



National  
Qualifications  
2025

## 2025 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 methods) 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 methods) 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• candidate provides no evidence of analysis (purely descriptive response).</li></ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• analysis is not relevant to the question.</li></ul> <p>For analytical comments to be relevant they must directly address either the question; or issues, arguments or evidence which the question addresses.</p>	<p>Candidate makes relevant analytical comments <b>but</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in the context of their answer, these may not be the key, or most relevant, aspects.</li></ul>	<p>Candidate makes developed, relevant analytical comments <b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in the context of their answer, these are the key, or most relevant, aspects</li><li>• includes relevant, contemporary supporting evidence.</li></ul>	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for <b>4 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• links analytical comments to evaluative comments</li><li>• includes relevant and contemporary supporting evidence from an international comparator country.</li></ul> <p>Overall, analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by inclusion of sufficient key or most relevant aspects.</p>	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for <b>6 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• analytical comments are integrated in-depth with international comparison</li><li>• analytical comments clearly integrate the ideas and arguments of others with their own.</li></ul> <p>Overall, analysis shows an in-depth understanding of the question and supports a convincing line of argument.</p>

## **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.

<b>0 marks</b>	<b>1–2 marks</b>	<b>3–4 marks</b>	<b>5–6 marks</b>
No evidence of relevant international comparison.	Candidate's analysis includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• relevant and contemporary evidence from an international comparator</li><li>• explains a key, relevant difference or similarity between the issue in the UK/Scotland and in another country/countries.</li></ul>	Candidate's analysis meets the requirements for <b>2 marks</b> and in addition <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• explains the extent of the difference/similarity</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>	Candidate's evaluation meets the requirements for <b>4 marks</b> and in addition <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• points of comparison are integrated into the line of argument</li><li>• points of comparison form a key part of their line of argument.</li></ul>

## 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• candidate provides no evidence of evaluation (purely a descriptive response)</li></ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• candidate's evaluation is not relevant to the question.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• candidate makes points of evaluation that are relevant to the question but are not developed</li></ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• candidate makes a basic evaluation that is developed and relevant.</li></ul>	<p><b>Candidate meets the criteria for 2 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• makes reasoned points of evaluation</li><li>• relates points to their line of argument and uses them to make an overall judgement(s) on the question.</li></ul>	<p><b>Candidate meets the criteria for 4 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• shows reasoned consideration of alternative arguments and evidence</li><li>• provides reasoned evaluation and judgement of an alternative argument(s) or evidence.</li></ul>	<p><b>Candidate meets the criteria for 6 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• integrates points of evaluation throughout their line of argument</li><li>• uses reasons for discounting or accepting alternatives to clearly support their overall conclusion.</li></ul>

## 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a line of argument</li><li>• a clear conclusion.</li></ul>	Candidate draws together pieces of information to summarise key points <b>but</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• there is a lack of sufficient synthesis to support the conclusion</li><li>• the line of argument in support of the conclusion is unclear.</li></ul>	Candidate shows evidence of <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an overall conclusion which provides a relevant overall judgement that addresses the specific question</li><li>• a line of argument and is supported by detailed reasons/evidence.</li></ul>	Candidate meets the criteria for <b>4 marks</b> and shows evidence of <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an overall conclusion from a sustained line of argument developed by organising, linking or sequencing ideas throughout the response</li><li>• an overall conclusion that includes a response to at least one relevant counter-argument.</li></ul>	Candidate meets the criteria for <b>6 marks</b> and <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, which they use to support their overall judgement</li><li>• their overall judgement is based on several points of analysis or evaluation.</li></ul>

## 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
<p>No evidence of analysis – purely descriptive response.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Analysis is not at all relevant to the question.</p>	<p>Candidate's analysis identifies aspects of the research method which are relevant to the question <b>but</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not identify the most relevant aspects</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not link the aspects to the scenario.</li> </ul> <p>Alternatively</p> <p>Award <b>2 marks</b> where analysis identifies only <b>one</b> key aspect and links the aspect with the issue in the scenario.</p>	<p>Candidate's analysis identifies key aspects of the research method which is relevant to the question <b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifies relevant links of key aspects to the scenario</li> <li>• includes relevant and/or contemporary supporting evidence.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for <b>4 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments.</li> <li>• analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research methods.</li> </ul>

Evaluation (research methods) – award up to a maximum of 6 marks			
0 marks	1–2 marks	3–4 marks	5–6 marks
<p>No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response).</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Evaluative points are not relevant to the question.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Evaluative comments lack reasoning.</p>	<p>Candidate makes points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question <b>but</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting evidence doesn't back up the evaluation</li> <li>• lack of development in reasoning</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation is made which has supporting evidence.</li> </ul> <p>*Developed points may include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evidence</li> <li>• reasons</li> <li>• background information, support or reinforcement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award a maximum of 1 mark where the reasoning is not developed or the candidate makes only one evaluative point.</b></p>	<p>Candidate makes developed, relevant points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question and in addition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evaluative comments clearly address the stated research method(s) in relation to the specified scenario</li> <li>• addresses the potential effectiveness of the key stated research method in relation to the specified scenario.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for <b>4 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• addresses ethical issues in relation to the key stated research method(s)</li> <li>• where there is only <b>one</b> stated method the candidate also evaluates their own alternative method, or combination of methods, of researching the issue</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where there are <b>two</b> stated methods the candidate evaluates both methods and/or their own alternative method, or combination of methods, of researching the issue.</li> </ul>

Conclusion – award up to a maximum of 3 marks			
0 marks	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
No evidence of concluding remarks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>concluding remarks simply summarise the key elements or main points.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conclusion follows from a line of argument and is supported by reasons/evidence</li> <li>it is clear which research method is preferred in relation to the specified scenario.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for <b>2 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, using these to support the overall judgement</li> <li>their reasons for preferring/rejecting the research methods are clear.</li> </ul>

## 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
<p>No evidence of analysis – purely descriptive response.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Analysis is not relevant to the question.</p>	<p>Candidate's analysis identifies aspects which are relevant to the question <b>but</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not identify most relevant aspects</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not show relevant links.</li> </ul> <p>Alternatively</p> <p>Analysis identifies only one key aspect <b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• links the aspect with the trustworthiness of the source</li> <li>• includes supporting evidence.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidate's analysis identifies key aspects which affect trustworthiness of the source <b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifies relevant links</li> <li>• includes relevant supporting evidence.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for <b>4 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments</li> <li>• analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research.</li> </ul>

Evaluation of trustworthiness – award up to a maximum of 6 marks			
0 marks	1–2 marks	3–4 marks	5–6 marks
<p>No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response).</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Evaluative points are not relevant (do not refer to the source).</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Evaluative comments lack reasoning.</p>	<p>Candidate makes reasoned points of evaluation about the trustworthiness of the source <b>but</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is lack of development in reasoning</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they make only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation about the source, which has supporting evidence.</li> </ul> <p>*Developed points may include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evidence from the source</li> <li>• evidence from other social science research</li> <li>• reasons</li> <li>• background information about conducting social science research.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidate makes at least two developed* points of evaluation which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• address the strengths and weaknesses of the source</li> <li>• are supported by knowledge about conducting social science research.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for <b>4 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• judgements on strengths and weaknesses are supported by reference to relevant additional research/sources (this may include candidate's own research)</li> <li>• the judgement includes consideration of alternative approaches which may increase the trustworthiness of the source.</li> </ul>

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.	<p>There is a clear overall judgement about the extent of trustworthiness of the source.</p> <p>The conclusion follows from a line of argument and is supported by reasons/evidence.</p>	<p>Candidate meets the criteria for <b>2 marks and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, using these to support the overall judgement expressed within the conclusion.</li> </ul>

