



**2012 Modern Studies**

**Advanced Higher**

**Finalised Marking Instructions**

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## STUDY THEME 1: COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND RESEARCH METHODS

### SECTION A

Marks

#### 1 Context A: Political Parties

Discuss the influence of 'smaller' political parties on the political process.

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

(30)

#### General points

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis. Bear in mind that candidates are attempting to construct a comparative essay under examination conditions.
- High quality answers will compare across UK (Scotland) and USA regularly throughout the answer, rather than having a large section on the UK and a smaller section on the USA tagged on at the end.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments is likely to be discussed in quality answers.
- Expect more emphasis on the UK and Scotland from most candidates but do **not** pass answers that do not cover the USA.
- Credit highly candidates who make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg Politics Review, newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification evidence.

#### UK

Smaller parties contribute in no small part to the political debate and scrutiny processes. If we accept that the Liberal Democrats are a 'smaller' party then they now punch well above their weight as part of the coalition government.

However the Conservatives are still the dominant partner and Labour the main opposition. No other party since the war has even remotely challenged as the dominant party of government.

In the UK context where the SNP are a small party they are having a major influence, threatening the unity of the UK.

#### Scotland

With minority and coalition governments smaller parties have had up to 2011 far more impact. The SNP relied on smaller parties for any legislation to be passed. This has, of course, now changed. Since 1999 the Greens have brought a new dimension to the debate incorporated by the major parties. Although it has been said that AMS works to the advantage of smaller parties better candidates will note the decline of their representation, eg the disappearance of socialists and to some extent the Greens too.

## **USA**

Realistically, candidates will not have much to offer here, as much minority influence is now quite historical. Well informed candidates may be aware of Bernie Sanders a socialist congressman but, for the most part, national politics are dominated by the 'big two'.

Historically, and still creditable, Nader and the Greens have had an impact and probably cost Gore the 2000 election. There is a Libertarian Party bringing alternative ideas to the political debate. Minority groups have far more impact at a regional and local level, eg there is a vibrant Alaskan Separatist Party.

American wariness of parties from the left no matter how small discourages their activities. Ultimately, it could be argued that power is more concentrated than in the more multi party UK. (Particularly Scotland)

**2 Context B: Electoral Systems**

**Marks**

Discuss the significance of candidate (including leader) personality and image in relation to voting behaviour.

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

**(30)**

**General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis. Bear in mind that candidates are attempting to construct a comparative essay under examination conditions.
- High quality answers will compare across UK (Scotland) and USA regularly throughout the answer, rather than having a large section on the UK and a smaller section on the USA tagged on at the end.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments is likely to be discussed in quality answers.
- Expect more emphasis on the UK and Scotland from most candidates but do **not** pass answers that do not cover the USA.
- Credit highly candidates who make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg Politics Review, newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification evidence.
  
- Essentially this question is a debate about personality and other factors affecting voting behaviour. Candidates may well make comparative references to other factors affecting voting behaviour including social class, dealignment, location, issues of the day, race, religion, etc.
- Weaker candidates will probably exaggerate the importance of personality.
- Do not over credit generalisations regarding personality that are not backed up with evidence.

## **UK/Scotland**

Expect candidates to mention some of the following when considering personality either positively or negatively.

The 'youthful' Tony Blair versus the 'grey' John Major. A similar comparison between Brown and Cameron. The 'sincere' Blair versus the 'cold' Hague in reference to the death of Diana. However Blair rapidly became 'untrustworthy' in the light of Iraq and WMD's. Portrayed as Tony 'Bliar' in some quarters – even given devil's eyes by the Conservatives at one point.

Gordon Brown perhaps suffered from a degree of racism based on his 'dour Scot' image.

Alex Salmond receives credit for his sharp mind and wit with his rivals appearing inadequate. Ian Gray may well get a mention.

All of the above must be balanced with an analysis of policy and substance, eg the economy and our involvement in war. Good candidates will consider in detail the balance between personality and image versus substance.

## **USA**

Undoubtedly, many candidates will focus on the Obama phenomenon. There is clear evidence that Obama attracted the young vote but less clear whether this was due to personality, policy or simply not being a Bush style Republican. Do not over credit simplistic causal analysis.

