2024 Modern Studies

Advanced Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

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 method)   **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 method) 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.

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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
• candidate provides no evidence of analysis (purely descriptive response) **OR** • analysis is not relevant to the question. For analytical comments to be relevant they must directly address either the question; or issues, arguments or evidence which the question addresses.	Candidate makes relevant analytical comments **but** • in the context of their answer, these may not be the key, or most relevant, aspects.	Candidate makes developed, relevant analytical comments **and** • in the context of their answer, these are the key, or most relevant, aspects • includes relevant, contemporary supporting evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for **4 marks and** • links analytical comments to evaluative comments • includes relevant and contemporary supporting evidence from an international comparator country. Overall, analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by inclusion of sufficient key or most relevant aspects.	Candidate meets the criteria for **6 marks and** • analytical comments are integrated in-depth with international comparison • analytical comments clearly integrate the ideas and arguments of others with their own. Overall, analysis shows an in-depth understanding of the question and supports a convincing line of argument.

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.

0 marks	1–2 marks	3–4 marks	5–6 marks
No evidence of relevant international comparison.	Candidate's analysis includes • relevant and contemporary evidence from an international comparator • explains a key, relevant difference or similarity between the issue in the UK/Scotland and in another country/countries.	Candidate's analysis meets the requirements for **2 marks** and in addition • explains the extent of the difference/similarity • 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.	Candidate's evaluation meets the requirements for **4 marks** and in addition • points of comparison are integrated into the line of argument • points of comparison form a key part of their line of argument.

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
• candidate provides no evidence of evaluation (purely a descriptive response) **OR** • candidate's evaluation is not relevant to the question.	• candidate makes points of evaluation that are relevant to the question but are not developed **OR** • candidate makes a basic evaluation that is developed and relevant.	Candidate meets the criteria for **2 marks and** • makes reasoned points of evaluation • relates points to their line of argument and uses them to make an overall judgement(s) on the question.	Candidate meets the criteria for **4 marks and** • shows reasoned consideration of alternative arguments and evidence • provides reasoned evaluation and judgement of an alternative argument(s) or evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for **6 marks and** • integrates points of evaluation throughout their line of argument • uses reasons for discounting or accepting alternatives to clearly support their overall conclusion.

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 • a line of argument • a clear conclusion.	Candidate draws together pieces of information to summarise key points **but** • there is a lack of sufficient synthesis to support the conclusion • the line of argument in support of the conclusion is unclear.	Candidate shows evidence of • an overall conclusion which provides a relevant overall judgement that addresses the specific question • a line of argument and is supported by detailed reasons/evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for **4 marks and** shows evidence of • an overall conclusion from a sustained line of argument developed by organising, linking or sequencing ideas throughout the response • an overall conclusion that includes a response to at least one relevant counter-argument.	Candidate meets the criteria for **6 marks and** • their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, which they use to support their overall judgement • their overall judgement is based on several points of analysis or evaluation.

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**
No evidence of analysis — purely descriptive response. **OR** Analysis is not at all relevant to the question.	Candidate's analysis identifies aspects of the research method which are relevant to the question **but** • does not identify the most relevant aspects **OR** • does not link the aspects to the scenario. Alternatively Award **2 marks** where analysis identifies only **one** key aspect and links the aspect with the issue in the scenario.	Candidate's analysis identifies key aspects of the research method which is relevant to the question **and** • identifies relevant links of key aspects to the scenario • includes relevant and/or contemporary supporting evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for **4 marks and** • links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments • analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications, by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research methods.

Evaluation (research methods) — award up to a maximum of 6 marks			
0 marks	**1−2 marks**	**3−4 marks**	**5−6 marks**
No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response). **OR** Evaluative points are not relevant to the question **OR** Evaluative comments lack reasoning.	Candidate makes points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question **but** • supporting evidence doesn't back up the evaluation • lack of development in reasoning **OR** • only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation is made which has supporting evidence. *Developed points may include, for example: • evidence • reasons • background information, support or reinforcement. Award **a maximum of 1 mark** where the reasoning is not developed or the candidate makes only **one** evaluative point.	Candidate makes developed, relevant points of evaluation about the suitability of the research method in question and in addition • evaluative comments clearly address the stated research method(s) in relation to the specified scenario • addresses the potential effectiveness of the key stated research method in relation to the specified scenario.	Candidate meets the criteria for **4 marks and** • addresses ethical issues in relation to the key stated research method(s) • where there is only **one** stated method the candidate also evaluates their own alternative method, or combination of methods, of researching the issue **OR** • where there are **two** stated methods the candidate evaluates both methods and/or their own alternative method, or combination of methods, of researching the issue.

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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.	• the conclusion follows from a line of argument and is supported by reasons/evidence • it is clear which research method is preferred in relation to the specified scenario.	Candidate meets the criteria for **2 marks and** • their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, using these to support the overall judgement • their reasons for preferring/rejecting the research methods are clear.

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**
No evidence of analysis — purely descriptive response **OR** Analysis is not relevant to the question.	Candidate's analysis identifies aspects which are relevant to the question **but** • does not identify most relevant aspects **OR** • does not show relevant links. Alternatively Analysis identifies only one key aspect **and** • links the aspect with the trustworthiness of the source • includes supporting evidence.	Candidate's analysis identifies key aspects which affect trustworthiness of the source **and** • identifies relevant links • includes relevant supporting evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for **4 marks and** • links analytical comments on the aspects to evaluative comments • analysis shows understanding of the question and its implications by linking sufficient key or most relevant aspects with knowledge of social science research.

Evaluation of trustworthiness — award up to a maximum of 6 marks			
0 marks	**1–2 marks**	**3–4 marks**	**5–6 marks**
No evidence of evaluation (purely descriptive response) **OR** Evaluative points are not relevant (do not refer to the source) **OR** Evaluative comments lack reasoning.	Candidate makes reasoned points of evaluation about the trustworthiness of the source **but** • there is lack of development in reasoning **OR** • they make only one developed*, relevant point of evaluation about the source, which has supporting evidence. *Developed points may include, for example: • evidence from the source • evidence from other social science research • reasons • background information about conducting social science research.	Candidate makes at least **two** developed* points of evaluation which • address the strengths and weaknesses of the source • are supported by knowledge about conducting social science research.	Candidate meets the criteria for **4 marks and** • judgements on strengths and weaknesses are supported by reference to relevant additional research/sources (this may include candidate's own research) • the judgement includes consideration of alternative approaches which may increase the trustworthiness of the source.

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.	There is a clear overall judgement about the extent of trustworthiness of the source. The conclusion follows from a line of argument and is supported by reasons/evidence.	Candidate meets the criteria for **2 marks and** • their line of argument integrates points of analysis and evaluation, using these to support the overall judgement expressed within the conclusion.

Marking instructions for each question

Section 1 — Political issues and research methods

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
1.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 30 marks***.

Credit responses that refer to:
- function and purpose
- relationships with political parties and government
- media partisanship, ownership, regulation, and control
- influence and effectiveness
- relevant global comparator(s).

Award marks for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1
The media is often seen as a force for good, but it can have a negative impact on politics and the broader political process. The media affects the way people see politicians and how they respond to events, elections, policy ideas and referendum campaigns. Broadcast media is generally expected to be neutral and balanced in political coverage; however, newspapers and websites do not need to be. During election campaigns, newspapers often openly support particular political parties, and praise that party while attacking the others. For example, in the 2019 general election, the University of Loughborough found that press hostility towards the Labour Party was more than double the levels identified during the 2017 election.

This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.

Response 2
New media has radically altered the way that government institutions operate, the way that political leaders communicate, the manner in which elections are contested, and citizen engagement with the political process. In addition to acting as a watchdog, the media provide readers and viewers with more-or-less 24/7 news coverage of issues and events, and also offer public forums for debate. Thus, media support — or lack thereof — can have a significant influence on public opinion and governmental action. It is often through the media that politicians are made aware of issues and this can result in the passage of more effective legislation. To suggest that the media only ever has a negative influence, therefore, ignores the huge benefits that politicians gain from having the media picking up, reporting on and flagging issues of public concern. Furthermore, the media plays a vital role in the lawmaking process in a democracy, by scrutinising new laws, enabling the public to further engage in political processes. Consequently, those in the legislative branch of governments will tend to use the media as a tool to assess the general opinion of the public on any legislation being considered. That said, we must remember that some media channels wield greater power and influence than others. These inequalities of power and influence undermine the democratic process and are hugely negative. According to a number of surveys, around two-thirds of people feel that the media has too much influence on government decision making, suggesting the public is wary of the media's role in swaying political opinion.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.
				Comparison
				Response 1
				The BBC's Panorama programme ran an undercover operation at a Young Offenders' Institution in 2016. The media coverage led to the then Justice Secretary, Michael Gove, meeting officials from G4S to deal with allegations of abuse and mistreatment at the facility and to agree action on the matter. Something similar has been seen in the US, following a critical piece in The Washington Post on the Walter Reed Army Medical Centre. In response, the US Army launched an investigation and set about improving the facility. As demonstrated in this case, media coverage can directly influence and have a positive, rather than a negative, effect on people's lives.
				This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.
				Response 2
				Discussing politics on social media has become an increasingly common online activity in the United Kingdom, and as of March 2022, almost one in five internet users reported discussing politics online according to Statista. This compares with a new study from the Pew Research Centre which noted that out of 25% of adult Americans using X, 33% tweet about politics, up from 13% in 2019. Politicians who know how to use the media as a tool have the upper hand to influence the public. They use media to develop a brand/image that they send to connect with the country. In recent years more politicians have used social media as a platform to promote their campaigns and communicate to the masses. As of August 2022, 90.7% of UK Members of Parliament were using X. There remain differences between the parties, however, with 86% of Conservative MPs, 97% of Labour MPs and all MPs belonging to the SNP using the platform. According to a report conducted in 2021, the figures are not so high elsewhere, only 69% of European Parliament representatives had X accounts. Within these figures, it is worth remembering that there is a wide variation in their use of social media. As of October 2022, Boris Johnson's X account was the most followed of all UK MPs with over 4.7 million followers. Sir Keir Starmer had over 1.3 million followers and Prime minister Rishi Sunak had around 1.8 million up from 600,000 in August 2022. A study looking at 84 Norwegian politicians found that the number of followers ranged from 33 to 196,876. Similarly, the number of tweets posted by the politicians ranged between 0 to 2,509, showing that whereas some politicians are very active on X, others have an account but do not use it actively. Thus, the use and influence of social media on the political process is clearly varied both in the UK and compared with elsewhere.
				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.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Conclusions

Response 1
While some may argue that the media exerts a negative influence on the political process, it seems clear that there are many positives of having a media that engages with politics. The media has long been an excellent place for politicians to communicate with voters, launch campaigns, build awareness around initiatives, and is an essential tool in crisis communications. Social media has made this even more so the case. The COVID-19 pandemic, Brexit, and the occupation of Ukraine by Russian forces are a few instances where choices out of the general public's control or decisions from lawmakers have impacted the world. When events like this occur, people turn to the media to seek out and source information, keep up-to-speed with the latest news, and quell their fears. People also look to the government for leadership, so it makes sense that lawmakers, politicians, and governments use social media as a platform to manage crisis communication and provide regular, official updates to citizens across the world. During the regular COVID-19 broadcasts in the UK, the media played an important role in questioning relevant government ministers and advisors over restrictions being put in place or being changed. This was without doubt a positive influence on the process and necessary for the public watching from home.