## Marking instructions for each question

### Section 1 – Political issues and research methods

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
1.		30	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks</i>.</p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• electoral systems           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– plurality</li> <li>– proportional</li> <li>– majoritarian systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>• elections and the distribution of power</li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>While First Past the Post (FPTP) used for UK general elections tends to bring about strong and stable government, the system is hugely flawed and not what most would describe as being ‘the best electoral system’. It creates a lot of wasted votes, as many votes do not elect anyone. This means that many voters who voted to select MPs from the losing parties do not have any influence on what laws are passed as the government has a large majority. Additionally, in safe seats, MPs win constituencies with huge majorities when all they actually needed for a victory was a majority of one vote. This makes the surplus votes wasted too. In 2017, the SNP were the more efficient party when it came to turning votes into seats, needing on average just 27,930 votes for each of the 35 seats they claimed in Parliament. This is due to the fact that their vote is concentrated in a small geographical area, to just the seats in Scotland, compared to other parties whose vote is more evenly spread out. For example, in 2017 the Green Party secured just one seat for the 525,371 votes they gained. This is more than half the number of votes that the SNP received – the reward for which is a fraction of the seats. The best electoral systems are fairer with everyone’s vote counting.</i></p> <p><i>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</i></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>There are many types of electoral systems, but electoral systems are not simply neutral statistical arrangements that enable MPs to be chosen for a legislature. The system used can play an important role in determining who is elected, the nature of the legislature, the legislative programme, the place of particular parties in the political system and the attitude of the general public to the electoral process or an election result. Probably the most important requirement of an electoral system is that it enables the citizens of a nation to elect their legislative members and, in many cases, the head of state. Arguably, the best electoral systems do ensure a strong stable majority government, since the main thing the electorate want following an election is a government who can get on with running the country, but there is more to it than that.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><i>The First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system tends to produce a strong majority government which arguably leads to decisive government. While it failed to do so in 2010, resulting in a coalition government, in 2024 the Labour Party secured a strong majority of 174 seats giving Keir Starmer's government the mandate to take forward their legislative programme with confidence. In assessing the efficacy of an electoral system, though, people are increasingly questioning whether this is right and proper, suggesting instead that the system ought to offer fair representation and choice. The main question in respect of the former, is whether or not there should be a close correlation between vote share and seats won for example, a 50% vote for a party producing 50% of the legislature's seats. One might suppose that a party should win half the votes in an election to win half of the seats, yet commonly the electoral system leads to the winning party/coalition gaining more seats than their vote share would seem to warrant. In 2024, Labour won 33.7% of the vote share and 411 out of 650 seats obtaining 63% of the seats. This has been called the 'winner's bonus'. Provided that the 'winner's bonus' effect does not become too exaggerated, however, people seem prepared to accept this level of distortion. Conversely, Reform UK won 14.3% of the votes but only five MPs which equates 0.8% of the seats. The 2024 results are clearly not proportional and are an important factor in stimulating ongoing discussion about possible reform of the British electoral system with the Telegraph describing it as the most distorted result in history. In 2022, at the Labour Party conference members backed a motion which supported a 'fairer proportional electoral system'. The motion stated that the UK's political system has 'catastrophically failed to represent people's wishes, needs and votes.' It argued that FPTP does 'long-term damage to the health of our democracy'. Now they are in government it remains to be seen if they pursue it.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>The supplementary vote is an example of a system in which candidates must receive a majority of votes to be elected, either in a runoff election or a final round of voting such as the system used in London Mayoral elections prior to 2024. Majoritarian voting often involves voters ranking candidates in order of preference; this system is used for parliamentary elections in Australia and Papua New Guinea. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote in the first round, the second preferences of the lowest-ranked candidate are then added to the totals. This is repeated until a candidate achieves over 50% of the number of valid votes. The other main form of majoritarian system is the two-round system, which is the most common system used for presidential elections around the world, being used in 88 countries. It is also used in 20 countries for electing the legislature. The key benefit of such systems is that they provide a stronger mandate than FPTP which in the 2024 UK General Election resulted in the Labour Party gaining a majority of the seats but only 33.7% of the vote, a lower share of the vote than any party forming a majority government in the post-war period.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</b></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p>The Additional Member System (AMS) used in Scottish Parliament elections is arguably the best kind of system, because rather than the focus being on producing a strong stable government, it seeks to provide fair representation. It provides a close match between share of votes and share of seats. For example, in the 2021 Scottish Parliament Election, the Conservatives won around 23% of the votes and 24% of the seats. This shows there is often a very close match between the two and the system is almost exactly proportional. The same can be seen in Bolivia, where AMS is used in elections to The Chamber of Deputies. In the 2020 election, the Movement for Socialism Party gained 55.1% of the vote, which translated into 57.7% of the seats. Creemos gained 14% of the vote, which equated to 12.3% of the seats. This system, therefore, gives a more accurate representation of what the public wants. However, AMS can often cause coalitions which voters did not directly vote for. This can lead to unstable governments who cannot get bills and laws passed and may have to settle for compromises. For example, the minority SNP government found it difficult to get its budget approved for 2020-2021 and so had to negotiate with other parties eventually agreeing free bus travel for under 19s and more local government funding in return for votes from the Greens. This shows that although the AMS is a roughly proportional voting system, it has its flaws as coalitions can often be formed leading to worse outcomes and arguably less stable government.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p>First Past the Post (FPTP) is a straightforward voting system which produces a clear outcome with little ambiguity over results. FPTP, despite its flaws, has a lot of public support and the electorate voted against changing it in a referendum. It produces majority governments, with very few exceptions, and arguably this is the most important feature of an electoral system. The party who wins the election needs to be able to get on with the business of running the country immediately and systems which allow them to do so without having to negotiate with others and form coalitions are the best. Most countries around the world use proportional voting systems, however, so there are other important features of voting systems beyond just achieving a majority government.</p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Electoral systems are crucial to the way in which people take part in politics, and who holds power in a representative democracy. Electoral systems therefore play a defining role in the character of the political system. First Past the Post (FPTP), a system based on plurality, has been used in the UK for a long time and looks set to remain the system by which general elections are decided for the foreseeable future. At the heart of its strengths is the fact that it almost always returns a majority government, who have a mandate to put in place their manifesto pledges and who may run the country without the need to compromise or negotiate with the other parties. For many, this remains an important feature of electoral systems since, if the outcome of an election is an unstable government, unable to legislate and push forward with their plans, this can be seen as political decision-making being thwarted, which is problematic for society as a whole. That said, increasingly systems that bring about majority governments are being criticised and the argument could be made that the best systems are in fact those where the results are proportionate. On this account, an electoral system should make sure that a party's level of support is reflected in the number of seats they win. FPTP, however, does not produce a distribution of seats that reflects the overall way in which votes have been cast across the country. Parties that receive less than half of the total UK vote regularly win a majority of seats in the House of Commons. This means that under FPTP the legislative chamber fails to reflect and represent the public's political preferences and awards unearned majorities to one of two main parties. Arguably too, this does not even lead to strong stable government, as from the outset there are disgruntled opposition MPs and voters, who argue that the government is not in fact as legitimate as the numbers might at first suggest they are. This leads to a more adversarial approach to politics in the House of Commons than is usually seen in other countries where more proportional systems are employed. The best electoral systems are, therefore, those which produce a representative and fair result, which in turn will bring about stronger and more stable government anyway.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
2.		30	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks</i>.</p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contemporary relevance of conservatism to political parties</li> <li>• comparison of contemporary relevance with liberalism, nationalism, socialism</li> <li>• current political party policy and direction</li> <li>• comparison with parties' traditional ideology</li> <li>• similarities and differences between political parties' core values and policies</li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Conservatives seek to conserve society and are distrustful of ideological thinking. Traditional conservatism is based on the belief in a limited role for the government, traditional values such as religion and morality, and the implementation of gradual as opposed to radical changes within the confines of society. Conservatism emerged as a reaction to revolutionary political ideas in France and emphasised the importance of traditions in society and opposition to abrupt change. These ideas remain central to most people's understanding of the core of the UK Conservative Party and can be seen in some of their recent decision-making. That said, today it is probably more the case that one-nation conservatism is at the fore, rather than traditional conservatism. One-nation evolved from the early traditional ideas, focusing on national unity through attending to the condition of society's poorer classes. One-nation conservatism can be described as a progressive attempt to combine 'compassion and competence'. It has been used by politicians to justify greater state intervention in society and the economy, and higher levels of spending and taxation than traditional conservatism would support. Traditional conservatism has no contemporary relevance, whereas one-nation conservatism is increasingly more so.</i></p> <p><i>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</i></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>In recent years, the UK has seen the growth of pragmatism on the part of the Conservative Party. Boris Johnson, as Mayor of London, explained that 'I'm a one-nation Tory. There is a duty on the part of the rich to the poor and to the needy'. This idea followed through into his time in office as Prime Minister: in the immediate aftermath of the 2019 General Election, he repeatedly claimed he would form a 'one-nation' Conservative government. To show he was serious, one week after the results, Johnson pledged to increase the NHS budget by £34 billion during his term. This is consistent with him declaring he would 'repay' votes that had been lent to the Tories by investing in underprivileged areas, namely the Midlands and Northeast of England. In the early days of his election, Johnson appeared to be making significant steps towards this. For example, in December in Sedgefield, Tony Blair's former seat, he announced a 'spending spree' to cater to the needs of his new conservative voters, using a £80 billion fund for infrastructure spending in Northern England.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p>However, despite this, it could be argued that one-nation conservatism is more of a gimmick than a proper commitment to help those less fortunate. Likewise, paternalism has enabled the Conservatives to present themselves in a positive light to those with very little wealth to actually conserve. In doing so, one-nation ideas have allowed the Conservative Party to claim a mandate to govern on behalf of wider society and makes it far more relevant than traditional conservatism. It is worth remembering, however, that for all the talk of one national pragmatism and paternalism, at their core, conservatives favour the rejection of change. As Oakeshott described, in talking of traditional conservatism, ‘it is a psychology rather than an ideology, drawing upon humanity’s instinctive love of the familiar.’ Today’s conservatives continue, therefore, to reject pragmatic change, where it conflicts with their instincts and emotions in relation to the status quo.</p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p>While this ideology and direction in the UK has been overtaken in many ways by one-nation and New Right ideas, traditional conservative values continue to be of relevance here and also in the US, particularly so in some of the Southern States, where patriotism and America’s Christian foundations are important. Traditionalists worry that these foundations are under threat from a liberal culture of diversity. They believe in values such as personal responsibility and self-reliance, and they think that too much emphasis is given to issues of LGBTQIA+ rights, sexual harassment, and racism. Surveys suggest that traditional conservatives are a sizeable group and they are more likely than any other group to feel their voice is represented in US politics. Thus, suggesting this type of conservatism remains relevant, though how relevant differs from country to country and state to state.</p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p>The New Right would argue that one-nation conservatism has sanctioned far too many changes in the role of the state and its interactions with society and the economy and has lost touch with true conservative principles. In recent years what we have seen is a move further right. When Kemi Badenoch was elected as the new Conservative Party leader, she said the party had gone wrong by talking right but governing left and that they need to stop acting like Labour to win back power. In the US, the move to the right has been even greater under Trump’s MAGA agenda which emphasises ultra nationalism, stronger borders and better economy. Badenoch and Trump represent a new stream of conservatism which is a pragmatic and flexible ideology which still retains some elements of traditional conservative values.</p> <p>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.</p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Overall, therefore, traditional conservatism can be seen to have no contemporary relevance. All recent Conservative Prime Ministers of the UK have identified as one-nation conservatives and clearly do not subscribe to traditional ideology. Rishi Sunak's ideology was less clear cut: in the past he had been verbally very unenthusiastic about large-scale spending commitments, saying in his first leadership bid that the Government needed to 'return to traditional conservative economic values' rather than 'fairytales'. Despite this, one-nation pragmatism can be seen through the way he approached the COVID-19 crisis as Chancellor. The Furlough Scheme was an attempt to use the powers of the state to help people who would be vulnerable. While he preferred lower taxes and spending, he spent government money to help the most vulnerable during the cost-of-living crisis.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Traditional conservatism remains very relevant particularly in respect of the constitution. Conservatives tend to be opposed to far-reaching constitutional changes preferring instead smaller changes that modify the constitutional system when there is a particular issue that needs addressing. Conservatives might defend the UK's uncodified constitutional arrangements by arguing that it allows for the development of the political system based on practical experience and the demands of the moment. Unsurprisingly, conservatives usually want to 'conserve' the traditional elements of the constitution, which they might believe embody national values and a history we should celebrate. For example, conservatives tend to defend the monarchy and would not want to see it abolished, or the monarch's traditional powers changed. Oakeshott wrote that the conservative 'will find small and slow changes more tolerable than large and sudden; and he will value highly every appearance of continuity.' This still stands in the modern day, showing the relevance of traditional conservatism. However, when it comes to matters beyond constitutional change, traditional conservatism plays less of a role in the UK at least today. In November 2022, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt announced a £3.3 billion increase in the National Health Service's budget and a rise in spending for social care and schools which indicates pragmatism under a one-nation approach rather than traditional conservatism.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