Political observers since the Nixon/Kennedy debate have suggested that television has "personalised" voting behaviour in American presidential elections. However while personality does affect voting behaviour, it is important to recognise, perhaps more than ever in the USA a clear partisanship related to policy and ideology. Better candidates will consider foreign policy, the economy and moral issues as key factors.

It is interesting to observe that policies (healthcare) have seen Obama's popularity plunge despite his constantly engaging personality!

It could be argued that the Primary elections create a personality based contest to a greater extent than the far more condensed UK processes.

**3 Context C: Decision Making in Central and Devolved/State Government**

**Marks**

To what extent are Cabinets as much of a threat as a support to political leaders?

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

**(30)**

**General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis. Bear in mind that candidates are attempting to construct a comparative essay under examination conditions.
- High quality answers will compare across UK (Scotland) and USA regularly throughout the answer, rather than having a large section on the UK and a smaller section on the USA tagged on at the end.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments is likely to be discussed in quality answers.
- Expect more emphasis on the UK and Scotland from most candidates but do **not** pass answers that do not cover the USA.
- Credit highly candidates who make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg Politics Review, newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification evidence.
  
- Do not pass answers that do not show a solid grasp of the functions of Cabinets.
- Credit highly current knowledge of Cabinet make-up/tensions.
- Do not over credit 'Higher' knowledge and understanding although the question does allow candidates to explore their understanding of areas they have possibly studied in previous years.

**UK**

Candidates may discuss the concept of 'Primus Inter Pares' (first among equals) and its alleged decline, perhaps with reference to Thatcher and Blair.

Expect references to the current coalition Cabinet and leadership challenges from the previous Labour regime. Cabinet Ministers are specialists within their own departments therefore difficult for the PM to question their performance, giving Ministers a fair degree of autonomy, eg Brown was largely independent when Chancellor. PM can 'hire and fire' at will. Collective responsibility allows PM to keep enemies close. Difficult to maintain a united front with such a range of strong wills opinions and egos. The added difficulty of a coalition Cabinet will certainly cause tensions in terms of proposed legislation and decision making in general, eg Vince Cable is, in some quarters, regarded as the pre-eminent economic thinker but will have to follow a Conservative Chancellor's lead.

## **Scotland**

Similarities to UK situation but (at time of writing) Salmond would seem to be the dominant figure with no obvious threats. Mention perhaps of the demise of John Swinney in the face of a more powerful/charismatic rival. Salmond's reduction of the 'Cabinet' size and the implications of this could be discussed.

## **USA**

Traditionally, was of little importance but, in a more complex world, has become more like its UK counterpart. Figures such as Rice and Rumsfeld were major players on the world stage with Bush very reliant on their intellectual input into policy making. However they are not political rivals which is in contrast to the UK. Chosen to fit the President's visions, more likely to be 'yes' men/women? Though the resignation of Colin Powell would contradict this.

Discussion of the inclusion of political rival Clinton in the Obama Cabinet could be interesting. Clinton's announcement that she would not serve as Secretary of State again should Obama win could be viewed as a negative to Obama's relationship with his Cabinet.

Credit highly candidates who understand that American Cabinets are not overt threats for the President's 4 year term though this may change near election time. Resignations and reshuffles are far less common in the USA suggesting the existence of a more united front.



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

Examine the role of the media in relation to the decision making process.

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

**(30)****General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis. Bear in mind that candidates are attempting to construct a comparative essay under examination conditions.
- High quality answers will compare across UK (Scotland) and USA regularly throughout the answer, rather than having a large section on the UK and a smaller section on the USA tagged on at the end.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments is likely to be discussed in quality answers.
- Expect more emphasis on the UK and Scotland from most candidates but do **not** pass answers that do not cover the USA.
- Credit highly candidates who make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg Politics Review, newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification evidence.
  