This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.

Response 2
Many people think the media continues to play a vital role in informing and raising awareness of political issues among the general public. A Pew Research Centre survey of 19 advanced economies shows ordinary citizens overall believe it has actually had a positive impact on democracy and political processes. However, while this may be the case, the advent of social media in particular has proven that the media can have a destructive effect on political life. It has made it easier for politicians to manipulate and divide people, for fake news to spread and for misinformation to negatively impact upon democratic processes. The overall complaint towards the media is that the public is not receiving accurate information. They are instead listening to, and reading about, stories that are manipulated to entertain, distract, and ultimately misinform, making the general public ignorant and uninformed. What makes this worse, the less the public desires accurate news sources, the less the news media is pressured to cover events authentically. This would indeed support the view that the media has an overwhelmingly negative influence on the political process. However, the media does not actually affect public opinion as much as many believe it does. According to a Pew Research study conducted in 2016, nearly 79% of social media users say they have never changed their views on a political or social issue based on something they saw from social media. Likewise, when it comes to more traditional forms of media, most readers or viewers consume media that already mirrors their existing political views rather than ones that will mould them. It is argued instead that the media generally has little influence on political processes, positive or negative, and that political socialisation is the primary medium that affects political thought. The main agents that are said to determine our political ties are family, peers, and schooling.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				These three categories are often the root causes of most people's inherent political opinions and values, which are unlikely to be changed by the media or any other factors.
				This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
2.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to a maximum of 30 marks*.

Credit responses that refer to:
- liberalism, conservatism, socialism, nationalism, or any other relevant political ideologies' influence on:
  - human rights and civil liberties
  - security
  - national sovereignty
  - taxation
  - welfare
  - economic policy
  - authority and power
  - political representation
- relevant global comparator(s).

Award marks for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question:

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1
When it comes to the issues of national sovereignty in the UK, it seems clear that ideology is still highly relevant. At the heart of the SNP's dominant ideas is nationalism and the right to self-determination. Although the UK Parliament retains parliamentary sovereignty over the United Kingdom, the SNP Government in Scotland would like a second referendum on independence. After the Supreme Court's judgement that the legal power to hold a referendum on this matter is reserved to Westminster, Nicola Sturgeon vowed that the next general election would be used as a referendum on governance arrangements for Scotland and who is best placed to make decisions for Scotland. The Conservative Party have been and remain the most staunch pro-Unionist of the other political parties.

This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.

Response 2
The new Frontiers Research Topic 'Politics of Expertise' (2021) series analysed whether traditional political ideological stances or government experts influenced the UK Government's policy approaches. It concluded that the latter dominated UK Government decision-making during the pandemic rather than traditional ideology. UK Government ministers stated frequently that their COVID-19 policy was based on scientific evidence. For example, Prime Minister Boris Johnson argued that 'At all stages, we have been guided by the science, and we will do the right thing at the right time.' In practice, ministers sought very specific sources of expertise to inform policy and boost the credibility of policymakers by 'the science', usually a small group of government scientific advisors. Senior ministers formed close professional relationships with advisers including the UK Government's Chief Scientific Adviser and chair of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), Sir Patrick Vallance, and Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty.

They also relied heavily on evidence from SAGE, particularly during the UK Government's initial responses to COVID-19. Both expert sources had a strong influence on how UK Government ministers understood, addressed, and described COVID-19 policy before and during the UK's 'lockdown' from late March 2020. Most other expert sources did not enjoy this impact. Therefore, government decision-making was dominated by a small core of experts and not by traditional political party ideologies. This understanding of government reliance on science advisors helps to demonstrate that, contrary to much criticism by outsider advisers, ministers used scientific advice to inform COVID-19 policy at the expense of traditional political party ideology.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.

Comparison

Response 1
The recent cost of living crisis shows some government responses in respect of taxation, economic policy and welfare stayed true to their ideology but also required a pragmatic approach too. To deal with rising energy costs and inflation, Rishi Sunak's government introduced significant spending cuts and large tax increases which were designed to stabilise the economy and avoid recession while interest rates were raised by the Bank of England. This all fits pretty neatly with the party's ideology, but to cushion the blow, the Conservatives also announced a 10% increase in the state pension, benefits and tax credits and an increase in the National Living Wage to £10.42. The cost-of-living crisis has had a similar effect on other countries across the globe too. For instance, inflation in Turkey rose for almost a year and a half up to October 2022 however, unlike Rishi Sunak and the UK Government, Turkish President Erdogan refused to raise interest rates, insisting that it would harm the economy.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.

Response 2
The ongoing crisis in Ukraine has thrown sharply into focus the role played by ideology in responding to contemporary political issues. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Ukrainian President, visited the UK in early 2023 and addressed the UK Parliament. There has been very close cooperation and engagement between the UK and Ukraine in respect of the war, with cross-party support that transcends traditional ideological positions and party lines. The UK was quick to condemn the Russian Government's unprovoked and premeditated invasion of Ukraine and stated, of the nation, that 'We stand with Ukraine'. The UK has sanctioned more than 1,200 people and over 120 businesses since Putin's invasion of Ukraine. During his February 2023 address to Parliament, Zelenskyy called on the UK Government to send fighter jets and amid calls from the former PM, Boris Johnston, to send them straight away. Rishi Sunak said it was 'totally wrong' to suggest there is any reticence about sending equipment to Ukraine. Sunak went on to say that 'nothing is off the table' when it comes to giving equipment to Ukraine. The UK showed that in 2022 — it was the

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				first G7 nation to supply battle tanks to Ukraine and many countries followed the UK's lead. This response transcending party lines and ideology has been seen in other nations too. Pew Centre research shows that there are several aspects of US policy toward Russia and Ukraine that benefit from bipartisan support. While Republicans have previously expressed scepticism about the extent to which the US should work with its allies, nearly three-quarters of Republicans (73%) say that working closely with allies to respond to the Russian invasion is the right approach. An even larger share of Democrats (85%) say the same. Traditional party ideology of conservatism or liberalism is less important here then, with doing what is seen as humane and right being the thing that binds the responses of parties and governments in many western countries.

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.

Conclusions

Response 1

To suggest that approaches to contemporary political issues are no longer bound by ideology is simply untrue. The varying responses to the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe is a good indication of this, with different nations responding in very different ways. Much of this was down to the ideology of the governing party. Some nations, like the UK, locked down quite significantly. The UK Government reacted in both a principled and pragmatic way, doing what the scientific evidence suggested was the best way to protect human life and services like the NHS, worrying less about the knock-on restriction on human rights like freedom of movement and liberty as the former were seen as justifying the restrictions.

This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.

Response 2

The importance of ideology in responding to contemporary political issues varies depending on the political party or authority in power, and indeed the issue being responded to. In the UK, the two governing parties, the Conservatives in the UK Parliament, and the SNP in the Scottish Parliament, remain wedded to traditional ideology in respect of the nation's borders and standpoints on self-determination. In respect of the economy, things are perhaps different. With the SNP adopting left-of-centre social democracy as a focus for how they respond to other contemporary issues, compared with a much more conservative approach to economics south of the border. In recent years, some nations have seen a shift away from traditional ideological bases to how they tackle contemporary issues, to one bound instead by populism. This was very clear in the Executive led by Donald Trump, in particular, who responded in a populist authoritarian way to most issues he was presented with in a quest to 'Make American Great Again', rather than as might be expected of a mainstream Republican. An article in Sage, described Trump as populist par excellence and as fundamentally breaking with the liberal internationalist tradition of American foreign policy. With Joe Biden now in office, the importance of more traditional party ideology has become apparent again.

| | | | | *Biden has been described as centre to centre-left, very much a mainstream Democrat, and this can be seen clearly in many of his executive orders. Biden has, for example, championed the rights of LGBTQI+ Americans and passed an executive order in June 2022 aimed at advancing LGBTQI+ equality. Additionally, he outlined re-entering the Paris Agreement, diversity of political appointees, immigration and asylum, racial injustice and creating a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants as part of his day one priorities — all very much in keeping with traditional ideology.*

 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
3.			**30**	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 30 marks***.

Credit responses that refer to:
- codified and uncodified constitutions
- parliamentary, presidential and authoritarian systems
- federal, unitary and devolved systems
- bicameral and unicameral legislatures
- relevant global comparator(s).

Award marks for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1
Political systems are established to ensure the government is effective and smooth running. The structure of the political system is laid out in most countries in a constitution. In the UK, this is uncodified, but the way the country is to be run is still apparent in the various sources of the constitution, which comes from laws and conventions. So, when it comes to the UK constitution, it is clearly flexible which can be argued to be ineffective as it allows too much change to occur too quickly. For example, in the last few years there have been controversial and divisive constitutional changes, which some have argued have damaged the UK economically, such as Brexit or politically, such as the repeal of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011, which gave too much power back to the government.

This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.

Response 2
A key element of the political system in the UK is that the legislature is bicameral, with both the House of Commons and the House of Lords involved in making legislation. The work that they do is similar in nature - making laws (legislation), checking the work of the government (scrutiny), and debating current issues. Indeed, the House of Lords is a key institution in the UK's parliamentary system. For instance, in 2022, the House of Lords considered 5,244 changes to 100 bills. Members raised concerns, pressed government for action and questioned decisions with debates, daily oral questions and urgent questions in over 3,350 hours of business. Nevertheless, the Lords have been reformed three times in recent years, in 1999, 2014 and 2015. However, for some time there have been call to reform the Lords further still. In December 2022, Sir Keir Starmer said that he wants to abolish the 'indefensible' House of Lords in the first term of a Labour government. If elected, they would replace it with a democratically elected second chamber. However, Alexander Horne, barrister and Durham University professor, has warned that reform might be more difficult than anticipated and will involve some important constitutional issues and considerations, around the role of a second elected house and how to rationalise it being merely a revising chamber and not having a fuller role in legislative processes. These points suggest that although the political system in the UK is clearly flexible and able to adapt and change, this often occurs in an evolving manner which is ineffective for some.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Comparison
				Response 1 *There have been over ten thousand attempts to amend the United States Constitution. While this might suggest that the political system is contestable, the fact that there have only been 27 successfully implemented amendments suggests that it is far from changeable and is more fixed than in other nations. This is completely different to the UK, where changes to the political system happens regularly and are more straightforward, through the normal process of a bill becoming a law. In recent years, on issues of big constitutional change, the UK Parliament have opted to hold referenda in a bid to seek a mandate for change, the last being on 23 June 2016 on the question of UK membership of the EU. The result led to the UK leaving the EU, changing the political system and landscape quite significantly.*
				This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.
				Response 2 *Devolved governments have been part of the UK's uncodified political system for a long time — devolution was created for Northern Ireland in 1921 and, more recently, for Wales and Scotland in September 1997. Since then, the devolved powers of the Scottish Government have been increased several times, suggesting it is possible to change the political system readily, easily and effectively in response to demands for political and constitutional change. Despite this, the issue of Scottish independence remains one of the most contested elements of the political system in the UK and is an issue which has grown in recent years following the results of the Brexit referendum and the UK's subsequent withdrawal from the EU. As Dr Elisenda Casanas-Adam, Associate Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law says, 'a pro-independence majority in the Scottish Parliament will be difficult to ignore.' However, one thing that seems clear is that the SNP-led government in Scotland will not follow the approach of holding a unilateral referendum like the 2017 Catalan independence referendum, which was declared unconstitutional and ruled illegal in relation to Spain's codified constitution by the Spanish Constitutional Court. The issue of Scottish and Catalan independence looks set to remain contested issues for some time to come and show that where political systems, either with codified or uncodified constitutions, are unresponsive to demands for reform they are ineffective at building unity or consensus and only fuel further demands from regions to secede.*
				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.
				Conclusions
				Response 1 *All of these issues point to the fact that political systems may well be considered flexible, but they are not easily changeable and are pretty much fixed in stone. Over the years, challenges to the Union have led to some changes being made, most notably devolution for Scotland, but any calls for change beyond this, such as independence, have been strongly*