3.		30	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• legislative</li> <li>• executive</li> <li>• judiciary</li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Separation of powers refers to the idea that the major institutions of state should be independent and that no individual should have powers that span these offices. Additionally, it should be that no one branch becomes more powerful than the others. This is because each branch has the power to control some things in the other branches. The institutions are the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. In reality, in most democratic countries, including the UK, the legislative branch does have at least a little more power than the others. The legislative branch creates laws, borrows money, collects taxes, regulates business, and develops a social contract with its citizens in return for ensuring safety and maintaining order. This could be seen as more important than some of the functions of the executive, like representing the nation abroad, and the judiciary, who interprets and upholds the law.</i></p> <p><i>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</i></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>In Montesquieu's <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i>, the separation of powers is outlined as a way to guard against tyranny and preserve liberty. 'There is no liberty if the powers of judging is not separated from the legislative and executive. There would be an end to everything, if the same man or the same body were to exercise those three powers.' To that end, the major institutions should be divided and dependent upon each other so that one power would not be able to exceed that of the other two. The separation of powers is a way to foster a system of checks and balances necessary for good government. Many countries do not have a strict separation of powers, but a compromise, where some functions are shared between the institutions of state. This is the case in the UK, where the powers of the three are intertwined, with the executive and legislative branches demonstrating 'a nearly complete fusion of the executive and legislative powers'. Walter Bagehot viewed this as the 'efficient secret of the English constitution'. This gives the executive in the UK much more power than would be the case where they completely separate.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, while the judiciary is clearly powerful in many important ways and can interpret statute law, judges are subordinate to Parliament and may not challenge the validity of Acts of Parliament. This suggests that some branches of government are indeed more powerful than others. In recent years, the UK executive has sought to increase their power. Regulation of elections, restrictions on the right to protest, undermining the status of the devolved institutions and the treatment of refugees would, according to the UK Constitution Monitoring Group (UKCMG) 'enhance the discretion of the UK executive in troublesome ways.'</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>During the Philadelphia Convention, it was decided that the US Government should have three branches and that no one branch should be allowed to be too powerful. The Government has a system called checks and balances, where each branch is given power to check the powers of the other two branches. For example, the President has the power to veto a bill passed by Congress, Congress has the power to impeach Supreme Court Judges or Presidents and the Supreme Court has the power to overturn a law that they deem to be unconstitutional. This shows that none of the branches have more power than the others. In contrast, this separation of powers is less apparent in the UK system where parliament has supremacy.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>In the UK, there are three clear branches of power- the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Each plays a different role in the systems of making and upholding the law. A fusion of powers exists with the executive and legislative branches of government having some crossover. For example, the Prime Minister is necessarily a member of both the executive and legislative branches. While there is an independent judiciary, designed to act in part as a check on the other two branches, in reality they have less power than the others. They can make declarations of incompatibility if a law is seen as being incompatible with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, but this simply requires Parliament to consider amending the law to make it compatible. Parliament remains sovereign, so can technically ignore Supreme Court judgements. However, no government wants to appear to be above the law, so governments have always respected the rulings of the Supreme Court. This is different to what is seen in the US. The system of government is laid out clearly in the United States Constitution, which outlines the same three branches as in the UK. However, importantly it sees them as being separate but equal branches of government. Each branch has individual powers, but a system of checks and balances exists to ensure that no branch has more power than the other two. In the US, the Supreme Court can strike down laws as being unconstitutional.</i></p> <p>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.</p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Overall, while the structure of most countries' political systems means no branch can be more powerful than the others, in practice this is not usually the case. In many Western countries, the legislative branch is the most powerful. When assessing the function of each branch, this is very clear: the legislative branch are the ones who make laws and undertake the day-to-day running of the country. In some nations, such as the UK, the executive has a role to play in this because of the fusion of powers, but in many other countries, these functions remain separate from one another, such that the executive has less control over everyday law making. In the US, Congress may utilise the Elastic Clause, which allows them to make all laws that are 'necessary and proper' for carrying out its duties. Congress not only has the flexibility to expand its powers but can also create laws which are then carried out by the executive branch.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>In the UK, there are clear differences in the power held by each branch. The fusion of power, as opposed to a strict separation of powers has meant it has been easier to erode the powers of one branch and for another to exert more. The 2021 UK Constitution Monitoring Group (UKCMG) report raised concerns about the growing power of the UK executive. They warned that the checks and balances on ministerial power are proving insufficient, and that the Government is intent on reducing them further still. This led The Lords to publish a number of reports calling for an urgent reform of the balance of power. The reports went as far as describing the current situation as being 'Government by Diktat', questioning whether 'Democracy (is being) denied?' and calling for an urgent need to rebalance power. Each contains a stark warning about a shift in power towards the executive and thus would contradict the statement that no one branch of government is more powerful than the others. However, in January 2022, the Government responded to both reports suggesting the opposite. The Government stated that 'the essential scrutiny role of both Houses of Parliament continues to ensure improvements and amendments are made to the government's legislative programme' and it did not agree that this scrutiny had been curtailed and that laws were being passed with 'little or no scrutiny'. With all amendments to bills being debated in the House of Lords as part of the legislative process, it could be argued that their power has not in fact grown and continues to be kept in check by the system, such that no branch has more power than they ought to.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
4.		15	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <p><b>Focus group</b></p> <p><b>Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus groups offer researchers the opportunity to gather qualitative data that is often insightful with a high degree of validity</li> <li>• often captures the views and emotions of participants which can allow the researcher to better plan future research</li> <li>• better able to explain the ‘why’ and ‘how’ of an issue</li> <li>• provide rich and detailed insights into attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours</li> <li>• group discussion offers insights that may not be apparent in quantitative research</li> <li>• are a time-efficient way to collect data. In a relatively short amount of time, researchers can gather a significant amount of information from multiple participants</li> <li>• gain insights into people’s shared understandings of everyday life and the ways in which individuals are influenced by others in a group situation</li> </ul> <p><b>Limitations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cannot make generalisations about the whole population due to the small numbers of people participating and the likelihood that the group are not a representative sample</li> <li>• the researcher has less control over the data produced than in quantitative studies or one-to-one interviewing</li> <li>• organising focus groups is more complex, time-consuming and requires more planning than other methods such as one-to-one interviews</li> <li>• homogenous groups may fail to reveal diverse opinions and different experiences may not be revealed – heterogeneous groups, for example in terms of gender or class, may impact on the contributions of some members</li> <li>• group settings can discourage certain people from participating, eg those who are not very articulate or confident, those who have communication problems or special requirements</li> <li>• focus groups are not fully confidential or anonymous because information is shared with the others in the group</li> </ul> <p><b>Reference to alternative methods could include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• official statistics</li> <li>• surveys</li> <li>• interviews</li> <li>• case studies</li> <li>• longitudinal studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Ethical issues including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consent</li> <li>• privacy</li> <li>• harm</li> <li>• deception</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the consequences of the withdrawal from the European Union on Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different social classes, genders, ethnicities or geographical areas.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the consequences of the withdrawal from the European Union on Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different social classes, genders, ethnicities or geographical areas. For example, 'More in Common', founded after the murder of Jo Cox MP in 2016, used focus groups across seven different segments of British society to carry out public opinion research on political issues.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 3</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the consequences of the withdrawal from the European Union (EU) on Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different social classes, genders, ethnicities or geographical areas. This will be particularly useful in this scenario as EU withdrawal will have had varied consequences on different people. Those who have studied or worked abroad would likely contribute different points to those who have not. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people's shared experiences of life in Scotland since the EU withdrawal and allow researchers to determine how the issue had affected different groups. For example, Investment and Pensions Europe (IPE) carried out a focus group on the fallout from Brexit looking at who will be worse off when Britain leaves.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario.</b></p> <p><b>Response 4</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the consequences of the withdrawal from the European Union (EU) on Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different social classes, genders, ethnicities or geographical areas. This will be particularly useful in this scenario as EU withdrawal will have had varied consequences on different people.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><i>Those who have studied or worked abroad would likely contribute different points to those who have not. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people's shared experiences of life in Scotland since the EU withdrawal and allow researchers to determine how the issue had affected different groups. For example, Investment and Pensions Europe (IPE) carried out a focus group on the fallout from Brexit looking at who would be worse off when Britain left. Nevertheless, focus groups are not representative of the general population and cannot be used to make generalisations about the feelings or experiences of the population of Scotland as a whole. To complement the use of focus groups, researchers could carry out a survey of a representative sample of Scotland's population in a mixed method approach to get a more comprehensive understanding of the consequences of withdrawal from the EU on Scotland. Surveys would provide quantitative data that could be added to the qualitative data produced by focus groups. This would provide an indication of 'how' as well as 'why' in relation to the issue.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.</b></p> <p><b>Response 5</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the consequences of the withdrawal from the European Union (EU) on Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different social classes, genders, ethnicities or geographical areas. This will be particularly useful in this scenario as EU withdrawal will have had varied consequences on different people. Those who have studied or worked abroad would likely contribute different points to those who have not. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people's shared experiences of life in Scotland since the EU withdrawal and allow researchers to determine how the issue had affected different groups. For example, Investment and Pensions Europe (IPE) carried out a focus group on the fallout from Brexit looking at who would be worse off when Britain left. Nevertheless, focus groups are not representative of the general population and cannot be used to make generalisations about the feelings or experiences of the population of Scotland as a whole. To complement the use of focus groups, researchers could carry out a survey of a representative sample of Scotland's population in a mixed method approach to get a more comprehensive understanding of the consequences of withdrawal from the EU on Scotland. Surveys would provide quantitative data that could be added to the qualitative data produced by focus groups. This would provide an indication of 'how' as well as 'why' in relation to the issue. While collecting and storing data from either surveys or focus groups, researchers would have to adhere to British Sociological Association's ethical practices to ensure that participants do not record the comments or images of other participants for privacy reasons. It is the researcher's duty to communicate to all participants what data will be collected and how long it will be stored to ensure data protection standards are met.</i></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 6</b>  <i>Surveys would be a more effective method for gathering data on the consequences of withdrawal from the European Union on Scotland than focus groups because they are relatively cheap, quick and easy to create and distribute and can gather large amounts of data from a large sample of the population.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark summarises key points – 1 mark.</p> <p><b>Response 7</b>  <i>Surveys would be a more effective method for gathering data on the consequences of withdrawal from the European Union on Scotland than focus groups because they are relatively cheap, quick and easy to create and distribute and can gather large amounts of data from a large sample of the population. Surveys can also be carried out online with software that can quantify data and analyse it quickly and easily with findings from the sample being applied to make generalisations about the wider population as long as the sample is representative or the responses are weighted to represent the general population.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons – 2 marks.</p> <p><b>Response 8</b>  <i>Surveys would be a more effective method for gathering data on the consequences of withdrawal from the European Union (EU) on Scotland than focus groups because they are relatively cheap, quick and easy to create and distribute and can gather large amounts of data from a large sample of the population. Surveys can also be carried out online with software that can quantify data and analyse it quickly and easily with findings from the sample being applied to make generalisations about the wider population as long as the sample is representative or the responses are weighted to represent the general population. Although focus groups can produce more qualitative data, this method is not the best for researching this issue as it does not enable the researcher to draw generalisations about the wider population. Withdrawal from the EU has affected every single person in Scotland in some way and a focus group of only 8-10 subjects does not have the scope to fully understand this issue.</i></p> <p>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method – 3 marks.</p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
5.		15	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the source includes an interview with Lord Frost conducted on December 6, 2022. This indicates that the information is relatively up to date, making it relevant for discussions around that time</li> <li>• the source content appears to be relevant to the Institute for Government's mission, which is to make the UK government more effective through research and open discussions. The interview specifically addresses Lord Frost's role in negotiating the UK's exit from the EU</li> <li>• the publisher, the Institute for Government, is described as an independent, non-partisan charity that works with all political parties which suggests it will be unbiased and impartial</li> <li>• Lord Frost, a key figure in the Brexit negotiations, has a level of expertise, experience and authority in discussing government-related matters</li> <li>• information provided in the interview is detailed and reflects Lord Frost's first-hand experiences and perspectives of political issues and Brexit negotiations which would be highly valid for studies of this political issue</li> <li>• the Institute for Government's reputation for rigorous research, suggests the information is likely to be reliable</li> <li>• the purpose of the source is to contribute to inform public debate about effective government by providing insights into political experiences which reinforces its impartiality, validity and reliability</li> <li>• the source contains web links on both interviewers which may allow judgments about their background, integrity and objectivity to be made</li> <li>• although adapted, there is a web link that allows access to the full interview to be accessed which would enable a judgment to be reached on the overall objectivity of the interview and interview questions</li> <li>• the interview method allows researchers to gather detailed and in-depth information, allowing participants to provide more nuanced responses which provide richer data and a deeper understanding of the research issue</li> <li>• interviews offer flexibility in terms of structure and format with researchers able to conduct structured, semi-structured, or unstructured interviews which allows researchers to tailor the interview approach to the needs of their study</li> <li>• a semi-structured approach appears to have been used in this source which is often considered 'the best of both worlds' combining structured and unstructured interviews which gives the interviewer both comparable data and the flexibility to ask follow-up questions</li> <li>• interviews generate qualitative data that is valuable for providing insights researchers may not have considered and help the development of theories that can explain complex phenomena</li> </ul>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Arguments that the source's validity and/or reliability are questionable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is potential for bias in the selection of questions, the framing of issues, and the editing process as the perspectives of the interviewers are not apparent</li> <li>• the interview reflects the singular views of Lord Frost's perspective on the Brexit negotiations. He is a former Conservative Minister so is likely to be highly biased- while it provides valuable insights, a comprehensive analysis would ideally include multiple viewpoints to offer a more balanced understanding of the events</li> <li>• Lord Frost as a key figure in the Brexit negotiations, may have personal or political motivations that influence his portrayal of events- the source does not comment on or address potential biases or conflicts of interest that may arise from Lord Frost's political position</li> <li>• the source is an adapted version of the interview which reduces the trust in the source as there is limited detail on the editing that has taken place</li> <li>• the interviewer's presence may have had an influence on the participant responses – the Hawthorne effect</li> <li>• the open-ended nature of semi-structured interviews increases the risk of asking leading questions which in turn can lead to biased responses</li> <li>• semi-structured interviews may also increase the risk of respondents giving the answers they think the interviewee(s) wish to hear- social desirability bias</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b>  <i>The source, an interview with Lord Frost by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b>  <i>The source, an interview with Lord Frost by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity and the fact it works with all political parties which reduces the likelihood it will be biased.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</b></p> <p><b>Response 3</b>  <i>The source, an interview with Lord Frost by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity, and the fact it works with all political parties which reinforces the likelihood it is impartial and objective. However, the approach used to interview Lord Frost appears to be a semi-structured interview which makes it more difficult to ensure questions are unbiased, as spontaneous or unscripted questions will not have been checked beforehand to eliminate interviewer-bias. Interviewing politicians is also notoriously difficult as they are powerful people 'conscious of their own importance' (Richards, 1996) which may influence the interviewer who may not ask probing questions that they fear might cause offence to such powerful persons.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p>This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research.</p> <p><b>Response 4</b></p> <p><i>The source, an interview with Lord Frost by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity, and the fact it works with all political parties which reinforces the likelihood it is impartial and objective. However, the approach used to interview Lord Frost appears to be a semi-structured interview which makes it more difficult to ensure questions are unbiased, as spontaneous or unscripted follow-up questions will not have been checked beforehand to eliminate interviewer-bias. Interviewing politicians is also notoriously difficult as they are powerful people 'conscious of their own importance' (Richards, 1996) which may influence the interviewer who may not ask probing questions that they fear might cause offence to such powerful persons. Additionally, while the interviewers may aim to be unbiased, their presence, questions and potential influence on Lord Frost's responses could have introduced unintentional bias as his responses may reflect what he thinks the interviewer and wider public want to hear. Further detail on how the questions and interview structure were planned and then used, would increase trust in this source and the approach used to produce the information in it.</i></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 5</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, the source is trustworthy to a large extent due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a simple summary of key points – 1 mark.</b></p> <p><b>Response 6</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, the source trustworthy to a large extent due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner. However, potential biases in the interview process and the personal and political biases of the interviewee, an ex-conservative Minister, suggest the source is not entirely trustworthy and that care should be taken in using it by researchers.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence – 2 marks.</b></p> <p><b>Response 7</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, the source is trustworthy to a large extent due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner. However, potential biases in the interview process and the personal and political biases of the interviewee, an ex-Conservative Minister, suggest the source is not entirely trustworthy. Nevertheless, their personal insights and experiences makes this source highly valid.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation – 3 marks.</b></p>

