

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each section of the assignment.

Candidate 1

Section A – Research topic/issue

There are no marks awarded to this section, however, the candidate has clearly identified an appropriate Modern Studies topic which relates to Social Issues – Crime and the Law. The candidate also uses this section to state a hypothesis and three clear aims for their research.

Section B – Research methods

There are no headings separating the different sections of the assignment, but it is clear when reading that the candidate is following the rubric of the assignment.

The candidate was awarded **9 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by referring to their first method of research – a survey. This is the ‘public survey’ shown in the research sheet. They state that one advantage of this method is its adaptability which allowed them to tailor questions to their aims ensuring the collection of relevant data – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then states that the use of ‘close ended questions’ ensured ‘clear and direct answers’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate states that the survey did not yield a representative sample of society, limiting the diversity of viewpoints represented – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then goes on to state the participants consisted primarily of individuals under the age of 20 and predominantly of white ethnicity – this was awarded **1 mark**. They give another disadvantage and state that the majority of respondents were ‘known to me’ and there is the possibility of response bias as they might answer in a manner aligned with their expectations, rather than expressing their genuine opinions or belief – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then gives an improvement to their survey by stating that they would use an online survey platform like Survey Monkey to reach a more diverse and inclusive range of individuals to get a better representation of societal perspectives – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate goes on to discuss another method of research – an article from The Guardian website. This is listed as Source A on their research sheet. They state that it is a reputable news outlet and so their journalists would uphold ethical standards and fact check their content, enhancing the credibility of their research – this was awarded **1 mark**. They then go on to state that online accessibility allows them to access it anywhere with an internet connection,

streamlining data collection. This was not given any marks given the generic nature of accessing the internet anywhere. The candidate states that a drawback of the article was that it was published two years ago leading to outdated information in fast-changing fields – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Another disadvantage is given when they state that the complex language used in the article posed comprehension challenges, especially for a young audience 'such as myself' – this was awarded **1 mark**. The last sentence states what they think is an improvement by suggesting that they would find articles tailored for general audiences marked as 'easy to understand' or 'beginner friendly' but it is unclear what the candidate means so no marks were awarded.

Section C – Research findings

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by referring to Source A and states that not having enough money for basic needs and lacking opportunities for social and economic improvement can 'drive criminal behaviour' – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered a conclusion.

The next paragraph gives evidence from Source B stating that '52% more crimes were recorded in the most income deprived areas' and 'violence, robbery and sexual offences are 2.1 times more prevalent in the most deprived 10% of areas compared to the least income deprived 10%'. This was awarded **2 marks** as it is two separate pieces of evidence.

The candidate gives evidence from Source B and states that the 'vast majority of prisoners in Scotland come from poor socio-economic backgrounds with underlying causes of offending'. This was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered a conclusion.

The candidate then states that the Scottish Prison Service 17th Prisoner Survey found that prisoners identified many factors which they felt contributed to their committing an offence, some of which relate directly to poverty – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate states that poverty isn't the sole cause of criminal behaviour and rather is just one factor – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered a conclusion. They point out that low-income individuals tend to commit street crimes while wealthier individuals engage in non-violent white-collar crimes like fraud – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then states that white collar crimes can be highly damaging and difficult to prosecute due to sophisticated strategies used by offenders – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered a conclusion. The last sentence stating 'Some argue this is more damaging than street crime' was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered a conclusion.

In the next paragraph, the candidate begins by referring to Source D and states that there was a 'staggering 36% rise in fraud and related criminal activities in

2021, resulting in over 420 000 recorded offences.’ This was awarded **1 mark**. They state that this ‘stark revelation underscores the severe impact of white-collar crime, highlighting it’s potential to inflict greater harm than street level crime.’ This was not awarded a mark as it was repetition of a point previously credited.

1 mark is given for their evidence from Source E that the ‘UK is losing 190 billion annually due to fraud, emphasising the eniormous financial impact of these illegal activities’.

The candidate has accumulated enough for 11 marks in this section, however the maximum they can be awarded is 6 marks. There are six findings and five potential conclusions.

Section D – Research conclusions

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for this section.

The candidate has gathered sufficient marks from Section C to allow for 4 out of 4 marks in Section D.

The candidate concludes that there are more compelling reasons to support the idea that poverty isn’t the sole cause of criminal behaviour and rather just a factor. This has already been written in Section C.