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				defended and blocked. In addition, the Supreme Court's ruling on this matter means that this particular aspect of the UK political system is frustratingly ineffective for a significant minority in and across the UK. **This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.** **Response 2** *When all things are considered, the statement that political systems are most effective when flexible can be seen to be partly true, though this does not necessarily mean that political systems with fixed constitutions are ineffective. In the UK, the constitution is something which is very flexible and relatively easy to change, it is far from fixed, especially when compared to other countries. This has served the UK well and allowed it to remain stable, unified and able to absorb societal changes, values, and expectations such as demands for greater autonomy from devolved regions. While criticism is levelled at political systems with rigid constitutions for being unresponsive to contemporary events, Australia shows that a codified constitution provides a stable and enduring system of governance. Within its rigid system Australia has held 19 referenda on potential changes to the Constitution, but only ever agreed on eight changes, choosing to build flexibility into the judicial system which allows a degree of responsiveness to societal change via the law. In Saudi Arabia, where there is no codified constitution and where hereditary rulers have led the country for years, the ruler has absolute power and can maintain or create new rules without consulting anyone. Saudi's system may be contestable, with critics arguing that it results in a lack of rights for citizens, limited checks and balances, and human rights concerns. However, this approach fits with its cultural and religious background and arguably leads to a consensual and balanced society. Collectively these differing systems show that no singular political system is more effective than another. Where any system balances the competing interests of groups within their societies and is responsive to demands for change it will be effective.* **This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.**

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Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
4.	**15**	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 15 marks***.

Credit responses that refer to:

Longitudinal studies

Benefits
- longitudinal studies collect and analyse data over time, can take the form of panel, census or cohort studies and allow measurement of social change over time
- they are particularly useful when studying development and lifespan issues such as political attitudes
- this method can help identify patterns and trends that may occur over long periods which would not be observed over short periods
- multiple methods can be used including self-completing questionnaires, online, face-to-face, and telephone interviews, surveys, school records, police records, social work records, children's hearings records and criminal records
- longitudinal studies allow for high levels of validity due to usually studying a large sample size over an extended period of time
- researchers can look at what the participants have in common versus where they differ to see which characteristics are more strongly influenced by either genetics or experience allowing cause and effect to be studied
- 'Understanding Society' is an example of a longitudinal study which covers key political and social attitudes such as voting behaviour and intentions, education, gender attitudes and beliefs. 'Understanding Society' interviews around 40,000 households, including around 8,000 of the original British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) households, which allows researchers to track the lives of these households from 1991.

Limitations
- this method is expensive in terms of both time and money
- long-term research increases the chances of unpredictable outcomes
- if the same people cannot be found for a study update, then the research may cease — respondents may drop out or be lost from the research because of its long-term scale
- attrition, which occurs when participants drop out of a study, is common in longitudinal studies and may reduce validity and result in invalid conclusions
- results take a long time to produce
- large sample sizes are required to make the research meaningful.

Interviews

Benefits
- interviews may be structured, semi-structured or unstructured, each of which have inherent benefits and drawbacks
- structured interviews have large degree of reliability, are easy to repeat and replicate and allow standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from
- semi-structured interviews allow a degree of spontaneity which allows richer data to be gathered
- unstructured interviews allow free-ranging questions to be asked, producing highly valid, qualitative data
- interviews can be recorded which allows a fully accurate record of what has been said to be captured which increases the validity and reliability of the information.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Limitations • restricted questioning in structured interviews restricts responses and reduces likelihood responses represent accurate views of respondents • use of occasional spontaneous questions in semi-structured questions reduces ability to quantify responses • unstructured responses are difficult to replicate and are therefore unable to be used to make generalisations about the wider population and offer the possibility of interviewer bias affecting choice and direction of questioning • transcribing recording of interviews is time-consuming and can take about a ten to one ratio of time transcribing for a beginner while even for a seasoned transcriber it can take a ratio of 5:1. **Ethical issues including:** • consent • privacy • harm • deception. *Award credit for any other relevant points.* **Possible approaches to answering this question** **Analysis and evaluation** **Response 1** *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of political participation as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes.* **This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.** **Response 2** *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of political participation as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Understanding Society panel study covers 40,000 households and gathers data on a range of issues including political attitudes.* **This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.** **Response 3** *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of political participation as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Understanding Society panel study covers 40,000 households and gathers data on a range of issues including political attitudes. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out which may reduce the validity of the data gathered.* **This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario.**

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Response 4 *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of political participation as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in the population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Understanding Society panel study covers 40,000 households and gathers data on a range of issues including political attitudes. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out of the study which may reduce the validity of the data gathered.* *Interviews may be a more useful and cost-effective method to gain qualitative data about public experiences of political participation as a structured approach can be taken which involves set questions being developed and asked of all participants, making this process easy to repeat and replicate while also allowing the standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from to be made. Nevertheless, structured interviews may restrict participants' responses and reduce the likelihood that data reflects a truly accurate picture of their experiences of participating in politics.* **This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.** **Response 5** *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of political participation as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in the population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Understanding Society panel study covers 40,000 households and gathers data on a range of issues including political attitudes. As this is a large-scale study it goes through rigorous ethical and legal scrutiny by an oversight panel to ensure it follows procedures in relation to consent, privacy, confidentiality and anonymity which prevent emotional or psychological harm to participants. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out of the study which may reduce the validity of the data gathered.* *Interviews may be a more useful and cost-effective method to gain qualitative data about public experiences of political participation as a structured approach can be taken which involves set questions being developed and asked of all participants, making this process easy to repeat and replicate while also allowing the standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from to be made. Nevertheless, structured interviews may restrict participants' responses and reduce the likelihood that data reflects a truly accurate picture of their experiences of participating in politics.* **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.**

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Conclusions

Conclusions

Response 6
Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of political participation because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue making the data highly valid.

This concluding remark summarises key points — 1 mark.

Response 7
Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of political participation because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue, making the data highly valid. The flexibility of interview approaches also allows structured and semi-structured approaches to be taken which allows quantitative and qualitative data to be produced which allows examination of the 'how much' as well as the 'why'.

This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons — 2 marks.

Response 8
Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of political participation because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue making the data highly valid. The flexibility of interview approaches also allows structured and semi-structured approaches to be taken which allows quantitative and qualitative data to be produced which allows examination of the 'how much' as well as the 'why'. While longitudinal studies may allow measurement and observation over time, they may be less suitable as they are designed to assess multiple factors regarding public attitudes and experiences and may lack validity in relation to measuring public experiences of political participation.

This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method — 3 marks.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
5.			**15**	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to a maximum of 15 marks*.

Credit responses that refer to:

Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable
- the author, M. Geddes, is a highly qualified academic and expert who will have followed social scientific methods to ensure objectivity and accuracy
- data was gained from a three-month research placement, drawing on over 45 interviews focusing on the everyday practices of MPs and officials and how they perform their scrutiny roles
- the research was published in 2019 which is relatively up to date and gives an accurate insight into contemporary parliamentary processes
- the publisher, Manchester University Press (MUP), is a renowned and respected academic publisher with over a century of publishing experience, editorial boards comprised of academics based at Manchester University, and procedures that will ensure publications are proofread, fact-checked and verified
- participant observation affords a high degree of validity as people and actions have been observed in their natural settings, allowing relations to be built over an extended period which supports deeper insights and verstehen or empathetic understanding to be gained
- participant observation allows researchers opportunities to follow up on different ideas, theories, and directions if something interesting occurs during their work. This approach allows researchers to learn answers to questions that they may not know to ask when they first start their participant observation work.

Arguments that the source's validity and/or reliability are questionable
- the research was published in 2019 which although relatively up to date, may not capture working practices and approaches and changes within the UK Parliament that have occurred since then. For example, there have been several changes of government and personnel within UK select committees since 2019
- as the research was carried out during a period in 2010, this may only be a valid snapshot of a particular aspect in time of parliamentary processes in relation to select committees — particularly, as this occurred during the unique circumstances of a parliament convened during a coalition between the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats
- the source only focuses on the UK Parliament so only applies to study of that parliament — it could be argued that the study is valid only for developing an understanding the UK Parliament and cannot be applied to other political institutions
- the source is adapted or edited which reduces trust in the source — trust in the source material could be enhanced by consulting the full source using the details provided
- participant observation comes with risk of researchers 'going native' and getting involved in social dynamics with those observed, increasing the risk of bias compared to other forms of research — the source details that the researcher worked and socialised with sources which may reduce their objectiveness
- the observations of one researcher may be detailed and interesting however, there is no way of knowing that they are not just one person's subjective view

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| | | | | • much of the observation was overt — the observer effect is a problem with participant observation — if people know they are being watched they usually behave different, that is, the 'Hawthorne effect'
 • covert approaches risk an invasion of privacy and raise problems because of its secretive nature and access potentially being gained based on deception
 • participant observation is time consuming and expensive in relation to the relatively small sample observed and data produced.

 Possible approaches to answering this question

 Analysis and evaluation

 Response 1
 Source A has been published by Manchester University Press. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as the publisher, renowned for academic quality, will have extensively peer-reviewed the published material and will employ a team of experienced professional editors who work on the manuscript to fact-check and verify material so that it conforms to academic standards before publication.

 This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.

 Response 2
 Source A has been published by Manchester University Press. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as the publisher, renowned for academic quality, will have extensively peer-reviewed the published material and will employ a team of experienced professional editors who work on the manuscript to fact-check and verify material so that it conforms to academic standards before publication. As the source was published in 2019 this is relatively up to date and will therefore give an accurate insight into contemporary parliamentary processes and select committee work.