- Better candidates will be able to explain the relationship between the media, the public and political parties. They will grasp that the media often sets the political agenda and that negative media coverage will result in a decline in popularity and election losses. Thus governments may alter their decision making accordingly.
- There are innumerable examples which candidates may quote and they are likely to have studied some in depth. Go with the candidate if they chose a quality rather than quantity approach to examples.
- Expect candidates to explore link between media, interest groups, the public and government.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

**Written media/Newspapers**

In the UK there are national, regional and local newspapers, therefore coverage of politics on many scales. Newspapers are usually politically partisan, reflecting the owner's stance. The Rupert Murdoch empire may well be discussed. Expect discussion on the Sun's recent switch back to the Conservatives in England.

Scottish tabloids until recently were strongly pro Labour, a bone of contention for the SNP who appeared to lack a voice. The Scottish Sun's switch to backing the SNP is an interesting development. Tabloid focus on sleaze and scandal has perhaps fuelled public cynicism and apathy. Broadsheet/quality sales are much lower but may be more influential as a scrutiny force. Do newspapers set the decision making agenda? Better candidates will explore this idea.

Modern political parties increasingly play the media to their advantage via the use of a wide range of special advisors and 'poachers turned gamekeepers', eg Alasdair Campbell from the New Labour era.

Mention may be made of the phone hacking scandals centring on Murdoch's News of the World – does this reduce the credibility of newspapers?

No national USA daily but strong regional influences such as the New York Times and Washington Post. No real equivalent of our 'gutter press' though these stories are still reported in a different way and it would seem in an equally damaging way.

### **Broadcasting Media**

Probably the most influential force on the decision making process. Constant scrutiny and criticism can certainly alter government tone if not policy.

Politicians use focus groups and expert media advisors in their dealings with the media in a bid to use it to their advantage.

Joanna Lumley and the Gurkhas are often quoted as an example of media influencing decision making as it illustrates well how governments can bow to media/public pressure ultimately driven by the fear of losing votes. However better candidates will note that Governments, on occasion, ignore media criticism and press on with unpopular policies, eg Obama's Health care legislation or the current public spending cuts in the UK.

Documentaries such as Panorama and Dispatches can stimulate political debate and action.

### **Internet Style Media**

Some candidates will explore the impact of 'new' media formats. Politicians acutely aware of the immediacy of reaction to government decisions via, eg blog sites both formal and unofficial.

Internet has broadened and increased the speed of influence, eg soldiers in the front line can instantly report inadequacies in equipment via social networking sites. This allows almost instant scrutiny of government effectiveness with a resulting impact on future decision making.

Ongoing developments stemming from Leveson Inquiry may well be discussed.

## SECTION B

Marks

### Research Methods

**5 (a)** Discuss the features that constitute good practice when **planning** a piece of social science research into an area such as comparative politics.

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

**(9)**

#### General points

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is developed and relevant.
- The points must relate to the planning of a piece of research like the dissertation.
- Links should be made to the general area of the research, eg comparative politics.
- If no relevant examples used, maximum of 7 out of 9 marks.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

Choosing suitable topic for research; hypothesis; research questions; variety of appropriate research methods; organisation of materials for appendices; bibliography, etc.

**(b)** Why is consideration of ethical issues important in relation to conducting social science research?

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

**(6)**

#### General points

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is developed and relevant.
- If no relevant examples used, maximum of 4 marks.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

- Consequence of **legislative change in human rights and data protection**, eg privacy is one of the most important aspects with regards to ethics. There should be no harm to participants, eg Humphrey's (1970) research could have resulted in some of the married men becoming identified against their will.
- Ethical norms **prohibit against fabricating, falsifying, or misrepresenting research data** – all about promoting the truth and avoiding error.
- Ethical norms promote the **values that are essential to collaborative work**, such as trust, accountability, mutual respect and fairness.
- Ethical norms help to ensure that researchers can be held **accountable to the public**.
- Meeting ethical norms contributes greatly to both the **trustworthiness and quality** of research.

6 (a) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information in this newspaper article?
---

(7)

**General points**

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is **specific and in detail**.
- If no expression of 'to what extent' award maximum 5 marks.

The information can be trusted because:

- The NYT and CBS are reputable sources, not overtly biased.
- The sample size is regarded as valid (>1000) but see below.
- The follow up telephone interviews add value.

The information should be viewed with caution because:

- The NYT/CBS are not recognised as independent polling companies. Do they have professional, qualified researchers?
- For a diverse nation of some 300 million people is the sample size adequate? No details of the location of the respondents. A single state would not be representative of the USA.

