

# X064/701

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NATIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
2007

TUESDAY, 22 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: Functions of Political Parties*

To what extent have parties changed in order to compete for the centre ground in politics?

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

**2.** *Context B: Functions of Elections*

*“Proportional representation is a misguided attempt to be democratic and inclusive. First Past the Post remains a more effective and decisive electoral system.”*

Discuss in relation to the UK (including Scotland) and **either** the USA **or** Germany. **(30)**

**3.** *Context C: Decision-making in Central Government*

*“The Prime Minister of the UK has powers that are the envy of other world leaders.”*

How valid is this claim when comparing the UK Prime Minister with **either** the American President **or** the German Chancellor? **(30)**

**4.** *Context D: Central and Devolved/State Government*

*“The days of the unitary state are numbered.”*

Discuss in relation to devolution in the UK (including Scotland) and the federal system in **either** the USA **or** Germany. **(30)**

**SECTION B**

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

**This section is worth 30 marks.**

**5.** (a) What are the advantages of postal surveys compared to telephone surveys?

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer. **9**

(b) What factors need to be taken into account when choosing a sample for a survey?

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer. **6**  
**(15)**

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

This data is based on research that was commissioned by the Scottish Parliament. It uses data from surveys carried out by the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen).

**Public Attitudes to the Scottish Parliament and the Union, 2003**

<b>% who would feel sorry if . . .</b>	<b>. . . the Scottish Parliament was abolished</b>	<b>. . . Scotland became independent and left the UK</b>	<i>Sample Size</i>
<b>All</b>	47	48	1508
<b>Gender</b>			
Men	44	53	659
Women	56	45	849
<b>Age</b>			
18–24	53	44	101
65+	43	63	346
<b>Party identification</b>			
Conservative	24	77	230
Labour	49	57	483
Liberal Democrat	51	66	163
SNP	71	18	254
None	32	30	181
<b>National identity</b>			
Scottish, not British	55	26	486
More Scottish than British	49	50	490
Equally Scottish and British	33	71	338
British/more British than Scottish	35	78	127
<b>Constitutional preference</b>			
Independent of UK	64	7	387
Part of UK with parliament	51	61	833
Part of UK, no parliament	4	91	193

**Source: adapted from “Public Attitudes to Devolution: the first four years” by Catherine Bromley, John Curtice and Lisa Given. Published February 2005.**

- (a) To what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be made from this information? 10
- (b) Suggest **one** alternative form of presentation of the data which would make it easier for a researcher to analyse. Give reasons to support your choice. 5

**(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: Theories of Law and Order*

To what extent are human rights under threat in the United Kingdom?

**(30)**

2. *Context B: Crime and Public Disorder in the UK*

*“Crime in the UK has the greatest impact on disadvantaged groups such as the poor and the elderly.”*

Discuss.

**(30)**

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

*“The Government is trying to fight 21st century crime with traditional methods.”*

How valid is this view?

**(30)**

4. *Context D: The Penal System*

Critically examine the belief that prison is a “costly waste of time”.

**(30)**

**SECTION B**

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

**This section is worth 30 marks.**

5. (a) What are the advantages of postal surveys compared to telephone surveys?

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.