 This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.

 Response 3
 Source A has been published by Manchester University Press. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as the publisher, renowned for academic quality, will have extensively peer-reviewed the published material and will employ a team of experienced professional editors who work on the manuscript to fact-check and verify material so that it conforms to academic standards before publication. As the source was published in 2019 this is relatively up to date and will therefore give an accurate insight into contemporary parliamentary processes and select committee work. However, as the actual research the publication was based on was carried out during 2010, this source may have limited validity as it is only a snapshot of a particularly unique time in UK politics when the government, and therefore, parliament and committees, were being convened under a coalition pact between the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats, a highly unusual occurrence in UK politics.

 This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research. |

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Response 4 *Source A has been published by Manchester University Press. This could be one reason for it to be considered trustworthy as the publisher, renowned for academic quality, will have extensively peer-reviewed the published material and will employ a team of experienced professional editors who work on the manuscript to fact-check and verify material so that it conforms to academic standards before publication. As the source was published in 2019 this is relatively up to date and will therefore give an accurate insight into contemporary parliamentary processes and select committee work. However, as the actual research the publication was based on was carried out during 2010, this source may have limited validity as it is only a snapshot of a particularly unique time in UK politics when the government, and therefore, parliament and committees, were being convened under a coalition pact between the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats, a highly unusual occurrence in UK politics. The validity of the source to detail the workings of the UK Parliament and select committees would be enhanced if the research had taken place during a period of single-party government which is the norm in UK politics.* **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.** **Conclusions** **Response 5** *Overall, Source A is a trustworthy source as it is from an academic publisher, based on research by an experienced, trained author and academic and will have been peer-reviewed and fact-checked before publication.* **This example contains a simple summary of key points — 1 mark.** **Response 6** *Despite some issues regarding the period of time of the study and observations which could lead to questioning of the validity of the source as a general text for studying the workings of parliament and select committees, Source A is, on balance, a highly trustworthy source as it is from an academic publisher, based on research by an experienced, trained author and academic which will have been peer-reviewed and fact-checked before publication.* **This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence — 2 marks.** **Response 7** *Despite some issues regarding the period of time of the study and observations which could lead to questioning of the validity of the source as a general text for studying the workings of parliament and select committees, Source A is, on balance, a highly trustworthy source as it is from an acclaimed academic publisher, based on research by an experienced, trained author and academic which will have been peer-reviewed and fact-checked before publication. The period it covers, whilst unique, means it is highly valid as a study of the way parliament and select committees operate under unusual circumstances and would be a highly useful source for any students of UK politics as a result.* **This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation — 3 marks.**

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Section 2 — Law and order and research methods

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
6.	30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 30 marks**.* **Credit responses that refer to:** • judicial systems • the rule of law and values underpinning the judicial framework • relations between the judiciary, other branches of government and political institutions • judicial review and challenges to the rule of law • judicial independence and appointment processes • relevant global comparator(s). *Award marks for any other relevant points.* **Possible approaches to answering this question** **Analysis and evaluation** **Response 1** *The judicial framework in the United Kingdom has long been examined to ensure it is independent from the executive and legislative bodies that make up the UK Government. The role of a legislative body within a government is to make laws. The executive body functions to initiate policies and to put laws that are passed by the legislature into practice. The role of the judiciary is to interpret laws that are passed by the legislature. This system is designed so each body can exercise sufficient levels of scrutiny on the other parts of government. For example, the Conservative Government tried to limit judges from taking political decisions and argued that judicial review gave judges too much power over political decisions. However, a review panel disagreed and found that this occurred because laws passed by the UK Parliament needed clarification.* **This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.** **Response 2** *Judicial independence has considerable significance in maintaining the rule of law and to democracy in the United Kingdom. Judicial independence is important as it allows judges to be shielded from political interference, something essential in a democracy like Britain's where little oversight of its media, especially newspapers, equates to intense scrutiny of those holding office. Judges are expected to interpret legislation in line with the wishes of Parliament but are also responsible for the development of common law, legislation passed by Parliament, but also case law. Case law has been developed by judicial precedent over hundreds of years. This suggests that the judicial function of the courts is inherently powerful as it offers a robust opportunity to scrutinise legislation. Recently, ministers from both parties have sought to limit the scope of judicial review for controversial immigration cases, which could set a dangerous precedent and curb the independence of the judiciary. Already, judges in the UK are prohibited from standing for election and have a mandatory retirement age of 65. Silencing the courts on controversial immigration cases, even if the motivation is nothing more sinister than aiming to save taxpayer money, could set a dangerous precedent and lead to further changes which overturn the current balance of power.*

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation. **Comparison** **Response 1** *Relations between the judiciary and government vary when comparing the United Kingdom to the United States. In the US, federal judges can rule whether laws or actions taken by the government violate the Constitution which can profoundly shape public policy. For example, during the Obama presidency over 60% of executive orders signed were overturned by federal judges. Federal judges can therefore overturn any decision they believe is unconstitutional, unlike UK Supreme Court justices whose role is to decide on the correct interpretation of those laws when there is a dispute. If the UK Supreme Court justices think a law conflicts with human rights safeguards for example, it can tell Parliament that it should reconsider the legislation, but the government is under no legal obligation to do so.* **This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.** **Response 2** *There are those in the United Kingdom today that argue that judges are too active, becoming too like judges in the United States. While there is evidence to suggest that the power of judges is expanding in both countries and should be checked, even those who disagree about whether judicial activism is really happening or not, often are supportive of the idea. There is less compelling evidence that judicial overreach is happening in the United Kingdom in the first place, either in individual cases or more broadly. However, America's criminal justice system varies considerably from state to state and town to town. Some US judges at the local level are elected, which do make them more directly accountable to the people but at the same time it does tend to invite judicial activism. Decisions not popular with the majority can come back to haunt judges and prevent them from winning re-election. But electing judges, something unthinkable in the United Kingdom, can also make judges vulnerable to political action committees and other groups who may back judges to gain support for a particular political agenda, such as a pro-choice or Second Amendment stance. To suggest that judicial activism in the UK is mimicking judicial activism across the pond is inaccurate and difficult to compare in the first place. Supreme Court judges in both countries generally stay out of the public eye, however, local judges in America running for election are essentially campaigning, suggesting at least some degree of judicial activism.* **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.**

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Conclusions

Response 1
Relations between the judiciary and government demonstrate some degree of balanced power in the United Kingdom. However, in the first ten years of work, the court has delivered many judgements that have changed the nature of the UK. A 2019 court ruling decided that Prime Minister Boris Johnson had broken the law by suspending Parliament for five weeks as he faced division over the Brexit process. This proves that the judiciary does have power as it forced Parliament back into session, despite a Prime Minister that disagreed with the court ruling. The Supreme Court cannot however strike down laws as only Parliament can reconsider legislation. Therefore, for many the distribution of power between the judiciary and the government continues to give the upper hand to the elected government.

This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.

Response 2
Relations between the judiciary and the government demonstrate that power is not equally balanced. This is true in the United Kingdom, the United States and throughout most democratic nations. In any democratic government, change in an elected government and indeed with the judiciary renews debate about a balanced democracy. In the United Kingdom, former Prime Minister Boris Johnson moved to dissolve Parliament as part of an effort to get the country out of the European Union. The Supreme Court ruled this effort to be unconstitutional which prevented him from suspending Parliament. A clear example of the judiciary holding the Prime Minister and his Government to account. The Prime Minister does not appoint UK Supreme Court justices, as is practice in the United States, which suggests that the UK's highest court has a greater degree of independence in comparison to the US Supreme Court. With former US President Donald Trump appointing three Supreme Court judges, the most by any president, he was able to tip the balance of the court from a moderate leaning to a conservative court, despite serving just one term in the White House. US Supreme Court justices serve for life with no mandatory retirement age, which gives considerable power to the US president, perhaps too much power. In the UK voters elect a party, rather than a person, therefore comparing the two democratic systems is simplistic and fails to fully recognise the broad spectrum of strengths inherent in both systems. However, in comparison to the United States, power between the judiciary and government in the UK is more balanced.

This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

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	Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
7.			**30**	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 30 marks**.*

Credit responses that refer to:
- impact of crime on victims: physical impact, financial, emotional and social costs, psychological and/or mental health impact, stigma, social exclusion and crime-specific effects
- impact of crime on perpetrators: loss of liberty, psychological and/or mental health impact, financial, emotional and social costs, stigma, social exclusion, crime-specific consequences
- impact of crime on families: financial, emotional and social costs, deepening disadvantage, stigma, psychological and/or mental health costs, impact on children
- impact on wider society: social cohesion, population reduction and/or victimisation avoidance, community empowerment, costs of crime including victim costs, costs to the criminal justice system and costs of repairing criminal damage
- relevant global comparator(s).

Award marks for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1

The cost of crime to wider society cannot be underestimated as it is estimated that the United Kingdom loses £190 billion each year to fraud alone. Most fraud cases result in individuals losing £250 or less and victims are usually over the age of forty. In comparison to victims of violent crimes, fraud victims are susceptible to many stress-related complications and psychological problems. Many times victims find it difficult to recover from their sense of security which suggests that the cost of crime can be difficult to measure as it will impact different people in different ways. This kind of white-collar crime also suggests that the internet and social media platforms provide even greater opportunity for fraudsters, meaning that the cost to society could be greater in the coming years.

This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.

Response 2
The cost of white-collar crime is underestimated largely because so much of it is unseen. Forgery and fraud cost nearly five times that of burglary and, in a survey, more than 60% of people in England and Wales have admitted to either falsifying an insurance claim or intentionally avoided paying tax. Research from the University of Keele has found that 70% of Britons feel that they themselves have been the victims of white-collar crime. Many times, white-collar crime is committed at the kitchen table, from the home computer, or from call centres and office desks which is why society tends to underestimate its impact. The UK Government spends the equivalent of just 0.042% of its GDP on fighting white-collar crime each year, which further proves the degree to which this sort of crime is underestimated. Research from Spotlight on Corruption, a UK-based crime think tank, reveals that white-collar crime costs the UK economy £290 billion annually and is equal to 14.5% of the country's GDP. It is thought that around one in every seven pounds in the UK economy is lost to just two white-collar crimes, fraud and money laundering. This lack of resources devoted to combat white-collar crime suggests that society will

continue to underestimate its impact well into the future. With such large numbers of Britons involved as unknown victims or in perpetrating low level white-collar crime it is no wonder that society fails to see the real impact of financial crime.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.

Comparison

Response 1
Domestic abuse in the United Kingdom and around the world is also underestimated. Despite police recording a 60% increase in recorded incidents of domestic abuse in England and Wales, it is the violent crime least likely to be reported to the police. Domestic abuse makes up 16% of all violent crime and has more repeat victims than any other crime. In addition, it is estimated that domestic abuse costs the public £23 billion per year in criminal justice, health service and social care costs and that each domestic abuse murder costs over £1 million to investigate and bring to justice. Domestic abuse appears to have a similar impact in other countries. For example, research shows that 40% of men in South Africa have hit their partners and a quarter of the country's women have been raped. With just 2% of those raped by a partner reporting the incident to police, this clearly illustrates the extent of the problem.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.

