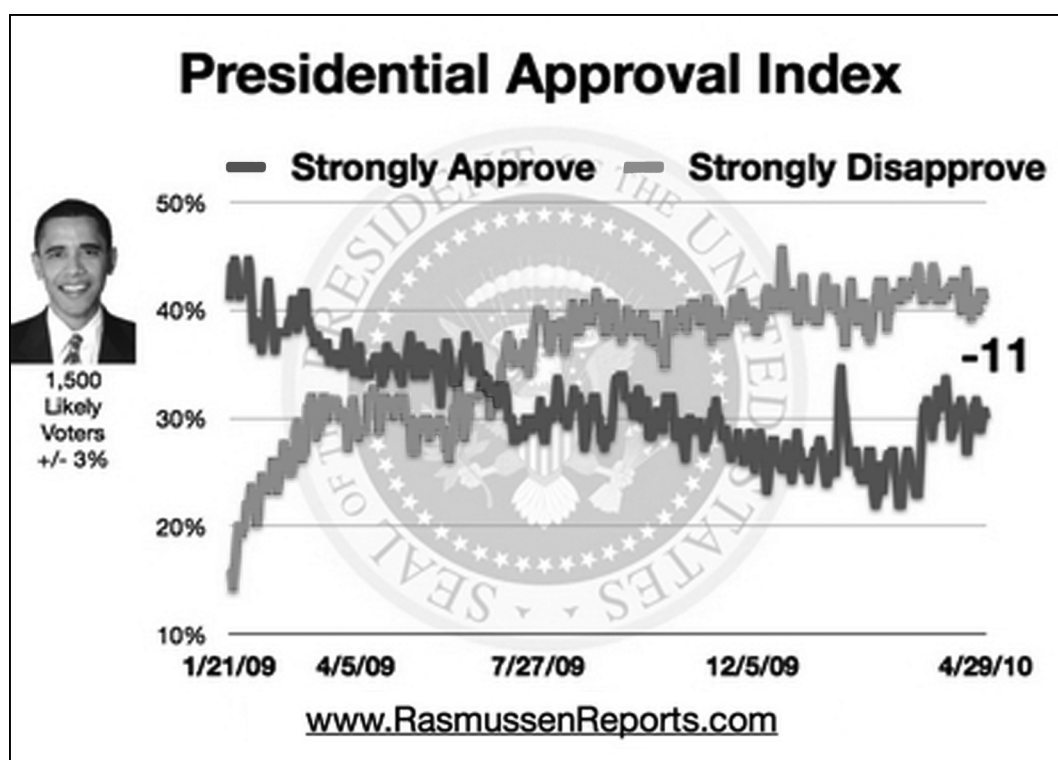
(b) Why might social science researchers prefer focus groups rather than individual interviews?

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

**8**

**(15)**

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



Rasmussen Reports is an electronic publishing firm specialising in the collection, publication and distribution of public opinion polling information.

Daily tracking results are collected via telephone surveys of 500 likely voters per night and reported on a three-day rolling average basis. The margin of sampling error—for the full sample of 1,500 Likely Voters is  $\pm 3$  percentage points with a 95% level of confidence. Like all polling firms, Rasmussen Reports weights its data to reflect the population at large. Rasmussen Reports has been a pioneer in the use of automated telephone polling techniques, but many other firms still utilise their own operator-assisted technology. Scott Rasmussen, President of Rasmussen Reports, has been an independent pollster for more than a decade.

(Extracted from [www.RasmussenReports.com](http://www.RasmussenReports.com))

- (a) As a social science researcher, to what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be drawn from the source above? 8
- (b) Discuss the relative merits of open and closed questions in constructing a questionnaire. 7

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

(15)

[Turn over

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

**STUDY THEME 2: LAW AND ORDER AND RESEARCH METHODS**

**SECTION A**

**Answer TWO questions from Section A.**

**Each question is worth 30 marks.**

*Marks*

1. *Context A: Rights and Responsibilities in Relation to Law and Order in the UK*  
To what extent are interest groups the most effective channel to deal with grievances and issues concerning human rights in the UK? **(30)**
  
2. *Context B: The Causes and Effects of Crime in the UK*  
“Social exclusion is the greatest cause of crime in the UK **and** these crimes have the greatest impact.”  
Discuss. **(30)**
  
3. *Context C: Responses to Crime in the UK*  
“Recent government policies have had little effect on levels of offending and public perceptions of crime in the UK.”  
Discuss. **(30)**
  
4. *Context D: Penal Systems in the UK*  
Examine the view that prison in the UK is a “source of shame”. **(30)**

**SECTION B**

**ALL parts of Section B should be answered.**

**This section is worth 30 marks.**

5. (a) You are conducting a survey in a major Scottish city about people’s views on crime statistics.  
What type of sample would you choose and why? **7**
  
  - (b) Why might social science researchers prefer focus groups rather than individual interviews?  
*You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.* **8**
- (15)**