**9**

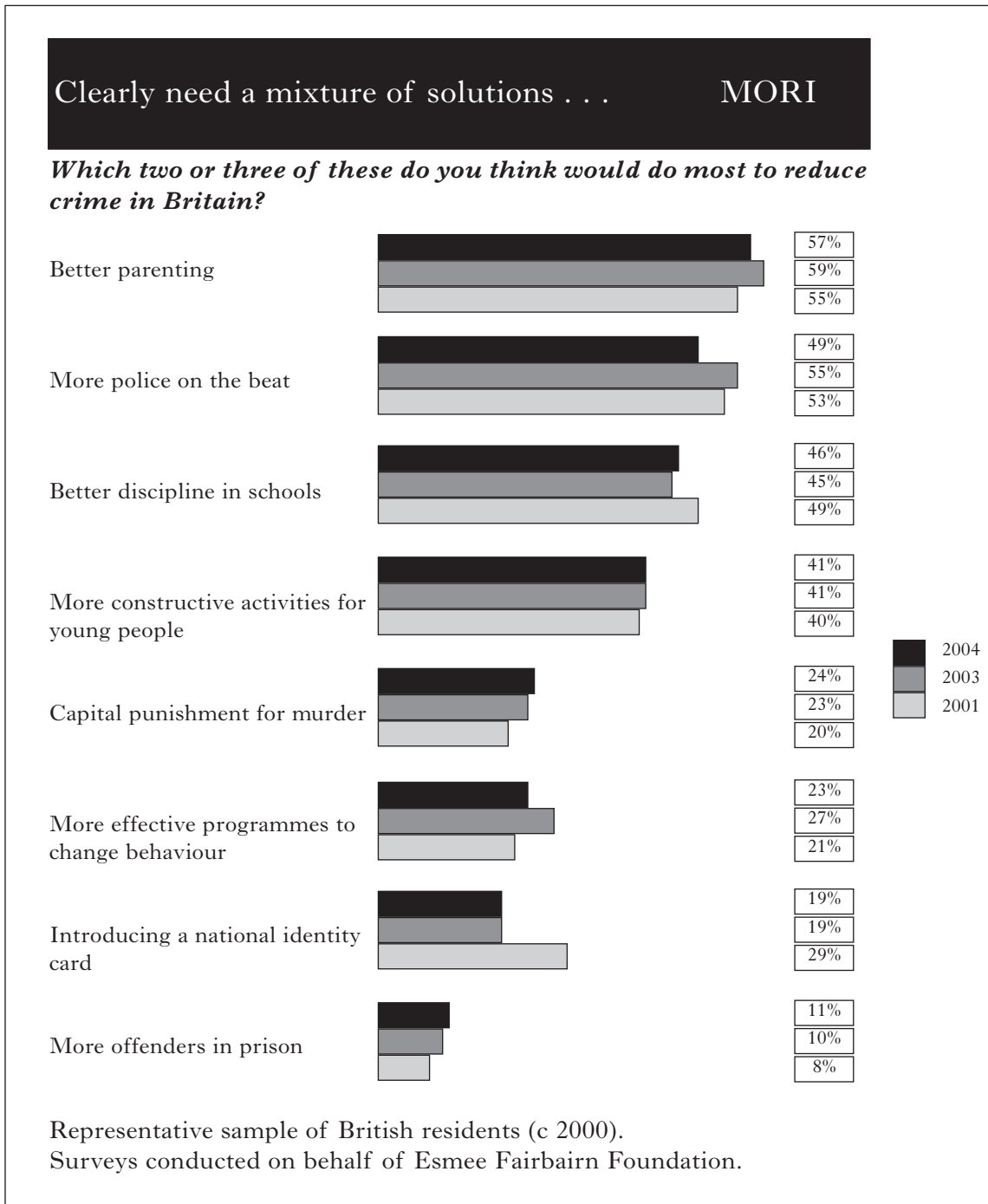
- (b) What factors need to be taken into account when choosing a sample for a survey?

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.

**6**

**(15)**

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



(a) To what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be made from the information in the opinion poll?

10

(b) Suggest **one** alternative form of presentation of the data which would make it easier for a researcher to analyse. Give reasons to support your choice.

5

(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: The United Kingdom and the European Decision-making Process*

*“UK voters are dissatisfied with the policies of the major political parties towards the European Union.”*

Discuss.

**(30)**

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

*“As the European Union has developed, the European Parliament has increased its role in decision-making.”*

Discuss.

**(30)**

3. *Context C: Decision-making in the European Union*

*“Inter-Governmental Conferences and Summit meetings control the direction that the European Union is taking.”*

How far is this claim justified?

**(30)**

4. *Context D: The European Union and the Wider World*

Critically examine the view that measures taken by the European Union have failed to deal effectively with the problems of the economically developing world.

**(30)**

**SECTION B**

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

**This section is worth 30 marks.**

5. (a) What are the advantages of postal surveys compared to telephone surveys?

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.

**9**

- (b) What factors need to be taken into account when choosing a sample for a survey?

You should refer to specific research examples in your answer.

**6**

**(15)**

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

This data is based on research that was commissioned for the European Commission. It uses data from Eurobarometer 63 about public opinion in the European Union. Data were gathered in May and June 2005 interviewing a random sample of 1347 persons.

**What are the two most important issues facing our country?**

Issues	UK%	EU%	UK rank	EU rank
Immigration	31	14	1=	6
Crime	31	23	1=	3
Healthcare system	30	17	3	4
Pensions	19	11	4	7
Education system	15	7	5	9=
Terrorism	14	10	6	8
Unemployment	11	50	7	1
Protecting environment	9	4	8	12
Economic situation	8	27	9	2
Taxation	7	7	10=	9=
Housing	7	5	10=	11
Defence/foreign affairs	5	2	12	13=
Public transport	3	2	13=	13=
Inflation	3	16	13=	5

**Source: adapted from Eurobarometer 63 Executive Summary United Kingdom. Published Summer 2005.**

- (a) To what extent can **valid** and **reliable** conclusions be made from this information? **10**
- (b) Suggest **one** alternative form of presentation of the data which would make it easier for a researcher to analyse. Give reasons to support your choice. **5**

**(15)**

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Study Theme 1 Section B Question 6 – Table is adapted from Page 8 of Public Attitudes to Devolution: the first four years by Catherine Bromley, John Curtice and Lisa Given ISBN 1904 599338. Reproduced by kind permission of NatCen.

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