Response 2
Certain types of crime impact some groups more than others. One type of crime that is certainly underestimated, both in the UK and around the world, is 'honour' crime. 'Honour' crime consists of crimes such as forced marriage, imprisonment or killings that avenge one's honour. The Centre for Social Cohesion, a UK think-tank, reports that 'honour' crime is not restricted to first generation immigrant families as if often assumed, but that second and third immigrant generations are increasingly caught up in this type of crime. Some claim that police and local authorities are afraid to take action to stop 'honour' crime for fear of being called 'racist' or 'Islamophobic'. A United Nations study has suggested there are as many as 5,000 women and girls killed each year by a family member due to 'honour' crimes. These incidents involved Muslim, Hindu and Christian families in South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and South America. In North America, 'honour' crimes are showing up in Canada and the United States among immigrant communities as well, suggesting that the problem is growing and disproportionally impacting women and girls. Therefore, the societal cost of 'honour' crimes both in the UK and elsewhere cannot be underestimated. Arguing differently not just ignores the facts but fails to recognise and take on board the complexities of cultures that continue to disadvantage women and girls.

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.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Conclusions

Conclusions

Response 1
To conclude, the cost of crime cannot be underestimated. While white-collar and violent crime continue to be challenging to measure, domestic abuse also continues to grow. The emotional and psychological cost of crime has gained the attention of criminologists in recent years, but the mainstream media continues to overly focus on heinous violent crime, as it generates public interest and advertising revenue. To suggest that the cost of crime is overestimated ignores the role that women play as victims of crime both in the UK and around the world.

This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.

Response 2
The impact of crime on victims, perpetrators, families, and wider society as has been shown in the evidence provided in the UK and US is largely underestimated. While the financial and physical costs are often recorded, it is the emotional and social costs which leave a lasting impact. Victims and the families of victims leave little doubt that the impact of crime is underestimated. Even for perpetrators, society is often unforgiving making one's ability to get on with life challenging due to navigating through a path of stigmatisation. This is reflected in the growth of organisations set up to support offenders on release from prison. Wider society, often the victim of white-collar crime, is also ignored when examining the effects of crime, in this case financial crime. To suggest that the impact of crime is anything but underestimated would be mistaken to a very large extent, particularly to those groups most adversely affected by crime.

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
8.			**30**	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 30 marks**.*

Credit responses that refer to:
- prisons
- Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs)
- female prisons and Community Custody Units (CCUs)
- challenges or problems faced, including overcrowding, drugs, violence and recidivism rates
- policy changes: short sentencing, women and children
- non-custodial responses, including Community Payback Orders (CPOs), fines, Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs), Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLOs), restorative justice
- success of alternatives: recidivism rates, person-centred approach
- challenges of non-custodial responses: funding, availability and perception of 'soft justice'
- relevant global comparator(s).

Award marks for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question:

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1
Custodial sentences continue to fail prisoners and the communities where the offending takes place. While overcrowding occurs there is little hope for meaningful change to tackle and reduce recidivism. Studies show prisons do not alter criminal behaviour but simply promote criminality. So, although prisons can cope with prisoners, offenders often cannot cope with prison's regime, violence and the restriction on their freedoms. This can be seen by the fact that the three-year reconviction rate in Scotland remains over 40%.

This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.

Response 2
To measure the extent of success of custodial sentences in Scotland it is worth comparing alternatives such as Community Payback Orders (CPOs) and Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs), alternatives which are cheaper and more effective in many cases. Individuals on CPOs are supervised by an allocated social worker and offered a range of one-to-one or group work interventions. While there is a focus on developing strategies to make and sustain long-term positive changes, the effectiveness of CPOs can be called into question. Statistics from England and Wales suggest that judges are using CPOs less and polls show the public have real reservations about community sentencing. Efforts by the Scottish Government to evaluate CPOs calls into question the framework and delivery of community sentences. Consistency and the rigid approach of the Community Payback Order since Presumption Against Short Sentences (PASS) legislation was passed in 2010 have long plagued its success, suggesting that more funding is needed. DTTOs are thought to be less effective than CPOs and prison administered drug programmes. DTTO outcomes are difficult to measure because most studies point to only around one in four offenders completing their order. In addition, in pilot areas 80% of offenders on the Order had been reconvicted within two years. For those who had completed the Order, the reconviction rate

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				was lower at 53%. Therefore, CPOs and DTTOs can hardly be quantified as a success suggesting there may be greater potential in custodial sentences at reducing offending.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.

Comparison

Response 1

Prisons work because they help keep society safe and offer transitional support to help prisoners get on with their lives. Evidence points to a reduction in prisoners who have absconded from prisons in England and Wales in the last decade. This suggests improved risk management plans and better coordination in transporting prisoners to court and medical clinics for appointments. However, a spate of prisoners absconding from Castle Huntly in 2016–2017 suggest that some prisons have not been successful recently. Researchers in Canada have argued that custodial sentences, if designed and planned correctly, can work. Prisons can offer specialised courses such as anger management and drug rehabilitation classes to help prisoners overcome their addictions.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.

Response 2
To suggest that custodial sentences are increasingly successful requires a careful examination of reforms made in Scotland but also elsewhere, in states like North Dakota in the United States. What is clear is that Scotland is moving in the right direction to reform its prisons. While the pace of change can be debated, the Scottish Government published its Vision for Justice in Scotland in 2022 which laid out a path toward meaningful changes in the criminal justice system, some of which took aim at Scotland's prison population. Despite the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act of 2020, which allowed for the emergency release of some prisoners, the Scottish prison population remains stubbornly high, which impacts its ability to deliver services effectively across the prison estate. The report documented the modernisation of the prison estate and reaffirmed the case for new innovative Community Custodial Units (CCUs) to help connect local community supports with women held in custody. Reforms such as these are being mirrored in the American state of North Dakota as the state moves to adopt Norwegian-style prison reforms which stress communication and relationship-building to reduce offending. North Dakota now uses 'dynamic security' to continually monitor and adjust inmate risk when prisoners attend educational, training or work opportunities in the community. North Dakota has also reduced by two-thirds the number of inmates it places in segregation units, suggesting that the state is transforming its approach to acknowledge that custodial sentences which are not funded adequately, have little impact on recidivism rates. Critics suggest that these changes are too late and are not moving quickly enough, however, initial evidence suggests that custodial sentences can adapt to meet the needs of both prisoners and society successfully.

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.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Conclusions

Conclusions

Response 1
To conclude, custodial sentences offer a great deal more than they used to. However, locking a prisoner up may temporarily keep a victim and society safe but prison can be considered an expensive way to make things worse. Too often, drug addictions begin in prison and overcrowding can make meaningful rehabilitation challenging. On the other hand, prison reform initiated by the Scottish Government has placed community supports, job skills and transition at the heart of change. Therefore, to suggest that custodial sentences are successful will depend on the speed of the rollout of these changes and how success is measured in the future.

This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.

Response 2
Custodial sentences to crime are increasingly successful largely because custodial sentences no longer look like they once did. Prisoners held are offered tailored and targeted approaches that better meets their diverse and complex needs. Community Custody Units (CCUs) are one example of this tailored approach by the Scottish Prison Service, as CCUs allow for family and community links to be maintained, while at the same time fostering a sense of independence around personal care. 'Norwegian style' reforms in Canada and states like North Dakota further prove that custodial sentences are increasingly successful as sentences incorporate drug rehabilitation programmes and include a focus on employment skills and transition. However, considerable problems still exist in UK prisons and prisons around the world. Scotland's incarceration rate of 147 per 100,000 is one of the worst in Europe, overcrowding remains, and many suggest that 'spice' is causing a drug epidemic both in Scotland and south of the border. Therefore, declaring victory when evaluating custodial sentences is both premature and naive. While Scottish Government reforms are moving in the right direction it will take years before Scotland could dare claim that its custodial sentences are successful for all prisoners, regardless of gender and age.

This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

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	Question		Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
9.			**15**	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 15 marks***.

Credit responses that refer to:

Longitudinal studies

Benefits
- longitudinal studies collect and analyse data over time, can take the form of panel, census or cohort studies and allow measurement of social change over time
- they are particularly useful when studying development and lifespan issues such as the causes and consequences of crime
- this method can help identify patterns and trends that may occur over long periods which would not be observed over short periods
- multiple methods can be used including self-completing questionnaires, online, face-to-face, and telephone interviews, surveys, school records, police records, social work records, children's hearings records and criminal records
- longitudinal studies allow for high levels of validity due to usually studying a large sample size over an extended period of time
- researchers can look at what the participants have in common versus where they differ to see which characteristics are more strongly influenced by either genetics or experience allowing cause and effect to be studied
- The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime is an example of a longitudinal study, covering a cohort of 4,300 that has been running for 21 years which examines the causes and consequences of young people's involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Limitations
- this method is expensive in terms of both time and money
- long-term research increases the chances of unpredictable outcomes
- if the same people cannot be found for a study update, then the research may cease — respondents may drop out or be lost from the research because of its long-term scale
- attrition, which occurs when participants drop out of a study, is common in longitudinal studies and may reduce validity and result in invalid conclusions
- results take a long time to produce
- large sample sizes are required to make the research meaningful.

Interviews

Benefits
- interviews may be structured, semi-structured or unstructured, each of which have inherent benefits and drawbacks
- structured interviews have large degree of reliability, are easy to repeat and replicate and allow standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from
- semi-structured interviews allow a degree of spontaneity which allows richer data to be gathered
- unstructured interviews allow free-ranging questions to be asked, producing highly valid, qualitative data
- interviews can be recorded which allows a fully accurate record of what has been said to be captured which increases the validity and reliability of the information.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Limitations
• restricted questioning in structured interviews restricts responses and reduces likelihood responses represent accurate views of respondents
• use of occasional spontaneous questions in semi-skilled questions reduces ability to quantify responses
• unstructured responses are difficult to replicate are therefore unable to be used to make generalisations about the wider population and offer the possibility of interviewer bias affecting choice and direction of questioning
• transcribing recording of interviews is a time-consuming and can take about a ten to one ratio of time transcribing for a beginner while even for a seasoned transcriber it can take a ratio of 5:1.

Ethical issues including:
• consent
• privacy
• harm
• deception.

Award credit for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1
Longitudinal studies are a useful method for public experiences of crime as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes.

This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.

Response 2
Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of crime as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC) is an example of a longitudinal study, covering a cohort of 4,300 that has been running for 21 years which examines the causes and consequences of young people's involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.

Response 3
Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of crime as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC) is an example of a longitudinal study, covering a cohort of 4,300 that has been running for 21 years which examines the causes and consequences of crime. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out which may reduce the validity of the data gathered.