The candidate states that white collar crimes, due to their complexity, can have significant impacts and there has been an increase in fraud cases and white-collar crime which is more damaging. This has also been written in Section C.

The candidate finishes Section D by referring to their survey and states that the majority of respondents do not view poverty as the most significant cause of crime. This would be creditable also however the candidate has already achieved the maximum number of marks available for this section.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **19 out of 20 marks** for this assignment.

Candidate 2

Section A – Research topic/issue

There are no marks awarded to this section, however, the candidate has clearly identified an appropriate Modern Studies topic which relates to an International Issue – terrorism. The candidate also uses this section to state a hypothesis and three clear aims for their research.

Section B – Research methods

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by referring to their first research method – the Modern Studies Course Notes textbook. However, as this method was not mentioned anywhere on the research sheet no marks can be given for this paragraph.

The candidate goes on to discuss another method – the Statista website which is on the research sheet. They state that they chose this method as it is a reliable source, however, as the point was insufficiently developed, this gained no marks.

The candidate states that a strength of this method is that it has a large variety of data – this was awarded **1 mark**. They continue by stating that a weakness of the source is that there are no explanations to go with the data. Again, this was underdeveloped so was awarded no marks.

They then state that if they were to do this again, they would look for a site that did have explanations and data. However, no marks were awarded for this point as it was not a sufficiently different method.

At the end of this section, the candidate states that if they were to do their research again, they would find a textbook that relates more to terrorism. This was credit worthy as the candidate is providing a possible improvement to their research – **1 mark** was awarded.

Section C – Research findings

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by looking at their first aim ‘to find the number of terrorist attacks from 2012-2022’. They copy from the table on the research sheet for the first part and then go on to state that after 2014, attacks slowly begin to decline – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be used as a conclusion.

They continue to copy figures from the table and then state terror attacks slowly started to rise – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be used as a conclusion.

They finish by stating ‘from 2020-22 there was a 27% decrease in terrorist attacks.’ This is a direct copy from the research sheet and therefore gains no marks.

They proceed to look at their second aim – ‘to find out the reasons for terrorist attacks increasing’. They start by making the point that ‘some people feel that they have no real identity and that they don’t really have anything to live for so might become involved with terrorism to be able to belong somewhere.’ This was awarded **1 mark**. Although the word identity was copied, there was sufficient development for marks to be awarded.

They continue by stating that people also feel that ‘their beliefs aren’t viewed properly by the government and to make them see they must resort to terrorism.’ Again, although the word belief was copied, there was enough development for **1 mark** to be awarded.

They continue by stating ‘there a few people who don’t want to be terrorists but feel pressurised by people who are around them and feel that they have to’. This was awarded **1 mark**.

They go on to say that ‘political views are a big cause of terrorism if groups or a person doesn’t believe in their or someone else’s government, they could try to destroy or overthrow them.’ Although it was repetition of the point above, it was developed by a reference to an action – **1 mark** was awarded.

The candidate then continues to their third aim – ‘to find out reasons for terrorist attacks decreasing’. They state that ‘CONTEST is a government strategy to help stop terrorism’ – **1 mark** was awarded. They continue with information on the 4Ps. However, all of the points were copied or too similar to the information on the research sheet, so no further marks were awarded.

The candidate has accumulated enough for 7 marks in this section, however the maximum they can be awarded is 6 marks.

Section D – Research conclusions

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this section.

The candidate starts by stating that terrorist attacks are mostly decreasing. This was repetition from the findings section and can be carried over to Section D – **1 mark** awarded.

They continue by stating that the numbers do fluctuate – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The rest of the paragraph contained no further points which would be awarded marks.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **10 out 20 marks** for this assignment.

Candidate 3

Section A – Research topic/issue

There are no marks awarded to this section, however, the candidate has clearly identified an appropriate Modern Studies topic which relates to Social Issues – Crime and the Law. The candidate also uses this section to state a hypothesis and three clear aims for their research.