*Extent?*

Probably not very trustworthy?

(b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of covert compared to overt observation.
---

(8)

**General points**

- Definition of overt and covert can be explicit or implicit.
- Must be a discussion type answer and not just a list of advantages and disadvantages to get more than 5 out of 8.
- Award up to 3 marks for a discussion point that is detailed and relevant.

**Specific points:**

- These points are here to help you with the discussion of overt and covert. Do not use this as an exhaustive list of what might be in the answer.

**Overt and covert:****Reliability**

- Data can be considered broadly reliable if the same results (or broadly similar) can be gained by different researchers asking the same questions to the same (or broadly similar) people.
- Participant observation (whether overt or covert) is not the most reliable research method. Such studies are, by their very nature, impossible to repeat and the data they produce is simply the opinion of one observer.

- In addition, the reliability of overt participant observation can be further questioned in terms of the extent to which the presence of the observer actually changes the behaviour of those being studied.
- However, while such studies may lack reliability it is evident that the validity of the data gained can be impressive.

**Validity:**

Data is only useful if it actually measures what it claims to be measuring and, in this respect, the concept of validity refers to the extent to which the data we collect gives a true measurement/description of “social reality” (what is “really happening” in society).

**Overt Observations:**

**Advantages:**

- Flexible as a research method.
- Access to information should be good.
- Easier to record information while observing people’s behaviour.
- As an observer you will be less likely to become a participant in the group.
- Produces very detailed information about people’s behaviour.
- Better chance to understand the empathy of the group.

**Disadvantages:**

- Limited scope and scale of the observation.
- Difficult to generalise findings.
- Time and expense.
- Making sense of the observations.
- If being observed, does the group display ‘normal’ behaviour?

**Covert Observations:**

**Advantages:**

- Possible for the researcher to gain access to groups that would not normally allow themselves to be studied.
- The group are unaware they’re being studied. The researcher, therefore, can safely assume they really are observing people’s “normal behaviour”.
- If the knowledge of “being openly observed” affects the way we behave this is significant in terms of the validity of any data we are trying to collect through our observations. Covert participant observation should, therefore, avoid the classic form of observer effect.
- By becoming a part of a group the researcher is able to see things from its member’s perspective which may provide a clearer understanding about people’s behaviour.
- Using covert participation, therefore, a researcher can study illegal behaviour (a criminal gang, for example), deviant behaviour and various forms of “secret” behaviour.

**Disadvantages:**

- Getting into a group may not be a simple matter since to pass as an ordinary group member the researcher must share the characteristics of the people they are studying. Once in, it may be impossible to get access to everyone in the group.
- The researcher may not, for one reason or another, be able to join a group covertly for reasons such as: Age – a middle-aged researcher could not join a gang of youths...
- One of the major problems covert participant observers have is that of separating their role of participant from that of observer.
- Recording information will be difficult because the researcher cannot simply take notes or record conversations openly.
- Questioning – how to ask questions without it being obvious.
- Ethics – there are ethical problems involved in covert observation, ranging from the fact that by spying on people you are not being entirely honest with them.

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

### SECTION A

Marks

**1 Context A: Rights and Responsibilities in Relation to Law and Order in the UK**

“The UK can now be described as a just society based on fairness and respect. This means there is less need for reform of our human rights legislation.”

Discuss.

(30)

#### General points

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis.
- Reward up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit highly answers that make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments are likely to be discussed in quality answers.

**Question asks candidates to examine the debate surrounding the need for reform of human rights legislation (can include surrounding Bill of Rights).**

- Arguments and evidence that rights are fully protected by Human Rights Act and ECHR.
- Equality before the law ensures a “just society” – rights are protected.
- Other measures are in place to protect rights – surveillance, ID?
- Many would question “A just society based on fairness and respect” – recent issue over prisoners’ right to vote.
- Comparisons with other countries that have more robust “written” legal protection of rights.
- Criticisms of recent legislations – anti terror laws.
- Concerns raised over police stop and search procedures with anti terrorism suspects recently – “existing checks and balances may not be enough”.
- Recent criticism of “Racist” airport security checks suggests still further need for reform of existing legislation.
- UK Government’s recent calls to reform European Court of Human Rights – Conservatives argue that the Court has a backlog of 150,000 cases which is growing by 20,000 per year and 90% of cases are inadmissible – this would support the case for need for reform.
- Independent Commission is considering the case for introduction of Bill of Rights (due to report December 2012) – this would support the case for the need for reform.
- Commission could result in changes to HRA – lead to Human Rights Act plus – retaining British Liberties.