This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario. |

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Response 4 *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of crime as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in the population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC) is an example of a longitudinal study, covering a cohort of 4,300 that has been running for 21 years which examines the causes and consequences of crime. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out of the study which may reduce the validity of the data gathered.* *Interviews may be a more useful and cost-effective method to gain quantitative data about public experiences of crime as a structured approach can be taken which involves set questions being developed and asked of all participants, making this process easy to repeat and replicate while also allowing the standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from to be made. Nevertheless, structured interviews may restrict participants' responses and reduce the likelihood that data reflects a truly accurate picture of their experiences of crime.* **This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.** **Response 5** *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of crime as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in the population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC) is an example of a longitudinal study, covering a cohort of 4,300 that has been running for 21 years which examines the causes and consequences of crime. As this is a large-scale study it goes through rigorous ethical scrutiny by an oversight panel to ensure it follows procedures in relation to consent, privacy, confidentiality and anonymity which prevent emotional or psychological harm to participants which is particularly important if the researcher wants people to open up about their experiences of crime. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out of the study which may reduce the validity of the data gathered.* *Interviews may be a more useful and cost-effective method to gain qualitative data about public experiences of crime as a structured approach can be taken which involves set questions being developed and asked of all participants, making this process easy to repeat and replicate while also allowing the standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from to be made. Nevertheless, structured interviews may restrict participants' responses and reduce the likelihood that data reflects a truly accurate picture of their experiences of crime.* **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.**

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Conclusions

Conclusions

Response 6
Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of crime because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue making the data highly valid.

This concluding remark summarises key points — 1 mark.

Response 7
Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of crime because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue, making the data highly valid. The flexibility of interview approaches also allows structured and semi-structured approaches to be taken which allows quantitative and qualitative data to be produced which allows examination of the 'how much' as well as the 'why'.

This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons — 2 marks.

Response 8
Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of crime because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue making the data highly valid. The flexibility of interview approaches also allows structured and semi-structured approaches to be taken which allows quantitative and qualitative data to be produced which allows examination of the 'how much' as well as the 'why'. While longitudinal studies may allow measurement and observation over time, they may be less suitable as they are designed to assess specific groups' attitudes and experiences and may lack validity in relation to measuring or generalising about the general public's experiences of crime.

This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method — 3 marks.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
10.			**15**	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to a maximum of 15 marks*.

Credit responses that refer to:

Arguments that the source is valid and/or reliable
- the author, Jonathan Ilan, is a highly qualified academic, engaged in a PhD with expertise and experience, who will have followed social scientific methods to ensure objectivity and accuracy
- data was gained from almost a year and a half of immersion in the community
- the publisher, Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER), can be assumed to be a respected academic organisation that will ensure publications are proofread, fact-checked and verified
- participant observation affords a high degree of validity as people and actions have been observed in their natural settings, allowing relations to be built over an extended period which supports deeper insights and verstehen or empathetic understanding to be gained
- participant observation allows researchers opportunities to follow up on different ideas, theories, and directions if something interesting occurs during their work. This approach allows researchers to learn answers to questions that they may not know to ask when they first start their participant observation work
- ethical issues have been carefully considered to ensure anonymity and confidentiality. If participants know this in advance, they will be more likely to give honest responses.

Arguments that the source's validity and/or reliability are questionable
- the research was published in 2007 which may no longer be valid or applicable to contemporary crime issues in the population observed
- the source only focuses on a specific community in Dublin so only applies to study of that population and cannot be applied to other political institutions
- the source is adapted or edited which reduces trust in the source — trust in the source material could be enhanced by consulting the full source using the details provided
- participant observation comes with risk of researchers 'going native' and getting involved in social dynamics with those observed, increasing the risk of bias compared to other forms of research
- the samples studied are relatively small and unrepresentative
- observations of one researcher may be detailed and interesting, there is no way of knowing that they are not just one person's subjective view.
- the observer effect is a problem with research, that is, the 'Hawthorne effect', for example, interviewees may only have yielded data they thought researcher(s) wished to hear, or they may have withheld information they did not wish to share with the researcher(s)
- covert approaches risk an invasion of privacy and raises problems because of its secretive nature and access potentially being based on deception
- participant observation is time consuming and expensive in relation to the relatively small sample observed — this study took almost a year and a half to compose.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Possible approaches to answering this question
				Analysis and evaluation
				Response 1 *The source is highly trustworthy as the author, Jonathan Ilan, is a highly qualified academic, engaged in a PhD study, who has expertise, experience and knowledge of social scientific methods which should ensure the findings are objective and accurate.*
				This example contains analysis of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.
				Response 2 *The source is highly trustworthy as the author, Jonathan Ilan, is a highly qualified academic, engaged in a PhD study, who has expertise, experience and knowledge of social scientific methods which should ensure the findings are objective and accurate. Additionally, by immersing himself and observing 'The Crew' for a year and half, he will have gained intimate insight and details into the group and their actions crimes and anti-social behaviours.*
				This example contains analysis, supported by evidence, of one key aspect related to the trustworthiness of the source.
				Response 3 *The source is highly trustworthy as the author, Jonathan Ilan, is a highly qualified academic, engaged in a PhD study, who has expertise, experience and knowledge of social scientific methods which should ensure the findings are objective and accurate. Additionally, by immersing himself and observing 'The Crew' for a year and half, he will have gained intimate insight and details into the group and their actions crimes and anti-social behaviours. Covert observation is also useful as it also often provides insights which the researcher has not even considered. However, as the research was published in 2007 and only focuses on a specific community in Dublin, the reliability, validity and generalisability of the study to other criminal groups or other locales is questionable and reduces the usefulness of the source for other researchers.*
				This example contains analysis and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of one key aspect of the source, supported by knowledge of social science research.
				Response 4 *The source is highly trustworthy as the author, Jonathan Ilan, is a highly qualified academic, engaged in a PhD study, who has expertise, experience and knowledge of social scientific methods which should ensure the findings are objective and accurate. Additionally, by immersing himself and observing 'The Crew' for a year and half, he will have gained intimate insight and details into the group and their actions crimes and anti-social behaviours. Covert observation is also useful as it also often provides insights which the researcher has not even considered. However, as the research was published in 2007 and only focuses on a specific community in Dublin, the reliability, validity and generalisability of the study to other criminal groups or other locales is questionable and reduces the usefulness of the source for other researchers. Further detail and trust in the source could be established by reading the full report, accessed by the weblink provided in the source, and seeking out similar ethnographic studies of*

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				criminal groups in similar environments and comparing the findings with those of this study of inner-city Dublin.
				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.
				Conclusions
				Response 5 *Overall, Source B is of limited use, primarily since it is a highly dated study from over 15 years ago whose findings are only applicable to one group, location and point in time studied.*
				This example contains a simple summary of key points — 1 mark.
				Response 6 *Despite Source B being an accomplished, academic study using covert observation and interviews which means it is a trustworthy piece of research, its usefulness is limited by the fact it is a highly dated piece from over 15 years ago whose findings are only applicable to one group, location and point in time studied.*
				This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by reasons/evidence — 2 marks.
				Response 7 *Despite Source B being an accomplished, academic study using covert observation and interviews making it a trustworthy piece of research, its usefulness is limited by the fact it is a highly dated piece from over 15 years ago whose findings are only applicable to one group, location and point in time studied. Furthermore, the indication that much of the data was in all probability collected without informed consent and based on deception and duplicity in order to gain access to the group observed further reduces the legitimacy of this source as evidence.*
				This example contains a clear overall judgement about the trustworthiness of the source supported by analysis and evaluation — 3 marks.

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Section 3 —Social inequality and research methods

Question	Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
11.	30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 30 marks***. **Credit responses that refer to:** • social stratification • social class • structure versus agency • meritocracy • social mobility • relevant global comparator(s). *Award marks for any other relevant points.* **Possible approaches to answering this question** **Analysis and evaluation** **Response 1** *Social stratification is the division of society into separate hierarchies based on factors such as wealth, social class, race, education and power. These distinct social groups are ranked one above the other in terms of factors such as prestige or wealth. These categorisations result in inequalities between different groups in society. Functionalists argue that inequalities that result from social stratification are inevitable and necessary for society to function, while other theorists argue they are damaging to society. Like other structures in society such as education, the family or religion, inequality is needed to reinforce the value consensus and keep society functioning smoothly so functionalists would definitely not consider stratification as damaging to society. For example, between 2012 and 2020 all areas of the UK had an increased percentage of professional jobs with 49% of jobs being professional compared to less than 30% of jobs being working class.* **This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.** **Response 2** *Functionalists such as Davis and Moore believed that social stratification is necessary for effective role allocation to ensure that the most able citizens fulfil the most functionally important roles — therefore stratification is the opposite of damaging to society. They argue that people in society have different skills and abilities and the most important jobs should have high rewards. These high rewards attract the most talented individuals and also provide a motivating force to inspire those less able to achieve success. Furthermore, the fact that advanced societies are meritocracies, due to the provision of free education for example, means that people can be socially mobile. Thus, while stratification and inequalities are inevitable, they are also useful and necessary for society to function. However, there are criticisms to this view. Melvin Tumin argued that social stratification does not provide a motivational force and instead acts as a barrier to social mobility. The hurdles which people from lower social strata need to overcome can be daunting and can discourage rather than motivate people. For example, those from lower socio-economic strata face educational inequalities reflected in the fact that in 2021 pupils who received free school meals were less than half as likely to get top GCSE grades than their more privileged peers. Furthermore, 62% of pupils at private schools achieved level 7 or above in GCSEs, compared to*

only 26% at state schools. These inequalities show that, despite Davis and Moore's claim that anyone can be socially mobile, inequalities in society persist and it is not easy for disadvantaged groups to be upwardly mobile. Therefore, stratification perpetuates inequalities and is, thus, damaging to society.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.

Comparison

Response 1
It is clear that social stratification results in inequalities in society with some groups achieving more success than others. The stratification system is essential in ensuring that the most important jobs are filled by the most talented people and is therefore not damaging to society. This idea is clear in the American Dream — all people are born equal and with hard work and talent, anyone can succeed in life and move up social class or economic strata. There is clear evidence of social mobility in the USA. Similarly in the UK, studies showed that 74% of people in London believed that opportunities to progress in their area were 'good', though there were differences in other areas of the UK. Notable examples of successful people that prove the existence of social mobility include the Labour politician Angela Rayner and Lord Alan Sugar.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.