Section B – Research methods

The candidate was awarded **7 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by referring to their first method of research – a survey. They state that they used a survey for their research, which is Source H on their research sheet. They state that one reason they chose to do a survey is to get a 'clear view on how people would feel about armed policing' – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then states they get answers 'in an easy form as it was done in a tally mark yes/no answer' – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then states another strength of their survey is the 'up-to-date answers as the survey was carried out in October 2023' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate attempts to give a weakness of using this method by saying that 'the questions may have been hard to answer because they weren't understood.' This was too generic and did, in fact, not reference the candidate's own questions which are clearly seen on the research sheet, so no marks were awarded for this. The candidate then identifies a weakness of using a survey in that 'it may have led to people copying other answers because they didn't know what to put.' This was somewhat vague but is a valid point and was awarded **1 mark**. In the final sentence the candidate suggests what they would do differently next time: 'ask a different range of ages to get different types of answers' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate goes on to discuss another method of research – websites. The candidate's first point about using online websites to gain reliable answers and information is generic and does not relate to the candidate's own research so no marks were awarded for this. There are no marks awarded for simply saying a strength of the website is that the information is reliable, but **1 mark** was awarded for stating that Source F is up to date as it was published in February 2023.

The candidate gives two weaknesses of using online websites. This was generic and no marks were awarded. The candidate then suggests an alternative approach that they would find a documentary 'to gain key facts and more information' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Section C – Research findings

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by looking at their first aim – 'to find advantages of UK police being armed full time'. The candidate states that many people believe 'they

would benefit from the police being armed full time' – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered a conclusion.

The candidate then provides a finding using Source A which is that the 'police should be armed full time in the UK to keep people safer and to stop crime from happening' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate proceeds to write what they think is another finding, 'majority of people said yes' but this was repetition of what had been written previously so no marks were awarded.

The candidate goes on to state that 'overall ...UK police should be armed full time and the positive impact it would have to the public in being able to stop crime'. This is repetition so no marks were awarded for this.

The candidate then gives findings from their second aim – 'to find disadvantages of UK police being armed full time'. The candidate states 'most citizens in the UK think armed police is not necessary for the UK as of now'. This was a contradictory point and was awarded no marks.

In the next paragraph the candidate identifies another finding, 'around 83% of police federation members said they didn't want armed policing as it's not needed for the UK' – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate continues by stating, 'it would be a waste of time and money as they think it wouldn't be used and would lead to more crime being committed' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

In the following paragraph the candidate states that 'citizens are less likely to feel safe in their communities and less likely to cooperate with police if they are armed' – this was awarded **1 mark**. The remainder of the paragraph was a little confused and there was repetition of a previous point so no further marks were awarded.

In the next paragraph the candidate provides a repetitive point about 'many people believe armed police is unnecessary' so no marks were awarded here.

The candidate then gives findings from their third aim – 'to compare armed police and gun crime in the UK to Japan'. The candidate states that 'there has only ever been a few gun crime incidents in Japan which shows how little they use guns' – this was worthy of **1 mark** and could be considered a conclusion.

The candidate states another finding that 'the UK has 0.1 percent of gun crime and Japan has 0.03 percent – this was awarded **1 mark**.

In the final paragraph the candidate thinks they have given another finding but it is just repetition of a previous point, so no further marks were awarded here.

The candidate has accumulated enough for 7 marks in this section, however the maximum they can be awarded is 6 marks, with 1 mark that can be carried over to the research conclusions section if necessary.

Section D – Research conclusions

The candidate was awarded **2 marks** for this section.

The candidate starts their paragraph with repetition of a previous point. They then go on to say that 'police would only feel the need to use guns if necessary' – this was awarded **1 mark**.

There is **1 mark** that can be carried over from Section C.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **15 out of 20 marks** for this assignment.

Candidate 4

Section A – Research topic/issue

There are no marks awarded to this section, however, the candidate has clearly identified an appropriate Modern Studies topic which relates to Political Issues – Democracy in Scotland and or the United Kingdom. The candidate also uses this section to state a hypothesis and three clear aims for their research.

Section B – Research methods

The candidate was awarded **10 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by referring to their first method of research, a survey. The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for the first paragraph for discussing tailoring their research to suit their needs and the fact that they were able to ‘make it diverse’. The candidate provides a second advantage which is that they can target the information they would like answered – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then states that if they used a website ‘the source might not be as in depth as well as getting a lot of useless information’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate goes on to state a third advantage which was that ‘people will be honest because the survey is confidential’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They develop this point further by stating that ‘This allows people to give their honest opinions with no fear of judgement. This makes the source more accurate’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then provides their first disadvantage which is that the public may not be well educated on this topic – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate further develops this point by saying that if they had used a website they may have had experts whereas the survey only asked members of the public who may give false information – this was awarded **1 mark**. They finish this section by providing a reflection on what they would do differently if doing research again, which is a bigger sample size to give a fairer representation of the UK – this was awarded **1 mark**.