## Section 2 – Law and order and research methods

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
6.		30	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• human rights and civil liberties</li> <li>• human rights and constitutional arrangements</li> <li>• impact of human rights legislation</li> <li>• challenges to human rights and civil liberties</li> <li>• effectiveness of the criminal justice system in protecting human rights and civil liberties</li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>While equality in the criminal justice system has improved, some groups still face inequality such as those with learning or physical disabilities. For example, a 2020 report from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) stated that the Scottish criminal justice system was letting down those with mental health issues, brain injuries and autism. One central criticism was that adjustments and supports had not been provided to ensure this group could properly participate in the legal process. For any democracy that prides itself on a fair and legal process for all, this is disappointing to learn. In addition, many legal professionals lacked the training needed to deal with disabled victims and defendants. The EHRC also found that people with disabilities were overrepresented in the criminal justice system because the Scottish Government had failed to accurately record people with disabilities within the criminal justice system.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>While many acknowledge improvements, there is without a doubt still high levels of racism in the criminal justice systems in the UK. This is most notable in the police forces but also in prisons. The Howard League states that British Afro-Caribbean people are seven times more likely to be in jail despite being no more likely to commit crimes. The Lammy Review in 2017 found significant bias in the criminal justice system and it would appear this bias certainly still exists today. That review found that people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds made up 25% of the prison population and 41% of the youth justice system in England and Wales but only 14% of the general population. Other statistics also bare out high levels of inequality for ethnic minority groups in the criminal justice system today. For example, in England and Wales, only 11% of magistrates and 7% of judges are Black, suggesting a considerable lack of diversity in court cases. Surveys from the public also reveal that nearly two-thirds of Black and minority ethnic people feel there is bias against them within police forces and the courts. Other ethnic minority groups including those of Bangladeshi, Chinese and Indian backgrounds agreed although in fewer numbers.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><i>These survey results are not surprising given that the BBC has found that Metropolitan Police officers are four times more likely to use force against Black people compared with the white population. Stamping out direct and indirect racism, which has been embedded for centuries in Britain, is no small task but for far too long, in too many places, it had been ignored. To suggest that equality in the criminal justice system has not yet been achieved is to state the obvious.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Many women continue to face bias and stereotyping in the criminal justice systems in the UK and around the world. Criminologists in the UK have long since claimed that women committing violent crime are more severely punished. In many countries criminal sanctions are used to curb sexual or religious transgressions. Laws aimed to stop adultery, extramarital sex and prostitution penalise women disproportionately, even if they are written to be gender neutral. Penal Reform International has found that females charged on moral offences are often treated more harshly than males because they do not keep within the confines of their gender role. In Middle Eastern, Asian, and African countries women more frequently face charges of adultery, even when there is clear indication of rape, in comparison to men. For example, in Pakistan many women in prisons are accused of or are convicted for violating the prohibition against extramarital sex. Even in instances when the woman has reported rape or are divorced, they often face a prison sentence. This suggests that, in comparison to women in the UK, many women around the world face higher levels of inequality within their own criminal justice systems.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Research on the discrimination of women in criminal justice systems around the world has historically been lacking. The last few decades have seen more attention and studies given to this issue, mostly from international bodies such as the United Nations. The adoption of the Bangkok Rules (2010) constituted a major step forward in recognising that the gender needs of women are much different than that of men. The rules covered the treatment of not just women in prison but also women experiencing alternatives to custody in countries around the world. What is clear is that even today there are many countries that have not made gender-sensitive non-custodial sentences or gender-sensitive conditions in prison a priority. Research suggests that because women face higher levels of poverty and are often dependent on male family members it makes it harder for women to pay fines for example. Pakistani women for example, were found to be detained for longer periods of time for minor offences in comparison to men. In English and Welsh courts, it was found that judges were more reluctant to fine women which then meant harsher community penalties in comparison to men. Whether in the UK or Pakistan, it was found that judges both at pre-trial hearings and during sentencing often overlooked the wider context and background of women which often included caring responsibilities, a history of domestic abuse and even the fact that women generally posed a lower risk to society.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><i>To suggest that equality in the criminal justice for women has not been achieved in both the UK and Pakistan is true. However, women in the criminal justice systems in the UK have higher levels of equality when compared to Pakistan largely due to a strong commitment to democratic institutions and the rule of law.</i></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>To conclude, equality in the criminal justice systems across the United Kingdom and around the world has not been achieved for all. Those with disabilities, whether physical or unseen, continue to face barriers in the UK and abroad. Most who work in criminal justice need additional training to help those with disabilities fully access all the supports available. Additionally, ethnic minorities face bias and discrimination as do women. It is true that, in comparison to many countries around the world, the discrimination that women and ethnic minorities face in the UK is not as severe. In countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, women are often adversely impacted by court sanctions due to poverty, a male dominated culture and because of caring responsibilities. These reasons also exist in the UK but not to the same extent. Police forces in the UK are still discriminatory. Therefore, equality both in the UK and in many places around the world within criminal justice, has not yet been achieved.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>There is no question different groups both in the UK and abroad experience discrimination. Whether those with a disability, from an ethnic minority group or women, all face inequality both in the UK and around the world. These groups all face discrimination in society more generally which does explain to a degree why such discrimination persists in the criminal justice system. Patriarchal structures, perceptions of gender-appropriate behaviour, and economic dependence has been embedded in western culture for centuries. Groups advocating for those with disabilities have gained a much stronger voice in recent years but, as research has shown, even the Scottish Government has not achieved equality for those with disabilities that find themselves in the criminal justice system. Prisons for too long have been designed for men and, in the UK, are only now beginning to recognise the gender-specific needs of female offenders. The link between violence against women and imprisonment is clear. Available research shows that the pathway to prison for many female offenders is littered with domestic or sexual violence, usually because of their partners or other family members. While the Bangkok Rules may have mandated sanitary pads for women in prisons, enforcing this and other rights that are enshrined in international law has proved challenging. Most would argue that equality has improved for those with disabilities and from ethnic minority groups as well as for women, however, the extent of these improvements varies widely when comparing countries today. Regardless of country, equality for all in criminal justice remains elusive even today.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			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	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• defining crime and deviance</li> <li>• measuring criminal behaviour</li> <li>• perceptions of crime</li> <li>• the media and moral panics</li> <li>• crime over time</li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>The mass media can often shape how the public views crime. For example, crime fiction and non-fiction books, and newspapers devote approximately 30% of their coverage to crime. This then often results in the over-representation and exaggeration of certain crimes which then increases the risk of some individuals believing that they are more likely to be a crime victim. While the mass media cannot report on every single crime that occurs, how they select what they report on is influenced by advertising and profit revenue. This results in people's perceptions of crime being influenced by the mass media which can ultimately lead to changes in law or how police departments prioritise their funding. Media representation therefore has a large role to play in the United Kingdom. It is for these reasons that perceptions of crime are not fixed as crime is interpreted through the lens of media outlets many of whom seek profit. While Ofcom regulates the UK communications industry, including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), many suggest that social media companies have too little oversight.</i></p> <p><i>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</i></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>The extent to which perceptions of crime change has a great deal to do with media coverage. Journalists and news outlets are often driven by their own values in determining what is newsworthy. Reiner points out that media coverage of crime is filtered through journalists' sense of what makes an event newsworthy. These are values held by editors and journalists which guide them in choosing what is newsworthy. This means that journalists tend to include and play up elements of a story that make it more newsworthy or to report on stories that are dramatic. For example, sex crimes and serial rapists can often make national news headlines. Random and unpredictable crimes typically wind up in the media. Research also suggests that events accompanied by CCTV or mobile phone footage are even more likely to appear in the media. This therefore reinforces the link between media use and fear of crime as evidence suggests the more people watch television or spend time on social media, the greater they fear being a victim of crime. This means that perceptions of crime do change depending on local events, media reporting or due to levels of media consumption. When perceptions of crime change, this inevitably leads to moral panics, laws and even police priorities changing. Perceptions of crime are therefore certainly not fixed.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Official measurements often do not show the full extent of crime. The 'dark figure' of crime refers to all unrecorded crime. This figure is often difficult to estimate because it includes crimes that are not even known about. While criminologists in the UK suggest that crime figures are 50% greater than recorded statistics, in some countries the 'dark figure' is even greater. The UK has clear laws around how to record crime, and victim and self-report studies to provide valid and reliable data. In countries where police corruption and the rule of law is compromised, such data is less likely to be trustworthy. For example, in Bulgaria corruption and collusion between the media and politicians suggests that the 'dark figure' of crime could be considerably higher. Without a free press and media ownership that is transparent, crime statistics are less likely to be valid and reliable. The European Union has placed Bulgaria 35th on the Press Freedom Index suggesting that its criminal justice system cannot be scrutinised in the same manner as in the UK. Therefore, the 'dark figure' of crime is more likely to be higher in Bulgaria when compared to the UK.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>When comparing crime figures between countries it becomes clear that measurements of crime can vary significantly. Feminists would suggest that the criminal justice system is dominated by males and female offenders are treated differently by the police and courts. The statistics massively underrepresent the level of crime committed against females not only in Scotland and the UK but countries throughout the world. One country that has a significantly high level of crime and violence committed against women is India. For example, a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes in India and surveys conducted by the Thomson Reuters Foundation reveal that a woman is raped every 29 minutes in India. In addition, the human trafficking of women and domestic violence in India is endemic. Around 70% of women in India are victims of violence which further proves that crime statistics on topics such as domestic abuse are less likely to be valid and reliable. With such high levels of violence committed against women feminists would suggest that, in a country that is so overtly dominated by men, crimes that occur against women will surely be under recorded.</i></p> <p>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.</p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>What is clear is that perceptions and measurements of crime are not fixed. This is because how people perceive crime is always changing as are laws about what is and is not criminal. Informal and formal social controls continue to influence how laws are written and enforced. In addition, measuring crime is never as precise as one may think. Police recorded crime can vary and the ‘dark figure’ of crime always means that massive amounts of crime go unrecorded and not even noticed by the public. Victim surveys and self-report studies, when compared to official recorded crime statistics, further prove that crime is always changing and is never fixed.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>To conclude, broadly speaking, the legal definition of crime is fixed and commonly accepted as an act that goes against the law and is punishable under this. However, what is deemed a crime differs from country to country. Measurements and perceptions of crime are less fixed as official statistics are socially constructed and subjective to some degree. Official statistics on police recorded crime may appear to be straightforward and factual but Marxist criminologists would naturally query how the statistics were collected and compiled. Various people, such as victims, witnesses and the police will have played a role in how a particular crime is reported and recorded, all bringing their own unconscious bias which creates grey and dark figures on crime. In countries that have considerable corruption, such as Bulgaria, or high levels of crime against women, such as India, crime statistics will be less trustworthy. Further to this the media fixation and reporting of crime distorts the public’s perceptions and often exaggerates the volume of certain crimes.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
8.		30	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• benefits of early intervention</li> <li>• potential pitfalls</li> <li>• examples of early intervention programmes: The Graham Allen Review, No Knives Better Lives, Early and Effective Intervention</li> <li>• policing strategies and/or multi agency approaches</li> <li>• criminal justice responses to crime, including custodial and non-custodial sentences</li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>One early intervention strategy to help young people avoid getting caught up in knife crime and anti-social behaviour more generally is No Knives, Better Lives (NLBL). This national programme funded by the Scottish Government has developed resources for schools and social workers to use when working with at-risk young people. In addition to developing a range of resources NLBL trains educational professionals and works directly with at-risk young people to debunk myths around youth and knife crime. While this early intervention has made a difference in the lives of thousands of young people and helped reduce youth crime in Scotland, it cannot on its own eliminate knives in the community or replace custodial sentences. While this is one example of a successful early intervention, it can be challenging to measure against other programmes or indeed against crime rates more generally.</i></p> <p>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>One early intervention strategy that has proved to be good value for taxpayers at reducing future crime is No Knives, Better Lives (NLBL). This national programme which is aimed at educating youths about carrying knives has reached an estimated 100,000 young people. NLBL has been credited with contributing to an 85% reduction in the number of young people convicted of handling an offensive weapon since 2009 suggesting early intervention programmes can be both effective and good value for money. This YouthLink Scotland initiative, a response to the high incidence of knife crime, has focused on prevention and early intervention, with school visits and social media campaigns. According to Scottish Government figures, violent crime has fallen by 33% during this same period. The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) suggests that education-based interventions hold the most promise for effectively addressing knife crime. Education based interventions which address the two main reasons why young people carry knives, fear and status, are best placed to make a difference. The SCCJR also advocates for diversionary programmes such as mentoring programmes and local sporting initiatives to supplement NLBL's direct education outreach. However, critics suggest that such programmes will never on their own eradicate crime and that much larger societal issues such equality, poverty and opportunity have a greater role in reducing future crime.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><i>There is considerable research from around the world which suggests that places with pronounced income inequality are more likely to have high rates of violent crime. Becker goes on to argue that the more gains potential criminals can make, the more likely they will be to take risks and engage in offending. There will always be a role for custodial sentences for violent offenders to keep society safe and to give victims a sense of justice. Indeed, for some violent repeat offenders, a custodial sentence may very well prevent future instances of crime. Therefore, early interventions such as NKBL do make meaningful differences in preventing future crime but greater societal equality, where opportunities exist for everyone in society, are of greater importance.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>The Scottish Government's Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) framework for young people involved in offending behaviour is an early intervention strategy that can be considered successful. The programme's purpose is to divert young people away from the criminal justice system. EEI has a focus on partnership and multi-agency working to ensure that a wide variety of support is explored to prevent future offending. This approach contains some similarities with Italy's approach to community policing which recognises the importance of putting the child at the centre of decisions.