Response 2
Social stratification by its very nature results in some groups being more disadvantaged than others and is therefore damaging to society. Gender inequalities are closely linked with stratification as throughout the world there is evidence that women are more disadvantaged than men. For example, in Scotland, only 45 out of 129 MSPs are female and 225 out of 650 are women in the UK Parliament. Similarly, Denmark, which is renowned as being one of the world's most egalitarian societies, along with its fellow Scandinavian countries, has only 39% women in its Parliament. This lack of political power for women is reflected throughout the world and is also evidenced by the gender inequalities that result in lower income and wealth for women. In the US, the gender pay gap exists in every state with Wyoming having the largest gap where women make 63 cents for every dollar that a man makes. Japan has a similar figure with an average gender pay gap of approximately 35% in 2022. While the ONS states that the UK has a slightly more encouraging figure of 16%, this is still a significant figure and shows the gender pay gap is prevalent throughout the world. No country has women earning more than men as even Belgium, the country with the smallest pay difference, has a gap of nearly 4%, Therefore, the reduced power and wealth that women face, even in socially liberal and progressive countries such as Denmark or Belgium, proves that stratification is damaging. The damning evidence of these gender inequalities shows that stratification cannot be perceived as a functional necessity when half the world's population are disadvantaged. Women face structural inequalities through direct and indirect discrimination and government policies that fail to take into account women's childbearing roles. It is not a case that women should be motivated more or that if they are the most talented worker they will succeed, these inequalities are systemic throughout the world and therefore stratification is undoubtedly damaging to society.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				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.
				Conclusions
				Response 1
				The view that stratification is not damaging to society is only true if a society has no barriers to social mobility. The US and UK may claim to be countries of equal opportunities, in reality however, there are many barriers to upward mobility. In 2022, the UK's Social Mobility Commission reported that only 35% of adults believe that everyone has a fair chance to go as far as their hard work will take them and that 46% said that where you end up in society is mainly determined by your background and who your parents were. This shows that many people believe that it is not 'what you know but who you know' when it comes to moving up social strata and gaining more wealth and power.
				This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.
				Response 2
				In conclusion, stratification should never be considered as having a positive impact on society as, by its very nature, it results in inequalities. Functionalists may argue that inequality is necessary for society to function and that the existence of social mobility in developed societies allows people to move up social strata and gain achieved status. However, evidence shows that in most countries, there is a lack of social mobility and, in reality, for disadvantaged groups, upward mobility is extremely unlikely. Indeed, Marxists would argue that there is ample evidence of social closure. For example, by the age of three, poorer children are estimated to be nine months behind children from more wealthy backgrounds. This inequality persists through life — whilst 7% of children in the UK attend private schools, 70% of judges and 54% of FTSE CEOs come from a private school background. Practices such as elite self-recruitment, where those higher up the social strata find ways to ensure their children are not downwardly mobile, ensure that these inequalities remain. The UK has one of the poorest rates of social mobility in the developed world. People born into low-income families, regardless of their talent or hard work, do not have the same access to opportunities as those born into more privileged circumstances. Indeed, the prevalence of structural inequalities — whereby biases are embedded in organisations and bodies — in society show how difficult it is to overcome inequality. For example, in 2021, only eight of the CEOs in the top UK FTSE 100 companies were women. Similarly, racial inequalities are evidenced by the fact that unemployment rates for ethnic minorities are almost double that of their white counterparts. In other words, it's clear that certain individuals in lower social strata face significant barriers and lack the agency required to achieve success. In conclusion, the view that stratification is damaging to society must be upheld due to the many, varied, and insurmountable inequalities that stratification results in.
				This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
12.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 30 marks***.

Credit responses that refer to:
- school experience — exclusion, exam performance, adverse childhood experiences
- further or higher education and training
- employment and unemployment
- mental health
- lifestyle, for example, smoking rates, substance use, obesity rates
- relevant global comparator(s).

Award marks for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1
Employment inequalities have the most significant impact on individuals. The UK may currently have a low unemployment rate but this unemployment is not equally spread, with a 'North South divide' existing across the UK. For example, the North East of England had an unemployment rate of 5.1% in June 2022, compared to a rate of only 2.8% in the South West. Furthermore, a single person who is unemployed and claiming Universal Credit can claim almost £370 a month — with rising living costs, this is, as stated by the TUC, 'not enough to live on'.

This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.

Response 2
The link between poverty and unemployment is clear — in workless households, where one or more adults are unemployed, 62% live in poverty. But poverty and social exclusion are not only limited to those unemployed. The rise of the gig economy and precarious work in the UK has arguably had the most significant impact on individuals. The TUC stated that the number of people working in the gig economy — whereby companies offer temporary positions with no fixed contracts and workers are considered self-employed — has tripled since 2016. The precarious nature of this work means workers often miss out on work benefits such as sick pay or holiday pay, as well as struggling to budget due to zero-hour contracts and income that may change every week. While some workers, such as students, may like the flexibility of gig economy jobs such as working for Uber or Deliveroo, unions have expressed concern and warned that this 'spiralling' gig economy will lead to more workers on low pay and experiencing poor conditions which will lead to increased inequalities. Furthermore, disadvantaged groups are over-represented in gig economy jobs — in 2020, 25% of BAME workers were employed in the gig economy compared to 14% of the population as a whole. With unemployment rates at a historically low level in 2022, it could be argued that in-work poverty has effectively replaced unemployment. While there are relatively few people unemployed, in their place are millions of people across the UK working in jobs with no minimum wage, no pensions and no chance for progression. In addition, inequalities are deepened as gig economy workers may be unable to access financial services such as mortgages due to their fluctuating income. Citizens Advice found that UK households on volatile incomes, that is, zero-hour contracts, are five times more likely to have to turn to higher cost credit. Furthermore, a report by the Department for

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy showed that almost 90% of Britain's gig economy workers earned less than £10,000 a year. This shows the clear link between precarious work and poverty. It proves that while unemployment may be low, precarious employment is increasing and deepening inequalities showing that employment inequalities hit the individual hardest.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.

Comparison

Response 1
Employment inequalities can lead to some groups being over-represented in low paid work. For example, two thirds of minimum wage jobs in the UK are done by women and BAME workers are over a third more likely to be in low-paid, insecure work. In the UK, the National Living Wage, formerly known as the National Minimum Wage, was designed to ensure all employees are paid a minimum amount per hour. Yet, the Living Wage Foundation argued it remains significantly lower than a real living wage based on what it costs to actually live. In contrast to the UK, Denmark has a smaller income gap between the lowest paid and more highly paid. Both Denmark and Sweden use collective bargaining agreements between unions and companies, and this results in higher wages for the lowest paid. For example, an entry-level McDonald's worker can be expected to earn significantly more in Denmark compared to the UK — £9.50 compared to £16.50 per hour.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.

Response 2
When examining which factors have the most significant impact on individuals, it is important to analyse the lifestyle choices that people make. There is a clear link between lifestyle choices that damage physical health and poverty. The Kings Fund, an English health charity, found that there has been a significant increase in obesity in the most deprived communities in England and that people in the most deprived areas are more than twice as likely to be admitted to hospital for obesity-related problems. There is a myriad of reasons for this trend including the fact that deprived areas have a disproportionate number of fast-food chains and families without access to cars tend to frequent local shops which have only a small array of fresh produce. Furthermore, the cheapest but most filling foods are often high in saturated fats and sugar — for example, 100 calories of broccoli would cost 51p compared to 2p for chips. The same link between obesity and poverty can also be seen in the US. A recent study showed that in states with a median income below $45,000 a year (such as Mississippi, Alabama and West Virginia), obesity rates were more than 35% compared to less than 25% for states like Colorado, California and Massachusetts which had a median income above $65,000 a year. According to recent research from the University of Glasgow, obesity has recently overtaken smoking as the leading cause of death in Scotland and England. Similarly, in the US, while smoking is still the leading cause of preventable death, obesity is predicted to overtake it in the near future. With these poor lifestyle choices leading to increased death rates in both the UK and the US, it is clear that lifestyle choices and the ensuing health problems have a significant impact on the individual.

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				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.

Conclusions

Response 1

Inequalities in employment have a significant impact on individuals. A lack of work, the unequal distribution of jobs and inflexible work causing difficulties for those with caring responsibilities all lead to inequality. Poor mental health or suicidal thoughts also have an impact on individuals that cannot be underestimated and impacts every part of their lives including educational outcomes, housing, employment status and physical health.

This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.

Response 2

Employment inequalities have a significant impact on individuals yet employment inequalities are often a direct result of educational inequalities. Some may argue that a lack of work or poorly paid precarious work has the biggest impact on individuals as it directly leads to a low income and therefore increases the risks of poverty and social exclusion. For example, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that occupations with higher levels of insecurity have higher rates of in-work poverty. Yet, in order to discover which factor has the greatest impact on individuals, one must look to the causes of low paid or precarious work — and the singular, main cause of this is educational inequalities. In the UK, a free, universal and comprehensive education system exists that should, in theory, create equity amongst children. However, this is not the case. Evidence has shown that, despite widely publicised government support, the poverty related attainment gap is widening. In 2022, the attainment gap at Higher level showed a 15-percentage point gap between pupils in the wealthiest and most deprived areas. While Nicola Sturgeon has said it was the 'defining mission' of her government to halve the gulf in performance between rich and poor pupils, it is clear that there has not yet been much success and this is evident throughout the UK. For example, children in receipt of free school meals in London, are more than three times as likely to be permanently excluded compared to their peers. School exclusions and lower exam attainment lead to a lower chance of higher or further education. Data from the Department for Education showed that 26.6% of pupils who received free school meals went to university compared to 45.7% of those who did not receive free school meals. This then leads to lower employment opportunities and perpetuates the poverty cycle. Overall, it is clear that employment inequalities have a significant, and devastating, impact on individuals, yet the deciding factor on an individual's life chances is their education. Educational inequalities, as evidenced by the clear attainment gap, have the most significant effect on individuals.

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
13.			30	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to* **a maximum of 30 marks**.

Credit responses that refer to:
- role and functions of NGOs
- ability of NGOs to replace the state
- NGOs and international development
- effectiveness of NGOs in tackling poverty and inequality
- relevant global comparator(s).

Award marks for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1
NGOs play an essential role in tackling inequalities as they often work with the government in helping those most disadvantaged. NGOs can use their expertise on an issue to inform decision-makers and government. For example, The Refugee Council is a non-profit NGO that aims to tackle the negative political debate around refugees by working closely with UK politicians and being a source of information to government departments. Many refugees and asylum seekers in the UK face poverty, with asylum seekers relying on support payments to survive. Even refugees who have been granted leave to remain in the UK, face severe financial difficulties as they only have 28 days before all asylum support, including housing, comes to an end. The Refugee Council have help nearly 15,000 refugees and asylum seekers a year by supporting them to access health and education services and providing food and clothing parcels, often through smaller NGOs and charities such as Refuweegee in Glasgow.

This example contains basic analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence but lacks evaluation.