- Critics argue that the Commission may have little power to change/ amend 60 years of Human Rights legislation. Does back up the case for need for reform.
- Abu Qatada case – won appeal against UK government.
- “Big Brother Watch” campaign group study into surveillance and spending on CCTV. Many argue this is not fair or just.
- Recent findings from EHRC on human trafficking in Scotland – just society?



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

To what extent do traditional sociological theories of crime still explain the causes of crime and deviance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

**(30)****General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis.
- Reward up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit highly answers that make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments are likely to be discussed in quality answers.

**Question asks candidates to assess the place of sociological theory in modern day explanations of crime and deviance. Also expect assessment of other factors – nature, biological, etc. Credit any valid theory that is developed using good quality examples.**

- Contemporary control theorists, eg Michael Jordan explore relationships between parents' employment and children's delinquency.
- Control theories apply to white collar crime – still prevalent.
- Chivalry theory and 'evil women' hypothesis still relevant in 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Theories and validity – Marxist theory – links with 21<sup>st</sup> Century poverty/inequalities in wealth.
- Becker's Labelling theory – "Chavs" "Ladettes"?
- Strain theory/status frustration/peer pressure – links with poverty, gangs.
- London riots supporting Merton's strain theory and Matza's neutralisation theory.
- Arguments that youth crime is a result of labelling theory.
- Lombroso – discredited over time but other "biological" theories are still relevant – criminal gene? Arguably Lombroso's work is still valid as the starting point.
- Functionalist theories – many argue still applicable in 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Feminist theory – rise in female crime, some would argue that it is simply recorded more and traditional theories still apply.
- Some studies conducted on "social norms" – have they changed over the century?
- Durkheim's work was built upon by many others – Hirschi, Merton, Agnew, Messer & Rosenfeld. This is a strong argument that most theories have a place as they can evolve and adapt with new research. They can be viewed as a foundation. Credit any other relevant examples like this.

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

“Law and order policy is no longer shaped by political parties and the people; it is now a product of the media.”

Discuss.

(30)

**General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis.
- Reward up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit highly answers that make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments are likely to be discussed in quality answers.

**Question asks candidates to examine current policy and influence of the media. Other influences can also be examined – interest groups, business, individuals, Europe.**

- Better Government Initiative Report 2010 – “increasing appetite for policy initiatives” has been a key factor in shaping the way government decisions are reached. The group of former senior civil servants who wrote the report believe that government’s determination to feed the media appetite has led to rapid changes of policy direction, causing confusion and loss of direction in civil service departments and often resulting in poor quality legislation.
- Growing influence of special advisers also concern for some.
- Knife crime sentencing changes – arguments that coverage by media has fuelled this policy.
- Policing – accountability – influence of media coverage of G20.
- Accusations towards politicians of “rent and quote” and over reliance on sound bites lays blame at MPs not press for shaping policy.
- “Government stance fans media flames.”
- Potential impact of Leveson Inquiry – shaping of policy?
- Soham murders as a result of “silly season” coverage led to vetting and barring scheme in schools.
- “Moral Panics” created by media coverage – gun control after summer 2010. Historically, Sarah Payne in 2000.
- Lack of ideological difference between party policies.
- Reactive rather than proactive policy making now the norm.
- Anti social behaviour and binge drinking – exaggerated by press?
- Reaction to London Riots – Media influence over sentencing.
- Accusations of “knee jerk” policies – anti sectarian Bill in Scotland. Forced through by public reaction and media coverage.
- Within Scotland – policy still driven by politicians? Single Scottish Police Force proposed by SNP not by media/public.
- Recent attempts to challenge public perceptions through use of internet and websites from various organisations.
- 24 hour news coverage – more media/availability.