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Another early intervention which helps to reduce crime and offenders going to prison is the Supporting Families programme in England and Wales. Previously known as the Troubled Families programme, the UK Government allocated £165 million to this outreach programme in 2021-2022, which targeted over 400,000 vulnerable families. As a result, the number of children going into care was significantly reduced as were the total the number of adults going to prison. One key element of this programme was £7.9 million being allocated to improve how councils and key workers used data to support families, as this sharing of information was thought to be instrumental in the programme's overall success.</i></p> <p><i>Supporting vulnerable families occurs not only in England and Wales but in Ontario, Canada as well. The Project Early Intervention (PEI) scheme provides support to high-risk children and young people aged six to twelve years and has been found to be effective. The PEI project was initially managed by the Ottawa Police Service's Youth Centre and offered a life skills development programme, homework club, and sports and recreation opportunities. The idea with PEI was to increase the resiliency of young people to risk factors related to criminal behaviour. Specifically, the project's expected outcomes were to reduce the number of calls made to the police and improve school attendance. Priority was given to children and young people who had a sibling or parent involved in the criminal justice system and to homes that had previously suffered from domestic violence.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><i>Both programmes prove that early intervention programmes that engage with the young person's environment and look at the wider context stand the best chance of succeeding. Providing support to families early on can make a difference, regardless of society or country. This therefore proves that early intervention strategies that target family support, whether in Canada or England and Wales, are thought to be the most effective at reducing future crime.</i></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, there is little doubt that early intervention can play a critical role in preventing future crime. The Early and Effective Intervention programme and the Supporting Families programme are two examples that target at-risk young people early and engage with the environment that the young person has grown up in. Considerable evidence exists to prove that, where domestic violence occurs in families, young people are at greater risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour and violence later in life. Programmes that focus on mental health as part of a community policing programme are best placed to keep young people out of the criminal justice system and prevent future crime. Therefore, to state that early intervention remains the best strategy at reducing crime in the future is valid.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>There is little doubt that early intervention can save the criminal justice system in the United Kingdom hundreds of millions of pounds. The Scottish Government's Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) programme aligns with placing the child at the centre of decisions and joining up agencies that can best offer support to that child at the right time. The Supporting Families programme in England and Wales reinforces the view that families are instrumental in the growth and development of children, and ultimately, can play an important role in crime prevention. No wonder that early intervention programmes in Italy, with its focus on mental health and programmes such as Project Early Intervention (PEI) in Ontario, Canada are part of a move away from ineffective custodial sentences to reduce crime. For too long governments in Scotland and the United Kingdom thought building more prisons would ultimately reduce crime. Now, more than ever, there is a greater understanding around risks associated with offending. These risks need to be tackled early on with supports that are not punitive but aim to recognise the role that mental health and early childhood trauma play in disadvantaging young people. Such disadvantages ultimately play a major role in causing reoffending later in life.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
9.		15	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <p><b>Focus groups</b></p> <p><b>Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• research methods such as, focus groups offer researchers the opportunity to gather qualitative data that is often insightful with a high degree of validity</li> <li>• often captures the views and emotions of participants which can allow the researcher to better plan future research</li> <li>• better able to explain the ‘why’ and ‘how’ of the issue</li> <li>• provide rich and detailed insights into attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours</li> <li>• group discussion offers insights that may not be apparent in quantitative research</li> <li>• they are a time-efficient way to collect data. In a relatively short amount of time, researchers can gather a significant amount of information from multiple participants</li> <li>• gain insights into people’s shared understandings of everyday life and the ways in which individuals are influenced by others in a group situation</li> </ul> <p><b>Limitations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cannot make generalisations about the whole population because of the small numbers of people participating and the likelihood that the group are not a representative sample</li> <li>• the researcher has less control over the data produced than in either quantitative studies or one-to-one interviewing</li> <li>• organising focus groups is more complex, time-consuming and requires more planning than other methods such as one-to-one interviews</li> <li>• homogenous groups may fail to reveal diverse opinions and different experiences may not be revealed – heterogeneous groups, for example in terms of gender or class, may impact on the contributions of some members</li> <li>• group settings can discourage certain people from participating, for example those who are not very articulate or confident, those who have communication problems or special needs</li> <li>• are not fully confidential or anonymous because information is shared with the others in the group</li> </ul> <p><b>Reference to alternative methods could include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• official statistics</li> <li>• surveys</li> <li>• interviews</li> <li>• case studies</li> <li>• longitudinal studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Ethical issues including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consent</li> <li>• privacy</li> <li>• harm</li> <li>• deception</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of the presumption against short prison sentences (PASS) in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different people impacted by PASS; perpetrators, victims and criminal justice professionals.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of the presumption against short prison sentences (PASS) in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different people impacted by PASS; perpetrators, victims and criminal justice professionals. For example, Revolving Doors agency used a focus group with former short-term prisoners to research their social care needs.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 3</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of the presumption against short prison sentences (PASS) in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different people impacted by PASS; perpetrators, victims and criminal justice professionals. For example, Revolving Doors agency used a focus group with former short-term prisoners to research their social care needs. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people's shared experiences of the consequences of the presumption against PASS in Scotland and allow researchers to determine different groups perspectives on PASS.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario.</b></p> <p><b>Response 4</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of the presumption against short prison sentences (PASS) in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different people impacted by PASS; perpetrators, victims and criminal justice professionals. For example, Revolving Doors agency used a focus group with former short-term prisoners to research their social care needs. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people's shared experiences of the consequences of the presumption against PASS in Scotland and allow researchers to determine different groups perspectives on PASS.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><i>Nevertheless, focus groups are not representative of the general population and cannot be used to make generalisations about the views or experiences of the population of Scotland as a whole. To complement the use of focus groups researchers could carry out a survey of a representative sample of Scotland's population in a mixed method approach to get a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of the presumption against PASS in Scotland. Surveys would provide quantitative data that could be added to the qualitative data produced by focus groups. This would provide an indication of 'how' as well as 'why' in relation to the issue.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.</b></p> <p><b>Response 5</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of the presumption against short prison sentences (PASS) in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of different people impacted by PASS; perpetrators, victims and criminal justice professionals. For example, Revolving Doors agency used a focus group with former short-term prisoners to research their social care needs. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people's shared experiences of the consequences of the presumption against PASS in Scotland and allow researchers to determine different groups perspectives on PASS. Nevertheless, focus groups are not representative of the general population and cannot be used to make generalisations about the views or experiences of the population of Scotland as a whole. To complement the use of focus groups researchers could carry out a survey of a representative sample of Scotland's population in a mixed method approach to get a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of the presumption against PASS in Scotland. Surveys would provide quantitative data that could be added to the qualitative data produced by focus groups. This would provide an indication of 'how' as well as 'why' in relation to the issue. While collecting and storing data from either surveys or focus groups, researchers would have to adhere to British Sociological Association's ethical practices to ensure that participants do not record the comments or images of other participants for privacy reasons. It is the researcher's duty to communicate to all participants what data will be collected and how long it will be stored to ensure data protection standards are met.</i></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 6</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be a more effective method for gathering data on the impact of the presumption against PASS in Scotland than surveys because they bring together people directly affected by the issue of PASS.</i></p> <p><b>This concluding remark summarises key points – 1 mark.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Response 7</b>  <i>Focus groups would be a more effective method for gathering data on the impact of the presumption against PASS in Scotland than surveys because they bring together people directly affected by the issue of PASS. Focus groups allow you to gather qualitative data which helps us to understand how people were affected and why.</i></p> <p><b>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons – 2 marks.</b></p> <p><b>Response 8</b>  <i>Focus groups would be a more effective method for gathering data on the impact of the presumption against PASS in Scotland than surveys because they bring together people directly affected by the issue of PASS. Focus groups allow you to gather qualitative data which helps us to understand how people were affected and why. While a survey may provide quantitative data and be cheap to carry out, in this scenario it would be less appropriate, as it may gather the opinions of people who are not directly affected by PASS.</i></p> <p><b>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method – 3 marks.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
10.		15	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the source content appears to be relevant to the Institute for Government's mission, which is to make the UK government more effective through research and open discussions. The interview specifically addresses Kenny MacAskill's role in establishing a single police force in Scotland</li> <li>• the publisher, the Institute for Government, is described as an independent, non-partisan charity that works with all political parties which suggests it will be unbiased and impartial</li> <li>• Kenny MacAskill, a former SNP MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Justice, has a level of expertise, experience and authority in discussing government-related matters</li> <li>• information provided in the interview is detailed and reflect Kenny MacAskill's first-hand experiences and perspectives of political and criminal justice issues in Scotland would be highly valid for the study of a law-and-order related issue</li> <li>• the Institute for Government's reputation for rigorous research, suggests the information is likely to be reliable</li> <li>• the purpose of the source is to contribute to informed public debate about effective government by providing insights into political experiences which reinforces its impartiality, validity and reliability</li> <li>• the source contains web links on both interviewers which may allow judgments about their background, integrity and objectivity to be made</li> <li>• although adapted, there is a web link that allows access to the full interview which would enable a judgment to be reached on the overall objectivity of the interview and interview questions</li> <li>• the interview method allows researchers to gather detailed and in-depth information, allowing participants to provide more nuanced responses which provide richer data and a deeper understanding of the research issue</li> <li>• interviews offer flexibility in terms of structure and format with researchers able to conduct structured, semi-structured, or unstructured interviews which allows researchers to tailor the interview approach to the needs of their study</li> <li>• a semi-structured approach appears to have been used in this source which is often considered 'the best of both worlds' combining structured and unstructured interviews which gives the interviewer both comparable data and the flexibility to ask follow-up questions</li> <li>• interviews generate qualitative data that is valuable for providing insights researchers may not have considered and help the development of theories that can explain complex phenomena</li> </ul> <p><b>Arguments that the source's validity and/or reliability are questionable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the source includes an interview with Kenny MacAskill conducted on 5 December 2018 which is not entirely up to date and means MacAskill's insights may not be relevant to contemporary issues in the Scottish legal system</li> <li>• there is potential for bias in the selection of questions, the framing of issues, and the editing process as the perspectives of the interviewers are not apparent</li> </ul>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the interview reflects the singular views of Kenny MacAskill, a former SNP MSP and Scottish Minister, and is likely to be highly biased – while it provides valuable insights, a comprehensive analysis would ideally include multiple viewpoints to offer a more balanced understanding of the events</li> <li>• Kenny MacAskill, a former SNP MSP and Scottish Minister, may have personal or political motivations that influence his portrayal of events – the source does not comment on or address potential biases or conflicts of interest that may arise from Kenny MacAskill's political position</li> <li>• the source is an adapted version of the interview which reduces the trust in the source as there is limited detail on the editing that has taken place</li> <li>• the interviewer's presence may have had an influence on the participant responses – the Hawthorne effect</li> <li>• the open-ended nature of semi-structured interviews increase the risk of asking leading questions which in turn can lead to biased responses</li> <li>• semi-structured interviews may also increase the risk of respondents giving the answers they think the interviewee(s) wish to hear- social desirability bias</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b>  <i>The source, an interview with Kenny MacAskill, by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b>  <i>The source, an interview with Kenny MacAskill, by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity and the fact it works with all political parties which reduces the likelihood it will be biased.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</b></p> <p><b>Response 3</b>  <i>The source, an interview with Kenny MacAskill, by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity and the fact it works with all political parties which reinforces the likelihood it is impartial and objective. However, the approach used to interview Kenny MacAskill appears to be a semi-structured interview which makes it more difficult to ensure questions are unbiased as spontaneous or unscripted questions will not have been checked beforehand to eliminate interviewer-bias. Interviewing politicians is also notoriously difficult as they are powerful people 'conscious of their own importance' (Richards, 1996) which may influence the interviewer who may not ask probing questions that they fear might cause offence to such powerful persons.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Response 4</b>  <i>The source, an interview with Kenny MacAskill, by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity and the fact it works with all political parties which reinforces the likelihood it is impartial and objective. However, the approach used to interview Kenny MacAskill appears to be a semi-structured interview which makes it more difficult to ensure questions are unbiased as spontaneous or unscripted follow-up questions will not have been checked beforehand to eliminate interviewer-bias. Interviewing politicians is also notoriously difficult as they are powerful people 'conscious of their own importance' (Richards, 1996) which may influence the interviewer who may not ask probing questions that they fear might cause offence to such powerful persons. Additionally, while the interviewers may aim to be unbiased, their presence, questions and potential influence on Kenny MacAskill's responses could have introduced unintentional bias as his responses may reflect what he thinks the interviewer and wider public want to hear. Further detail on how the questions and interview structure were planned and then used would increase trust in this source and the approach used to produce the information in it.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 5</b>  <i>In conclusion, the source is trustworthy to a large extent due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner.</i></p> <p>This example contains a simple summary of key points – 1 mark.</p> <p><b>Response 6</b>  <i>In conclusion, the source is trustworthy to a large extent due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner. However, potential biases in the interview process and the personal and political biases of the interviewee, an ex-SNP MSP and Minister, suggest the source is not entirely trustworthy and that care should be taken in using it by researchers.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence – 2 marks.</p> <p><b>Response 7</b>  <i>In conclusion, the source is trustworthy to a large extent due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner. However, potential biases in the interview process and the personal and political biases of the interviewee, an ex-SNP MSP and Minister, suggest the source is not entirely trustworthy and that care should be taken in using it by researchers. Nevertheless, their personal insights and experiences makes this source highly valid.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation – 3 marks.</p>