Overall, this evaluation of their first method was worth 8 marks but the maximum that can be awarded per method is 6, so it was awarded 6 marks.

The candidate goes on to discuss another method of research – an online news article – PinkNews. The candidate states that the first advantage of this source is that it is ‘very specialised in LGBTQ+ and politics’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. They go on to state that this means they have done a lot of research in this area and this makes it more accurate – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate then provides a second advantage of this source was that it is a reliable source as it has over 150 million monthly subscribers and it is not an unheard-of start-up – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then provides a disadvantage of this source that PinkNews is very pro LGBTQ+ which means it could be biased and ‘miss out certain information to make an event seem more inclusive than it actually is’ – this was awarded **1**

mark. They provide a final disadvantage that it is not well known and is not popular in wider academia – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate completes this section by trying to provide an example of how they would do things differently, but the example given is vague and does not provide an example of a source – no further marks awarded.

Section C – Research findings

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by looking at their first aim – ‘How are the amounts of different ethnic groups/queer people represented in parliament compared to the UK average?’ The candidate begins by stating that out of the 50 million people living in England and Wales, 81.3% are white – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate goes on to state that ‘In the house of commons 90% are white and in the house of lords 92.7% are white’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then states that there are more white people in parliament than the UK average – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered as a conclusion.

The candidate states that ‘In the UK 3.3% of people openly identify as being LGBTQ+ and out of the 650 MPs asked, 9% said they identified as LGBTQ+’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate states that: ‘This is above the UK average’ – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered as a conclusion.

The candidate proceeds to look at their second aim – ‘Do members of society feel represented in parliament?’ The candidate begins by stating that ‘the majority of people asked said that they saw MPs of their race/gender/sexual orientation’ – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered as a conclusion.

They state ‘the person who didn’t said it negatively impacted their interest in politics’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate then states that ‘it was a 50/50 split to whether people felt the government takes them into account’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate states that ‘the majority of people said that the UK parliament needs to be more inclusive, people also added that there needs to be more diversity in social class’ – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered as a conclusion.

They then state that ‘Everyone asked said that diversity would have a positive impact on politics’ – this was awarded **1 mark**. The candidate, in this paragraph, directly references their survey, which shows the required link to their research sheet to allow them to access the full 6 marks.

The candidate goes on to provide findings for their final aim – ‘Has the UK parliament done anything to be more inclusive?’ The candidate states that ‘the UK parliament is trying to close the ethnicity pay gap, improving accessibility and adopting a more inclusive environment’ – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered as a conclusion.

The candidate states that this is all ‘under the inclusion and diversity strategy 2023-2027’ but this is directly copied from their research sheet – no marks were awarded.

The candidate then states that ‘the house of commons was also awarded an Autism Friendly Award’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate states that there has been ‘a huge increase in the amount of minority ethnic MPs elected’ – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered as a conclusion.

The candidate then states that ‘In 2001 only 12 were elected and in 2019 66 were elected’ – this was awarded **1 mark**.

The final sentence in this section states that ‘This shows positive change for the future’ – this was awarded **1 mark** and could also be considered as a conclusion.

The candidate has been awarded the maximum 6 marks for their findings throughout their response to this section and there are also 7 available marks that can be carried over to the research conclusions section.

Section D – Research conclusions

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** for this section.

The candidate begins by making a conclusion for their first aim stating that ‘there are more white people in the UK parliament than the UK average. There is also a higher percentage of LGBTQ+ MPs than the UK average.’ This is repetition from the previous section.

The candidate repeats this pattern for both aims two and three but again is repeating conclusions made in the research findings section.

Finally, the candidate states that ‘My strongest argument is that there is a higher percentage of LGBTQ+ MPs than the UK average, members of the public also feel represented and so far there has been positive change in diversity in the UK parliament’ – 2 marks could have been awarded here if required however the candidate has already achieved the maximum number of marks available for this section.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **20 out of 20 marks** for this assignment.