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

“Cramming more people into prison has created a system that is prohibitively expensive and dangerously ineffective. It is time to re-think our penal policy.”

How valid is this claim in relation to penal policy in the UK?

**(30)****General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis.
- Reward up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit highly answers that make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments are likely to be discussed in quality answers.

**Question asks candidates to examine current penal policy in UK.**

**Debate should feature the problems with current policy and suggestions for reform. Good quality answers will focus on analysis using the wording of the question.**

- Recent report from Howard League advocates “Do better, do less” more community based alternatives.
- Howard League advocates “sending fewer people to prison”. The more people the greater tensions and the greater pressures on prison life. Time to re-think policy?
- Government has five new prisons planned in England – fears that these will fill up and policy needs addressed – crisis driven?
- Prison population in England and Wales is steadily rising – fears of overcrowding after August riots.
- Scottish Prison population 8,200 – record high in 2011 – despite a slight drop in 2010.
- Expensive and ineffective – high recidivist rates and soaring costs per prisoner – cramming more people in?
- Warehouses for “mad and sad”.
- More than 60% of offenders reoffend within two years – for community sentences 42% – re-think penal policy?
- Introduction by Scottish Government of Community Payback Orders – seen by some to be more effective than prison, also claim to tackle root causes of crime.
- Critics argue that the delivery of Community Payback orders not yet effective in all areas of Scotland.
- Cost of prison 12 times higher than community payback according to SACRO.
- Debate surrounding effectiveness of non-custodial sentences.
- Calls in Scotland to re-think sentences of less than one year and less than three months.

- Kenny MacAskill “Prison is and always will be the place for violent offenders”.
- Replacement for Peterhead and Craiginches being built £120m by 2014.
- Closure of Open Prison HMP Noranside – some argue the need for Open Prisons has reduced because fewer prisoners meeting criteria.
- Concerns over Cornton Vale – overcrowding and violence – recent reports of increasing assaults within prison estate. Attacks at Cornton Vale doubled in 2011. Dangerously ineffective?
- Calls for improvements in educational and vocational opportunities for inmates from recent inspection at Kilmarnock.
- “Routes out of Prison” project – life coaches for prisoners. All coaches have addiction/imprisonment backgrounds. Example of re-thinking policy?

## SECTION B

Marks

### Research Methods

**5 (a)** Discuss the features that constitute good practice when **planning** a piece of social science research into an area such as law and order.

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

**(9)**

#### General points

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is developed and relevant.
- The points must relate to the planning of a piece of research like the dissertation.
- Links should be made to the general area of the research, eg law and order.
- If no relevant examples used, maximum of 7 out of 9 marks.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

Choosing suitable topic for research; hypothesis; research questions; variety of appropriate research methods; organisation of materials for appendices; bibliography, etc.

**(b)** Why is consideration of ethical issues important in relation to conducting social science research?

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

**(6)**

#### General points

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is developed and relevant.
- If no relevant examples used, maximum of 4 marks.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

- Consequence of **legislative change in human rights and data protection**, eg privacy is one of the most important aspects with regards to ethics. There should be no harm to participants, eg Humphrey's (1970) research could have resulted in some of the married men becoming identified against their will.
- Ethical norms **prohibit against fabricating, falsifying, or misrepresenting research data** – all about promoting the truth and avoiding error.
- Ethical norms promote the **values that are essential to collaborative work**, such as trust, accountability, mutual respect and fairness.
- Ethical norms to ensure that researchers can be held **accountable to the public**.
- Meeting ethical norms contributes greatly to both the **trustworthiness and quality** of research.

**6 (a)** To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information in this newspaper article?

(7)

### General points

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is **specific and in detail**.
- If no expression of 'to what extent' award maximum 5 marks.

*Expect reference to the following points:*

*Evidence to show that a researcher can trust the information presented:*

- From a reliable quality newspaper – Herald.
- Important people are commenting, eg Justice Secretary, etc.

*Evidence to show that a researcher cannot trust the information presented:*

- Dated evidence?
- Government figures that are being discussed – potential for bias?
- Emotive language at times – eg '...parties have tussled over...'
- Confusion over the two dates at the top.

*Extent?*

Probably to be less trusted than trusted?