### Section 3 –Social inequality and research methods

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
11.		30	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• defining inequality</li> <li>• measuring social inequality</li> <li>• social mobility</li> <li>• different views of social inequality over time</li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question.</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>The definition of inequality refers to the unequal access to the benefits of society – in other words, society is stratified and some groups have more life opportunities and social mobility than others. Inequality is most clearly portrayed when analysing the levels of poverty in society. It is clear that the amount of inequality that exists is not fixed due to the increase in poverty levels across the UK in recent years. For example, the Child Poverty Action Group state that though the child poverty rate consistently fell between 1998 and 2010, it has now risen since 2010 and is currently at 27% or 3.9 million children.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>It is clear that inequality in the UK is a contested issue with different groups and bodies having different views on the matter. For example, the government are keen to point out that poverty rates may be exaggerated by interest groups and charities. Indeed, Rishi Sunak argued that ‘income inequality was lower coming into the pandemic than when the Conservatives first came into office’. Sunak argued that the government’s record on reducing inequality is ‘actually very strong’. Yet, there is clear evidence that this is not the case. The Office for National Statistics disputed Sunak’s point and stated that income inequality had increased prior to the pandemic. While the government may claim that there was a 2% increase in median income between 2020 and 2021, this small rise in median income was not indicative of the growing increase in inequality across the UK. For example, the Institute of Fiscal Studies found that income inequality in the UK had increased on average by 0.6% per year between 1961 and 2019. With increasing interest rates and energy prices in 2022, it is likely that this figure will rise further showing that in the UK, the rich are getting richer and the gap between the rich and poor continues to grow. Indeed, in 2019, Philip Alston, the UN rapporteur on poverty, published a report on poverty in Britain which stated that 14 million people were living in relative poverty. Government ministers disputed this, calling it a ‘completely inaccurate picture of our approach to tackling poverty’. Therefore, it is clear that governments may play down increasing inequality, for political reasons, and that this is in direct contrast to academic research that paints a more negative picture of inequality in the UK. This therefore proves that inequality is contested amongst different groups in society.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>In terms of measuring inequality, it can be argued that the measurements used are indeed, fixed. Globally, most countries use the same measurements to report on levels of inequality. For example, the World Bank uses the Gini co-efficient as a way of measuring income inequality across the world – where a score of 0 is total equality and 1 is total inequality. In 2021, the UK's Gini co-efficient was 0.34. This is in contrast to South Africa, which had a Gini co-efficient of 0.63. Furthermore, the measurement for absolute poverty is widely accepted as 'an income of less than US \$1.90 a day' as stated by the World Bank. This shows that while different countries may have differing levels of poverty and income inequality, such as the UK and South Africa, the tools for measuring these differences remain the same and are fixed.</i></p> <p>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Measuring relative poverty in developed countries has been fairly consistent and unchanged in recent years. Japan uses a measure of poverty as being defined as less than 50% of the median household income. This is identical to the way the US measure relative poverty. Though similar, the UK (and EU countries) use a slightly different measure of less than 60% of the median household income. This shows that measurements of relative poverty across developed countries are similar though not identical. However, there have been differences over time in measuring absolute poverty. In the past, measurements focused primarily on income and consumption but in recent decades, economists, researchers and policymakers have, according to the World Bank, 'focused on the importance of looking at wellbeing through a broader lens' by incorporating access to education, healthcare and sanitation alongside income into measurements of poverty, coining the term 'multi-dimensional poverty'. However, the World Bank concedes that 'there is no single formula that is universally accepted as official' for multi-dimensional poverty. There are difficulties in measuring all these factors, especially in developing countries, and each country will have its own specific context. Despite this, there are now growing numbers of developing countries, such as Ghana, Paraguay and Angola, that are using the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index as a way of measuring poverty. This shows the changeable nature of measuring inequalities over time – whilst relative poverty measurements have remained consistent, there has been a broadening of the measurement of absolute poverty.</i></p> <p>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.</p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, it is clear that inequality is not fixed. Indeed, the fact that there are clear discrepancies in poverty levels between different regions prove this. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation published their 2022 report into Poverty in the UK and noted that while the poverty rate was 22% in England, it was 18% and 19% in Northern Ireland and Scotland respectively. The JRF stated that ‘the benefit systems in Scotland and Northern Ireland are increasingly different to the rest of the UK’ and noted that measures such as a new Scottish Child Payment will help make progress towards tackling child poverty. This shows that poverty levels and responses to tackling poverty vary across different parts of the UK and therefore are not fixed.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Some may argue that inequality is entrenched in society and therefore is fixed and does not change. There are groups in society who suffer from persistent poverty and in 2021, the Health Foundation found that 12% of children, 11% of pensioners and 7% of working age adults live in persistent poverty. The existence of these groups whereby people are unable to be socially mobile and escape poverty prove that it could be argued that inequality is fixed and does not change. Persistent and generational poverty shows that there are structural inequalities in society – some groups such as children, lone parents and disabled people are more likely to experience deeper poverty and be less likely to escape poverty than other groups. Furthermore, there are some measures of poverty that are not contested and remain fixed over time. For example, the UK Government, the EU and many other countries use the poverty threshold to be 60% of median income. However, it is misleading to think that this is the only way to measure poverty. Focusing solely on income ignores other important measurements such as hardship – for example, the Child Poverty Action Group found that 100,000 children lack three meals a day or a warm winter coat. Furthermore, it is clear that the impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis has increased poverty across the UK. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation stated that the number of people in very deep poverty (below 40% of the median income) had increased by 1.8 million people. Poverty, and therefore inequality, is increasing and deepening throughout the UK and therefore it can be proven beyond doubt that inequality is not fixed.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
12.		30	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impact of inequality at a national level, including:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– housing: provision, demand, access</li> <li>– healthcare: provision, demand, access</li> <li>– welfare: provision, demand, access</li> <li>– unemployment: and gender, and age groups, and ethnic minorities, and regions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question.</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Housing inequalities have an enormous impact across the UK and these inequalities have increased in recent years with a widening gap between homeowners and those in need of social housing. According to Shelter, in 2000, a home cost four times the average salary. By 2021, this had doubled to eight times the average salary. This increase in price has widened the gap between the rich and poor. While 1.4 million people in the UK are on the waiting list for social housing, in 2021 there was an 83% increase in people buying second homes with some areas in Cornwall having 40% of homes classed as second homes.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>It can be argued that it is not housing inequalities that have the greatest impact at a national level, but health inequalities. Despite the UK having a National Health Service that is universal and free at the point of use, there is evidence to show that health inequalities are widening across the UK. The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected the most deprived with research published by health charity, The Kings Fund, showing that the COVID-19 mortality rate was 2.6 times higher for the most deprived decile in England compared to the least deprived decile. Furthermore, the 2022 cost of living crisis and increase of energy bills led the NHS Confederation to write an open letter stating that rising energy bills would ‘further exacerbate already stark health inequalities.’ The gap in life expectancy between the richest and poorest is well documented but the gap in healthy life expectancy shows the impact of health inequalities – not only do people living in more deprived areas have shorter life spans, but they also live more years in poor health. The mere fact that life expectancy for females in the most deprived decile has been falling since 2013 highlights that this is a monumental issue for the UK. Furthermore, health care provision across the UK is not equal. Hart’s Inverse Care Law – that describes how, perversely, people who need most health care are least likely to receive it – is still in evidence today. The Health Foundation published research in 2022 that stated ‘GP practices in the most deprived areas of England are relatively under-funded, under-doctored and perform less well on a range of quality indicators compared with practices in wealthier areas.’ Similarly, since 2020, hospital waiting lists for deprived areas have increased by 55% compared to 36% in the least deprived areas.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><i>This shows the clear correlation between areas of deprivation and health inequalities and thus prove that these widening health inequalities have the greatest impact at a national level.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>At a national level, unemployment has a large impact on inequality as unemployment can lead to social exclusion, health and housing inequalities and an increase in the need for state support in the form of benefits and welfare provision. In Scotland, the unemployment rate has consistently fallen in recent years from a high of 10.8% in 1992 to just under 4% by 2022. In comparison, South Africa has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the world with just over a third of people unemployed in 2022. This is one of the reasons that South Africa ranks as the country with the lowest level of income equality in the world, with a Gini coefficient of 0.63.</i></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>At a national level, one of the most significant impacts of inequality is both the demand for, and provision of, benefits and welfare. In the UK, in July 2022, 1.53 million people were claiming out-of-work benefits. In comparison, Norway had a similar percentage rate of unemployment and thus, proportionately, a similar percentage claiming out of work benefits. Yet, whilst demand (per capita of population) may be on a similar scale, the welfare provision shows stark differences. In the UK, if someone has lost their job, they are entitled to the statutory amount of approximately £77 per week. Yet, in Norway, welfare provision follows the Nordic Welfare model and unemployment benefits amount to 62.4% of a claimant's previous income. This increased financial support to Norwegian citizens helps to ensure that Norway is one of the most equal societies in the world. Indeed, according to Oxfam, Norway has the sixth lowest income inequality in the world compared to the UK which has one of the highest levels of unequal income distribution in Europe. However, both Norway and the UK are in sharp contrast to the US which ranks last out of the wealthy G7 countries in tackling income inequalities. Welfare in the US varies across states but programmes such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families have 60-month time limits, meaning that though the US has one of the highest total amounts spent on welfare, it is still ranked as one of the countries with the highest wealth inequality. The models of welfare provision that countries choose to use results in varying levels of inequality and thus shows that welfare demand and provision has one of the greatest impacts on inequality.</i></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, it is clear that housing inequalities have the greatest impact on inequality throughout the UK. Shelter describe Scotland as having a 'housing emergency' and stated that 'A safe home is the foundation our lives are built on. It opens the door to employment, health, and education, and is the basis of strong communities.' This shows that without adequate housing, people suffer other inequalities. For example, not having a fixed address makes it much more difficult to gain employment. Furthermore, poor quality housing has a direct impact on health and thus widens health inequalities – cold, damp houses can exacerbate conditions such as asthma. In 2022, one in three emergency asthma hospital admissions were from the most deprived areas with the poorest quality housing. Approximately 74,000 homes in Scotland are overcrowded and this can negatively impact both a child's education and their mental health. Therefore, it is clear that housing inequalities have the greatest impact on inequality throughout the country as housing inequalities directly impact and increase other types of inequality.</i></p> <p>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, it can be argued that it is impossible to highlight one particular type of inequality as having the greatest impact across the nation. Social issues such as health inequalities, unemployment and benefit dependency are inextricably linked to one another. Some may argue that the housing crisis has the greatest impact on inequality. In England, at least 30,000 people have been on a social housing waiting list for over ten years and this social housing deficit is shown by the fact that since 1991, there has been an average net loss of 24,000 social homes a year. This pushes people into the expensive private rental sector or can result in an increase of unsuitable temporary accommodation or overcrowded homes. Yet housing inequalities cannot be examined on their own. Those suffering from social exclusion are likely to face difficulties in the access and provision of healthcare and welfare support as well as the access and provision of housing. For example, The Good Home Inquiry found that the cost to the NHS of poor housing in England is estimated to be £1.4 billion a year, showing the interconnected nature of housing and health inequalities and the impact nationally. While overall unemployment rates may have fallen in recent years, long-term unemployment has increased since 2020. With long term unemployment being a significant cause of social exclusion, this proves that inequalities across many parts of society are increasing. To conclude, whilst housing inequalities have a large impact nationally, it is not possible to state that one particular social inequality has the greatest impact at a national level due to the interdependent nature of social inequalities.</i></p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