Response 2
In 2022, the UK Government published its 'Levelling Up the United Kingdom' white paper that aimed to challenge and change the 'unfairness' of opportunities that results in social inequalities across the UK. In this white paper, the government highlighted their work in areas such as Project Gigabit where £5 billion was given to ensure 85% of the UK have access to broadband to reduce geographical inequalities. The government also invested £4.8 billion in infrastructure in towns across the UK via the Levelling Up fund. Yet, despite the government's well-publicised desire to reduce inequalities, there is ample evidence that millions of people in the UK are living in poverty and relying on Third Sector and NGO help. Indeed, some NGOs have argued that government policies have directly led to people relying upon NGO support. For example, The Trussell Trust, stated how the government's removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift, resulted in a growing need for foodbanks. This resulted in over two million food parcels being distributed in 2021/22. Demand for foodbanks has grown significantly, with an 81% increase in five years. In Scotland, over 200,000 food parcels were given out in the past year from 70 foodbanks showing how many people rely on NGO support. These figures show that despite the UK government heavily promoting the levelling up agenda, their policies have actually increased inequalities and therefore, in terms of actually tackling these inequalities, NGOs undoubtedly play a crucial role.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect with relevant, contemporary supporting evidence and accurate evaluation.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Comparison

Response 1

NGOs play an essential role in tackling inequalities both in Scotland and abroad. Housing inequalities remain a significant problem. Shelter Scotland aims to tackle housing inequalities in Scotland by giving information, support and advice to people facing homelessness or experiencing bad housing. Shelter Scotland launched a legal campaign against Glasgow City Council for not fulfilling their duty to find housing for every homeless person. Their legal victory showed the importance of NGOs in tackling inequalities in housing. Other NGOs also help tackle these inequalities abroad. For example, the Global Housing Foundation, which works in partnership with the United Nations, built new houses for the working poor in Nicaragua. They also have promoted the idea of 'flat pack houses' which they aim to roll out across the world.

This example contains analysis of a key aspect, supported by relevant, contemporary evidence which refers to the UK/Scotland and another country.

Response 2

In recent years, some large NGOs have come under intense scrutiny for their actions in developing countries. In 2018, allegations of sexual exploitation of earthquake victims by Oxfam staff in Haiti were uncovered. This led to the loss of 7,000 regular donors and a £16 million shortfall in their budget. Only a few years later, in 2021, Oxfam was hit by a new scandal involving two Oxfam workers being suspended for sexual exploitation and bullying during their aid work in Democratic Republic of the Congo. This led the Foreign and Development Office to 'call into question' Oxfam's ability to meet high standards of safeguarding and resulted in Oxfam being temporarily unable to make any applications for UK aid money thus further damaging both their finances and reputation. However, whilst Oxfam has undoubtedly suffered a blow to their reputation, they are keen to promote the fact that they still play an essential role in tackling global inequalities by working with 3,500 partner organisations in 67 countries and, in 2021, spent £298.4 million on charitable activities. Another NGO that faced scrutiny over their practice was Save the Children who, in 2018, also suffered claims of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour by senior managers. These scandals led to the creation of NGO Safe Space which sought to disrupt the power imbalances in the international aid and charity sector. Yet, whilst these scandals have diminished public trust in some large NGOs, the majority of aid workers within them, strive to reduce inequalities and feel they provide an essential role in doing so both in the UK and internationally. Save the Children have projects in the UK, where, among others, they campaign to end child poverty and have run campaigns focusing on increased childcare provision and free school meals. Similarly, Save the Children also work internationally, in 2022, they supported over 11,000 children in Ukraine running child safe spaces and providing bunker kits for children. Thus, whilst, both in the UK and abroad, some NGOs have faced scandals and faced just criticism, it is clear that they still play an essential role in tackling inequalities.

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.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Conclusions

Conclusions

Response 1
In conclusion, while NGOs may help tackle inequalities in some areas, ultimately their role is not essential and government legislation will always have more of an impact. NGOs can be extremely useful in providing the government with advice and helping communities on a small scale, but when it comes to tackling inequalities, the most successful responses are always government-led. For example, in recent years, it has been government policies such as furlough for workers during the pandemic and government payments to families, individuals and businesses during the energy crisis that have really helped to tackle inequalities. NGOs may be useful but when it comes to tackling inequalities, they are not essential.

This example contains a basic conclusion, draws analysis of key factors together and provides an overall judgement supported by reasons/evidence.

Response 2
To conclude, it is clear many hope that NGOs would not be needed to tackle inequalities in this day and age, yet their role is, without a doubt, essential. The UK's Welfare State was designed to protect citizens from 'cradle to grave' yet the number of people who rely on support from NGOs has increased in recent years. Indeed, the number of NGOs working in both in the UK and abroad, has also increased. However at the same time, levels of income inequalities between the richest and poorest have also increased. In the UK, the Equality Trust published research that showed the UK has the fourth most unequal income in Europe. Some may argue that these increasing inequalities show that NGOs are not successful in their aims to tackle inequality, criticising many NGOs for high overhead costs and increased spending on mainstream media and social media campaigns, rather than spending on those they are designed to help. Yet, it is government failure rather than a lack of NGO success that is causing these increased inequalities. For millions, NGOs make a tangible difference. Support for citizens can be short term, for example, food parcels from The Trussell Trust's 1,400 food banks across the UK, or can offer long term help, for example, The Money Charity offering advice on tackling debts or living on a low budget. These provide much-needed support for the most disadvantaged and socially excluded in society. It is clear, that despite government claims of 'levelling up', successive policies focused on austerity have increased inequalities and it is charities and NGOs in the Third Sector who are stepping in to help those in society who need it most.

This example contains a detailed conclusion that evaluates key aspects of the question with a justified, balanced conclusion.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
14.			**15**	Candidates can be credited in a number of ways *up to **a maximum of 15 marks***.

Credit responses that refer to:

Longitudinal studies

Benefits
- longitudinal studies collect and analyse data over time, can take the form of panel, census or cohort studies and allow measurement of social change over time
- they are particularly useful when studying development and lifespan issues such as poverty
- this method can help identify patterns and trends that may occur over long periods which would not be observed over short periods
- multiple methods can be used including self-completing questionnaires, online, face-to-face, and telephone interviews, surveys, school records, police records, social work records, children's hearings records, criminal records etc
- longitudinal studies allow for high levels of validity due to usually studying a large sample size over an extended period of time
- researchers can look at what the participants have in common versus where they differ to see which characteristics are more strongly influenced by either genetics or experience allowing cause and effect to be studied
- 'Understanding Society' is an example of a longitudinal study which covers includes key political and social attitudes such as voting behaviour and intentions, education, gender attitudes and beliefs. 'Understanding Society' interviews around 40,000 households, including around 8,000 of the original British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) households, which allows researchers to track the lives of these households from 1991.

Limitations
- this method is expensive in terms of both time and money
- long-term research increases the chances of unpredictable outcomes
- if the same people cannot be found for a study update, then the research may cease — respondents may drop out or be lost from the research because of its long-term scale
- attrition, which occurs when participants drop out of a study, is common in longitudinal studies and may reduce validity and result in invalid conclusions
- results take a long time to produce
- large sample sizes are required to make the research meaningful.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question

Interviews

Benefits
- interviews may be structured, semi-structured or unstructured, each of which have inherent benefits and drawbacks
- structured interviews have large degree of reliability, are easy to repeat and replicate and allow standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from
- semi-structured interviews allow a degree of spontaneity which allows richer data to be gathered
- unstructured interviews allow free-ranging questions to be asked, producing highly valid, qualitative data
- interviews can be recorded which allows a fully accurate record of what has been said to be captured which increases the validity and reliability of the information.

Limitations
- restricted questioning in structured interviews restricts responses and reduces likelihood responses represent accurate views of respondents
- use of occasional spontaneous questions in semi-skilled questions reduces ability to quantify responses
- unstructured responses are difficult to replicate are therefore unable to be used to make generalisations about the wider population and offer the possibility of interviewer bias affecting choice and direction of questioning
- transcribing recording of interviews is a time-consuming and can take about a ten to one ratio of time transcribing for a beginner while even for a seasoned transcriber it can take a ratio of 5:1.

Ethical issues including:
- consent
- privacy
- harm
- deception.

Award credit for any other relevant points.

Possible approaches to answering this question:

Analysis and evaluation

Response 1
Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of poverty as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes.

This example contains analysis of a relevant issue.

Response 2
Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of poverty as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Understanding Society panel study covers 40,000 households and gathers data on a range of issues including social attitudes and experiences.

This example contains analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence.

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Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				Response 3 *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of poverty as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Understanding Society panel study covers 40,000 households and gathers data on a range of issues including social attitudes and experiences. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out which may reduce the validity of the data gathered.* **This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point and supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario.** **Response 4** *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of poverty as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in the population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Understanding Society panel study covers 40,000 households and gathers data on a range of issues including social attitudes and experiences. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out of the study which may reduce the validity of the data gathered.* *Interviews may be a more useful and cost-effective method to gain qualitative data about public experiences of poverty as a structured approach can be taken which involves set questions being developed and asked of all participants, making this process easy to repeat and replicate while also allowing the standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from to be made. Nevertheless, structured interviews may restrict participants' responses and reduce the likelihood that data reflects a truly accurate picture of their experiences of poverty.* **This example contains balanced analysis of a relevant point, supporting evidence and explanations which address the specified scenario and analysis of an alternative method.** **Response 5** *Longitudinal studies are a useful method for researching public experiences of poverty as they collect data over time which can be used to identify patterns and trends in the population's experiences and attitudes. For example, the Understanding Society panel study covers 40,000 households and gathers data on a range of issues including social attitudes and experiences. As this is a large-scale study it goes through rigorous ethical and legal scrutiny by an oversight panel to ensure it follows procedures in relation to consent, privacy, confidentiality and anonymity which prevent emotional or psychological harm to participants. However, with longitudinal studies attrition is common, resulting in participants dropping out of the study which may reduce the validity of the data gathered. Interviews may be a more useful and cost-effective method to gain qualitative data about public experiences of poverty as a structured approach can be taken which involves set questions being developed and asked of all participants, making this process easy to repeat and replicate while also allowing the standardisation of responses and generalisations about the population the sample is drawn from to be made. Nevertheless, structured interviews may restrict participants'*

Question			Max mark	Detailed marking instructions for this question
				responses and reduce the likelihood that data reflects a truly accurate picture of their experiences of poverty.
				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.
				Conclusions
				Response 6 *Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of poverty because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue making the data highly valid.*
				This concluding remark summarises key points — 1 mark.
				Response 7 *Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of poverty because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue, making the data highly valid. The flexibility of interview approaches also allows structured and semi-structured approaches to be taken which allows quantitative and qualitative data to be produced which allows examination of the 'how much' as well as the 'why'.*
				This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons — 2 marks.
				Response 8 *Interviews are a more effective method for gathering data on public experiences of poverty because they are more cost effective, and questions can be specifically designed to examine this issue making the data highly valid. The flexibility of interview approaches also allows structured and semi-structured approaches to be taken which allows quantitative and qualitative data to be produced which allows examination of the 'how much' as well as the 'why'. While longitudinal studies may allow measurement and observation over time, they may be less suitable as they are designed to assess multiple factors regarding public attitudes and experiences and may lack validity in relation to measuring public experiences of poverty.*
				This concluding remark clearly shows which method is preferred, supported with reasons and reasons for rejecting an alternative method — 3 marks.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]

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