**(b)** Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of covert compared to overt observation.

(8)

### General points

- Definition of overt and covert can be explicit or implicit.
- Must be a discussion type answer and not just a list of advantages and disadvantages to get more than 5 out of 8.
- Award up to 3 marks for a discussion point that is detailed and relevant.

### Specific points:

- These points are here to help you with the discussion of overt and covert. Do not use this as an exhaustive list of what might be in the answer.

### Overt and covert:

#### Reliability

- Data can be considered broadly reliable if the same results (or broadly similar) can be gained by different researchers asking the same questions to the same (or broadly similar) people.
- Participant observation (whether overt or covert) is not the most reliable research method. Such studies are, by their very nature, impossible to repeat and the data they produce is simply the opinion of one observer.

- In addition, the reliability of overt participant observation can be further questioned in terms of the extent to which the presence of the observer actually changes the behaviour of those being studied.
- However, while such studies may lack reliability it is evident that the validity of the data gained can be impressive.

### **Validity**

Data is only useful if it actually measures what it claims to be measuring and, in this respect, the concept of validity refers to the extent to which the data we collect gives a true measurement/description of “social reality” (what is “really happening” in society).

### **Overt Observations:**

#### **Advantages:**

- Flexible as a research method.
- Access to information should be good.
- Easier to record information while observing people’s behaviour.
- As an observer you will be less likely to become a participant in the group.
- Produces very detailed information about people’s behaviour.
- Better chance to understand the empathy of the group.

#### **Disadvantages:**

- Limited scope and scale of the observation.
- Difficult to generalise findings.
- Time and expense.
- Making sense of the observations.
- If being observed, does the group display ‘normal’ behaviour?

## **Covert Observations:**

### **Advantages:**

- Possible for the researcher to gain access to groups that would not normally allow themselves to be studied.
- The group are unaware they're being studied. The researcher, therefore, can safely assume they really are observing people's "normal behaviour".
- If the knowledge of "being openly observed" affects the way we behave this is significant in terms of the validity of any data we are trying to collect through our observations. Covert participant observation should, therefore, avoid the classic form of observer effect.
- By becoming a part of a group the researcher is able to see things from its member's perspective which may provide a clearer understanding about people's behaviour.
- Using covert participation, therefore, a researcher can study illegal behaviour (a criminal gang, for example), deviant behaviour and various forms of "secret" behaviour.

### **Disadvantages:**

- Getting into a group may not be a simple matter since to pass as an ordinary group member the researcher must share the characteristics of the people they are studying. Once in, it may be impossible to get access to everyone in the group.
- The researcher may not, for one reason or another, be able to join a group covertly for reasons such as: Age – a middle-aged researcher could not join a gang of youths...
- One of the major problems covert participant observers have is that of separating their role of participant from that of observer.
- Recording information will be difficult because the researcher cannot simply take notes or record conversations openly.
- Questioning – how to ask questions without it being obvious.
- Ethics – there are ethical problems involved in covert observation, ranging from the fact that by spying on people you are not being entirely honest with them.



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

### SECTION A

Marks

<b>1 Context A: Political Relations</b>
---

To what extent have the national and international interests of the UK caused tensions within the European Union?
---

(30)

#### General points

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis.
- Reward up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit highly answers that make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments are likely to be discussed in quality answers.

**Candidates are expected to identify and discuss issues particular to the UK but to also identify and discuss EU issues leading to tension.**

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

- Sovereignty.
- Federalism.
- Subsidiarity.
- The Pound/Euro.
- Asylum.
- Immigration.
- Afghanistan.
- UK/US relations.
- Enlargement issues.
- Global recession.
- Size/diversity of EU.
- Use of veto by UK on moves to create a new Fiscal Union in the EU.

Any other relevant points.

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

To what extent have UK political parties been able to influence decision making in the European Parliament?

**(30)****General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis.
- Reward up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit highly answers that make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments are likely to be discussed in quality answers.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

- The make up of UK political parties in the European Union.
- The membership of Alliances within the EU parliament and the UK parties position within these alliances.
- Membership of parliamentary committees.
- Positions of responsibility within the EU parliament.
- Influence of pressure/interest groups.
- National versus EU interests.
- National/party versus EU political alliance interest.