13.		30	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 30 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• definitions and key features</li> <li>• positives and negatives of collectivism</li> <li>• positives and negatives of individualism</li> <li>• modern relevance and contemporary examples</li> <li>• relevant global comparator(s)</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>There are different schools of political thought as to the best way to tackle and overcome inequality in society. Collectivists argue that society is responsible for its people – in the UK, this is through a welfare state that supports people ‘from cradle to grave’ by providing access to free, universal and comprehensive services such as education and the NHS. On the other hand, individualists argue that individuals should take responsibility for themselves and too much state intervention reduces the incentive to work hard and look after themselves and their family. Individualists often criticise collectivist views as inefficient and expensive and believe collectivism leads to a ‘nanny state’ whereby governments interfere with personal freedom and choices. Traditionally, the Conservatives have been seen to adhere to more of an individualist ideology. For example, in 2022, Liz Truss argued for a smaller state and greater individual freedom, stating ‘we cannot afford to be a low-growth country where the government takes up an increasing share of our national wealth’. Contrary to this, Labour have traditionally upheld collectivist principles with their 2022 policy roadmap entitled ‘Stronger Together’.</i></p> <p><i>This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.</i></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>The Office for National Statistics calculated that in the UK, the richest 10% of households hold 44% of all the wealth. In contrast, the poorest 50% hold just 9% of the wealth. This disparity between the rich and poor has been growing and has widen further as a result of the economic crisis since 2022 with rising food and energy prices disproportionately affecting the poor. Functionalists may argue that there is little need to overcome inequality – by ensuring highly skilled professions receive high financial rewards, a motivational force is produced and this inspires and motivates lower earners to become successful. Conservatives and right-wing parties across the world support this and believe that lower taxes for the rich enable a ‘trickle-down of wealth’ that indirectly benefits the poorest in society. Yet collectivists would argue that trickle-down economic policies do not work in overcoming inequality – cutting taxes for the rich does not result in higher employment, increased consumer spending or higher government revenues. Indeed, Marxists would go further and argue that inequality is the direct result of capitalism and that collective action is needed to tackle inequality. In May 2022, the very highest earners – the top 1% of earners – were the only group to see their pay-packets increase above inflation.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><i>According to the TUC, the CEOs of Britain's biggest companies enjoyed a 39% pay increase in the aftermath of the pandemic. The fact that there is clear evidence that the rich are getting richer and thus inequality is widening proves that collective action, perhaps in the form of increasing minimum wages, is required.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.</b></p> <p><b>Comparison</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Inequality affects people in society in a number of ways – in the UK, the poorest die nearly ten years younger than their richer counterparts and in England, the poorest are twice as likely to fail key GCSEs. One collectivist viewpoint to overcome inequality is to abolish independent schools. Individualists may argue that the wealthy should have the personal freedom to send their children to independent schools and that the existence of private schools reduces the burden on the state, but collectivists argue that to tackle inequality, we must make sure children are not segregated from an early age into the haves and the have-nots. Furthermore, there is an argument that when every person relies on the same collective service, there is more pressure on politicians to ensure it is funded appropriately. In the UK, there are around 2,500 independent fee-paying schools whereas in Finland, it is banned to charge for education. As Melissa Benn wrote in The Guardian, ‘Finland’s politicians and educational figures recognised that a profoundly unequal education system did not simply reproduce inequality down the generations but weakened the fabric of the nation itself’.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>In Scotland, as First Minister Nicola Sturgeon stated that it was her ‘personal mission’ to tackle poverty and inequality. Her SNP government introduced a range of collectivist policies designed to reduce inequality in Scotland. These policies included increasing free hours of childcare, free school meals for primary aged pupils and the introduction of the baby box – a box sent to all new parents containing essential baby-related items. The SNP argued that the baby box was inspired by Finland, who also have a baby box policy and have decreasing levels of infant mortality, and that every child in Scotland should have the best start in life. Yet, there are criticisms of this policy. With each baby box worth approximately £160 and the annual total cost to the government being over £8 million, it can be argued that this collectivist policy whereby society’s richest parents also receive it for free, is a monumental waste of money and that targeted support to the poorest would be a better use of limited public funds. These collectivist Scottish social policies are in direct contrast to the ideology that underpins much of the policymaking in the US. In the US, the ethos of the ‘American Dream’ is in line with individualist thought – each American should be self-sufficient and free do what they want. Competition is inherent in this way of thinking as individuals and companies strive to be the most successful – as Biden stated in 2022, ‘we’re promoting competition in everything from internet to services to meat processing’.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><i>However, it can be argued that this emphasis on competition and individualism rather than collectivism, leads to damaging social policies for US citizens. For example, while new parents in Scotland enjoy free baby clothes and toys and up to one-year maternity or parental leave, there is no obligation for US companies to give any paid maternity or parental leave. It could be argued that these individualist policies are a significant part of the reason why income inequality in the US has increased, by every statistical measure, over the past 30-years and why the US is considered one of the most unequal developed countries in the world.</i></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Some collectivist approaches can be useful in trying to overcome inequality, but the fact remains that people should be free to make personal choices and take responsibility for themselves. To overcome inequality, it is important to ‘make work pay’. Lowering taxes and reducing state support, for example, in the form of the benefits cap, have helped reduce unemployment in the UK to the lowest level in decades and helped to keep the UK competitive in a global economy. Furthermore, some collectivist policies have significant drawbacks. The Scottish Government have chosen to pursue collectivist health policies such as minimum unit pricing for alcohol, but it can be said that this policy disproportionately impacts the poor who spend a higher proportion of their income on alcohol.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Overall, it is clear that there are different viewpoints regarding the best way to tackle inequality. Individualists argue that a generous benefit system leads to a culture of dependency and a tendency for people to work less hard due to increased state support. Yet, there is evidence that strong welfare support can lead to greater opportunities for the poorest and thus reduce inequalities. In 2019, the World Economic Forum reported on the success of a project in Indonesia where the poorest families received extra money totalling between 7 – 14% of their income for six years. The results showed that rather than encouraging dependency or a reduced work ethic, the money was primarily used to further the opportunities of participants’ children culminating in lower school dropout rates and better child health. Indeed, the World Economic Forum called this not just a ‘safety net’ but a ‘trampoline’ and urged policy makers to dispel myths about dependency and laziness and instead focus on the upward social mobility that generous state support can bring to the most disadvantaged. Similarly, across Europe, it can be seen that the countries who most closely follow collectivist principles enjoy the lowest levels of income inequality. Nordic countries such as Norway, Sweden and Denmark have some of the highest taxation rates in the world, but the universal welfare benefits that citizens enjoy, such as generous unemployment benefits and parental leave, are much higher. As well as this, income inequality is lower with the richest 10% owning 20% of Norway’s wealth compared to the richest 10% of Americans owning 76% of the wealth. Pickett and Wilkinson, in The</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><i>Spirit Level</i>, argued that inequality ‘erodes trust, increases anxiety and illness and encourages excessive consumption’. With this in mind, it is clear to conclude that to overcome inequality, collectivist policies are essential.</p> <p>This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.</p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
14.		15	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Credit responses that refer to:</b></p> <p><b>Focus groups</b></p> <p><b>Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• research methods such as, focus groups offer researchers the opportunity to gather qualitative data that is often insightful with a high degree of validity</li> <li>• often captures the views and emotions of participants which can allow the researcher to better plan future research</li> <li>• better able to explain the ‘why’ and ‘how’ of the issue</li> <li>• provide rich and detailed insights into attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours</li> <li>• group discussion offers insights that may not be apparent in quantitative research</li> <li>• are a time-efficient way to collect data. In a relatively short amount of time, researchers can gather a significant amount of information from multiple participants</li> <li>• gain insights into people’s shared understandings of everyday life and the ways in which individuals are influenced by others in a group situation</li> </ul> <p><b>Limitations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cannot make generalisations about the whole population because of the small numbers of people participating and the likelihood that the group are not a representative sample</li> <li>• the researcher has less control over the data produced than in either quantitative studies or one-to-one interviewing</li> <li>• organising focus groups is more complex, time consuming and requires more planning than other methods such as one-to-one interviews</li> <li>• homogenous groups may fail to reveal diverse opinions and different experiences may not be revealed – heterogeneous groups, for example in terms of gender or class, may impact on the contributions of some members</li> <li>• group settings can discourage certain people from participating, for example those who are not very articulate or confident, those who have communication problems or special requirements</li> <li>• they are not fully confidential or anonymous because information is shared with the others in the group</li> </ul> <p><b>Reference to alternative methods could include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• official statistics</li> <li>• surveys</li> <li>• interviews</li> <li>• case studies</li> <li>• longitudinal studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Ethical issues including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consent</li> <li>• privacy</li> <li>• harm</li> <li>• deception</li> </ul> <p><i>Award credit for any other relevant points.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of Universal Credit claimants, unemployed, civil servants and taxpayers.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of Universal Credit claimants, unemployed, civil servants and taxpayers. For example, Public First ran focus groups on views about welfare and welfare reform.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.</b></p> <p><b>Response 3</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of Universal Credit claimants, unemployed, civil servants and taxpayers. For example, Public First ran focus groups on views about welfare and welfare reform. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people's shared experiences of the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland and allow researchers to determine if the issue had affected different groups similarly or not. For example, benefits claimants could contribute their experiences of claiming Universal Credit.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario.</b></p> <p><b>Response 4</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of Universal Credit claimants, unemployed, civil servants and taxpayers. For example, Public First ran focus groups on views about welfare and welfare reform. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people's shared experiences of the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland and allow researchers to determine if the issue had affected different groups similarly or not. For example, benefits claimants could contribute their experiences of claiming Universal Credit. To complement the use of focus groups researchers could carry out a survey of a representative sample of Scotland's population in a mixed method approach to get a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland.</i></p>