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

**Policing – Crimes Cleared up by the Police**

**High Level Summary of Statistics Trend**

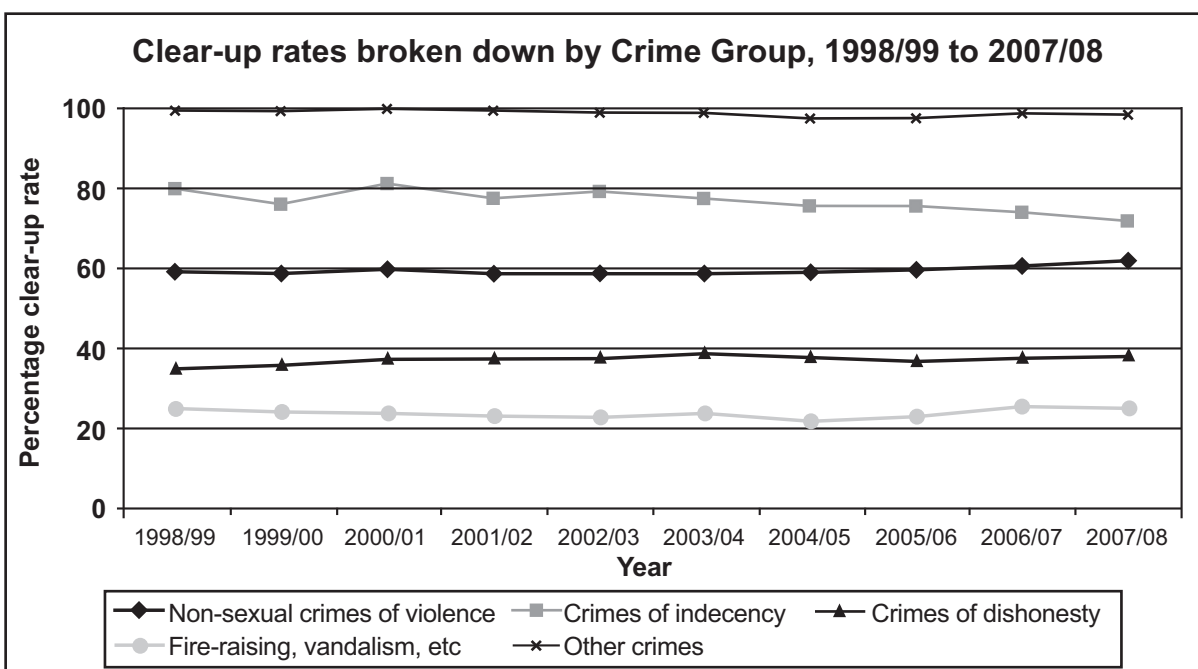
**Last Update: Wednesday, May 13, 2009**

**Crimes Cleared up by the Police**

A crime is regarded as “cleared up” where there is a sufficiency of evidence under Scots law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

Clear-up rates for the different crime types show marked differences, from 25% for vandalism, fire-raising, etc to 98% for “other crimes”. Generally, clear-up rates have been increasing over recent years, with 2007/08 being the highest rate for non-sexual crimes of violence (eg murder, serious assault) for over 30 years.

(Extracted from: Justice analytical services, [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk), statistics prepared by scotstat.)



(a) As a social science researcher, to what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be drawn from the source above? 8

(b) Discuss the relative merits of open and closed questions in constructing a questionnaire.

*You should give relevant examples to support your answer.* 7

**(15)**

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

*STUDY THEME 3: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND RESEARCH METHODS*

**SECTION A**

**Answer TWO questions from Section A.**

**Each question is worth 30 marks.**

- |   | <i>Marks</i> |
|---|--------------|
| <p>1. <i>Context A: Political Relations</i></p> <p>Examine the view that the UK has failed to play a major part in the European Union.</p>  | <b>(30)</b>  |
| <p>2. <i>Context B: Representation and Participation in the European Parliament</i></p> <p><i>“Elections to the European Parliament mean little to the electorate.”</i></p> <p>Discuss with reference to the UK and <b>other</b> member states.</p>           | <b>(30)</b>  |
| <p>3. <i>Context C: The European Union and its International Involvement</i></p> <p>Examine the view that enlargement of the European Union has created more problems than it has solved.</p>   | <b>(30)</b>  |
| <p>4. <i>Context D: Social Developments in the European Union with reference to the UK and the EU.</i></p> <p><i>“The European Union has been effective in dealing with discrimination within its member states.”</i></p> <p>To what extent is this true?</p> | <b>(30)</b>  |

**SECTION B**

**ALL parts of Section B should be answered.**

**This section is worth 30 marks.**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <p>5. (a) You are conducting a survey in a major Scottish city about people’s views on the European Union.</p> <p>What type of sample would you choose and why?</p>                 | <b>7</b>    |
| <p>(b) Why might social science researchers prefer focus groups rather than individual interviews?</p> <p><i>You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.</i></p> | <b>8</b>    |
|   | <b>(15)</b> |

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

**Popularity European Union – Popularity European Union is ready for your opinion, support and vote. Vote online NOW!**



**> Popularity European Union > Online statistics and voting results**

Statistics	for	against	Total	Users	for	against
Current preference ratio	13%	87%	100%	Last voted	IP 81.0..	IP 192.39..
Number of votes cast	30	201	231			

**History**

The poll was added	7 months ago
The poll was updated	7 months ago
Last vote	22 hours ago

(Extracted from: <http://electionsmeter.com/polls/popularity-european-union>)

(a) As a social science researcher, to what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be drawn from the source above?

8

(b) Discuss the relative merits of open and closed questions in constructing a questionnaire.

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

7

(15)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Study Theme 1 Section B Question 6—Information is taken from **www.RasmussenReports.com**.  
Reproduced by kind permission of Rasmussen Reports.

Study Theme 3 Section B Question 6—Images and information are adapted from **www.electionsmeter.com**.  
Reproduced by kind permission of ElectionsMeter.