Any other relevant points.

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

Economic issues, such as the single currency, have hindered the development of the European Union as an economic bloc.

Discuss.

**(30)**

**General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis.
- Reward up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit highly answers that make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments are likely to be discussed in quality answers.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

- Single currency.
- Common Agricultural Policy.
- Fisheries Policy.
- Movement of Labour.
- EU contributions.
- Greece/Spain/Portugal.
- Global recession.
- Costs of EU.
- Problems of recent member states.
- Relocation of industry.
- National interests.

Any other relevant points.

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

'Civil liberties in the European Union have improved as a result of EU directives.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

**(30)****General points**

- Quality answers will address the question throughout.
- Quality answers will have a coherent structure and analysis.
- Reward up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit highly answers that make reference to and comment on secondary analysis, eg newspaper articles and documentaries.
- Look for development including up-to-date exemplification.
- Credit candidates who make implicit conclusions throughout the essay.
- Acknowledgement of alternative viewpoints/arguments are likely to be discussed in quality answers.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

- Issues affecting gender, ethnicity, age and religion.
- Discrimination against Roma.
- Rights of Asylum seekers.
- Freedom of Movement/migrants.
- Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Lisbon treaty.
- Convention of European Rights.
- Compliance with EU directives.
- Fundamental Rights Agency.
- Anti terrorist legislation.
- Data protection.

Any other relevant points.

## SECTION B

Marks

### Research Methods

**5 (a)** Discuss the features that constitute good practice when **planning** a piece of social science research into an area such as the European Union.

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

**(9)**

#### General points

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is developed and relevant.
- The points must relate to the planning of a piece of research like the dissertation.
- Links should be made to the general area of the research, eg European Union.
- If no relevant examples used, maximum of 7 out of 9 marks.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

Choosing suitable topic for research; hypothesis; research questions; variety of appropriate research methods; organisation of materials for appendices; bibliography, etc.

**(b)** Why is consideration of ethical issues important in relation to conducting social science research?

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

**(6)**

#### General points

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is developed and relevant.
- If no relevant examples used, maximum of 4 marks.

*Expect reference to some of the following:*

- Consequence of **legislative change in human rights and data protection**, eg privacy is one of the most important aspects with regards to ethics. There should be no harm to participants, eg Humphrey's (1970) research could have resulted in some of the married men becoming identified against their will.
- Ethical norms **prohibit against fabricating, falsifying, or misrepresenting research data** – all about promoting the truth and avoiding error.
- Ethical norms promote the **values that are essential to collaborative work**, such as trust, accountability, mutual respect and fairness.
- Ethical norms help to ensure that researchers can be held **accountable to the public**.
- Meeting ethical norms contributes greatly to both the **trustworthiness and quality** of research.

6 (a) To what extent can a social science researcher trust the information in this newspaper article?
---

(7)

**General points**

- Award up to 3 marks for a point that is **specific and in detail**.
- If no expression of 'to what extent' award maximum 5 marks.

*Expect reference to the following points:*

*Evidence to show that a researcher can trust the information presented:*

- Source is dated and appears in a reputable newspaper – the Daily Mail.
- Statistics likely to be accurate.
- Quotes EU Budget Commissioner.

*Evidence to show that a researcher cannot trust the information presented:*

- This is a biased report.
- Use of language – EU demands, brushed aside, astonishing, stunned observers, living in cloud cuckoo land, utterly immune from reality.
- Use of quotes from two sources – Tory Europe spokesman, MEP for the UK Independence Party.
- No balance.
- Lack of referencing figures quoted.
- The budget proposals had not yet been approved by the European Parliament and EU leaders.

*Extent?*

Probably less trustworthy.

(b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of covert compared to overt observation.
---

(8)

**General points**

- Definition of overt and covert can be explicit or implicit.
- Must be a discussion type answer and not just a list of advantages and disadvantages to get more than 5 out of 8.
- Award up to 3 marks for a discussion point that is detailed and relevant.

**Specific points:**

- These points are here to help you with the discussion of overt and covert. Do not use this as an exhaustive list of what might be in the answer.

## **Overt and covert:**

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[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]