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
		<p><i>Surveys would provide quantitative data that could be added to the qualitative data produced by focus groups. This would provide an indication of ‘how’ as well as ‘why’ in relation to the issue.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.</b></p> <p><b>Response 5</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be beneficial for exploring the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland as they allow in-depth discussions, which can capture diverse perspectives and qualitative insights from participants. Carrying out multiple, diverse focus groups would also give insights and allow examination of the experiences of Universal Credit claimants, unemployed, civil servants and taxpayers. For example, Public First ran focus groups on views about welfare and welfare reform. Using focus groups across varied groups would provide insights into people’s shared experiences of the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland and allow researchers to determine if the issue had affected different groups similarly or not. For example, benefits claimants could contribute their experiences of claiming Universal Credit. To complement the use of focus groups researchers could carry out a survey of a representative sample of Scotland’s population in a mixed method approach to get a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland. Surveys would provide quantitative data that could be added to the qualitative data produced by focus groups. This would provide an indication of ‘how’ as well as ‘why’ in relation to the issue. While collecting and storing data from either surveys or focus groups researchers would have to adhere to British Sociological Association’s ethical practices to ensure that participants do not record the comments or images of other participants for privacy reasons. It is the researcher’s duty to communicate to all participants what data will be collected and how long it will be stored to ensure data protection standards are met.</i></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 6</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be a more effective method for gathering data on the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland than surveys because they bring together people directly affected by the issue of Universal Credit.</i></p> <p><b>This concluding remark summarises key points – 1 mark.</b></p> <p><b>Response 7</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be a more effective method for gathering data on the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland than surveys because they bring together people directly affected by the issue of Universal Credit. Focus groups allow you to gather qualitative data which helps us to understand how people were affected and why.</i></p> <p><b>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons – 2 marks.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Response 8</b></p> <p><i>Focus groups would be a more effective method for gathering data on the impact of Universal Credit in Scotland than surveys because they bring together people directly affected by the issue of Universal Credit. Focus groups allow you to gather qualitative data which helps us to understand how people were affected and why. While a survey may provide quantitative data and be cheap to carry out, in this scenario it would be less appropriate, as it may gather the opinions of people who are not directly affected by Universal Credit.</i></p> <p><b>This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method – 3 marks.</b></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
15.		15	<p>Candidates can be credited in a number of ways <i>up to a maximum of 15 marks.</i></p> <p><b>Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the source includes an interview with Jeane Freeman conducted on 5 October 2021 which is relatively up to date and means Freeman's insights may be relevant to contemporary issues in health and inequalities</li> <li>• the source content appears to be relevant to the Institute for Government's mission, which is to make the UK government more effective through research and open discussions. The interview specifically addresses Jeane Freeman's role in dealing with health matters in Scotland and COVID-19 responses</li> <li>• the publisher, the Institute for Government, is described as an independent, non-partisan charity that works with all political parties which suggests it will be unbiased and impartial</li> <li>• Jeane Freeman, a former SNP MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, has a level of expertise, experience and authority in discussing government-related matters</li> <li>• information provided in the interview is detailed and reflect Jeane Freeman's first-hand experiences and perspectives of political and health-related issues in Scotland which would be highly valid for studies of social inequality related issues</li> <li>• the Institute for Government's reputation for rigorous research, suggests the information is likely to be reliable</li> <li>• the purpose of the source is to contribute to informed public debate about effective government by providing insights into political experiences which reinforces its impartiality, validity and reliability</li> <li>• the source contains web links on both interviewers which may allow judgment about their background, integrity and objectivity to be made</li> <li>• although adapted, there is a web link that allows access to the full interview to be accessed which would enable a judgment to be reached on the overall objectivity of the interview and interview questions</li> <li>• the interview method allows researchers to gather detailed and in-depth information, allowing participants to provide more nuanced responses which provide richer data and a deeper understanding of the research issue</li> <li>• interviews offer flexibility in terms of structure and format with researchers able to conduct structured, semi-structured, or unstructured interviews which allows researchers to tailor the interview approach to the needs of their study</li> <li>• a semi-structured approach appears to have been used in this source which is often considered 'the best of both worlds' combining structured and unstructured interviews which gives the interviewer both comparable data and the flexibility to ask follow-up questions</li> <li>• interviews generate qualitative data that is valuable for providing insights researchers may not have considered and help the development of theories that can explain complex phenomena</li> </ul>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Arguments that the source's validity and/or reliability are questionable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is potential for bias in the selection of questions, the framing of issues, and the editing process as the perspectives of the interviewers are not apparent</li> <li>• the interview reflects the singular views of Jeane Freeman, a former SNP MSP and Scottish minister, and is likely to be highly biased – while it provides valuable insights, a comprehensive analysis would ideally include multiple viewpoints to offer a more balanced understanding of the events.</li> <li>• Jeane Freeman, as a former SNP MSP and Scottish minister, may have personal or political motivations that influence her portrayal of events – the source does not comment on or address potential biases or conflicts of interest that may arise from Jeane Freeman's political position</li> <li>• the source is an adapted version of the interview which reduces the trust in the source as there is limited detail on the editing that has taken place</li> <li>• the interviewer's presence may have had an influence on the participant responses – the Hawthorne effect</li> <li>• the open-ended nature of semi-structured interviews increase the risk of asking leading questions which in turn can lead to biased responses</li> <li>• semi-structured interviews may also increase the risk of respondents giving the answers they think the interviewee(s) wish to hear-social desirability bias</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible approaches to answering this question</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Response 1</b></p> <p><i>The source, an interview with Jeane Freeman, by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</b></p> <p><b>Response 2</b></p> <p><i>The source, an interview with Jeane Freeman, by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity and the fact it works with all political parties which reduces the likelihood it will be biased.</i></p> <p><b>This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.</b></p> <p><b>Response 3</b></p> <p><i>The source, an interview with Jeane Freeman, by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity and the fact it works with all political parties which reduces the likelihood it will be biased. However, the approach used to interview Jeane Freeman appears to be a semi-structured interview which makes it more difficult to ensure questions are unbiased as spontaneous or unscripted questions will not have been checked beforehand to eliminate interviewer-bias. Interviewing politicians is also notoriously difficult as they are powerful people 'conscious of their own importance' (Richards, 1996) which may influence the interviewer who may not ask probing questions that they fear might cause offence to such powerful persons.</i></p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p>This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of source, supported by knowledge of social science research.</p> <p><b>Response 4</b></p> <p><i>The source, an interview with Jeane Freeman, by the Institute for Government, is trustworthy due to the Institute's reputation as an independent, non-partisan charity and the fact it works with all political parties which reinforces the likelihood it is impartial and objective. However, the approach used to interview Jeane Freeman appears to be a semi-structured interview which makes it more difficult to ensure questions are unbiased as spontaneous or unscripted follow-up questions will not have been checked beforehand to eliminate interviewer-bias. Interviewing politicians is also notoriously difficult as they are powerful people 'conscious of their own importance' (Richards, 1996) which may influence the interviewer who may not ask probing questions that they fear might cause offence to such powerful persons. Additionally, while the interviewers may aim to be unbiased, their presence, questions and potential influence on Jeane Freeman's responses could have introduced unintentional bias as her responses may reflect what she thinks the interviewer and wider public want to hear. Further detail on how the questions and interview structure were planned and then used would increase trust in this source and the approach used to produce the information in it.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Response 5</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, the source is largely trustworthy due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner.</i></p> <p>This example contains a simple summary of key points – 1 mark.</p> <p><b>Response 6</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, the source is largely trustworthy due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner. However, potential biases in the interview process and the personal and political biases of the interviewee, an ex-SNP MSP and Minister, suggest the source is not entirely trustworthy and that care should be taken in using it by researchers.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence – 2 marks.</p>

Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
			<p><b>Response 7</b></p> <p><i>In conclusion, the source is largely trustworthy due to the fact it is by an impartial organisation whose primary purpose is to inform public policy in a non-political manner. However, potential biases in the interview process and the personal and political biases of the interviewee, an ex-SNP MSP and Minister, suggest the source is not entirely trustworthy and that care should be taken in using it by researchers. Nevertheless, their personal insights and experiences makes this source highly valid.</i></p> <p>This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation – 3 marks.</p>

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]